

# COMMON MISTAKES IN WRITING 1 MADE BY STUDENTS

(A case study at the second semester faculty of letters)

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## *Abstract*

*This article discusses some potential problems which are made by Unpam students in writing 1 (A case study at the second semester in faculty of letters). The subject is writing 1 in the Room 425. The learning process began in the first session, and started at 08:00 – 11:00. Writing is used as an aid to help the students practice and work with language. After The learning process, the students are expected to express their writing ability, they can apply grammatical rules, and they can use some new words or phrases. They can write essay or reports in English from basic level, intermediate level to advance level and recognized lexical items even the organization of writing. The conclusion offers advice and correction potential problems in writing that can be grouped into three categories based on the way they write and choose some topics, which have been given to them. There are basic mistakes, intermediate mistakes and advanced mistakes*

**Key words:** *problems, basic mistakes, correction, intermediate mistakes, advanced mistakes*

## INTRODUCTION

When thinking about writing, it is helpful to make a distinction between writing for learning and writing for writing. This is a case study to help the students practice and work with the language they have been studied at the second semester in the faculty of letters. They were asked to write on a piece of paper the materials, which are taken from Mosaic 2, Writing 4<sup>th</sup> Edition and some current issues. In the learning process in the classroom, the writer asked the students to write a short paragraph which consists of twenty lines and they are given some topics to be chosen namely: “Career women is good”, “Being single is fun”, “What make a good Language Learner?”, “Technology destroyed people” and “What make a good Language Teacher?”. The exercises were conducted in the classroom while the learning

process was happening in the classroom. There are 15 students chose “Woman carrier is good”, there are 5 students chose “Being single is Fun”, Two students chose “ Technology destroyed people” and 3 students chose: What make a good Language Learner?” The purpose of this study is to identify, examine, and explain and justify the differences level of what the students have made. Their handwritings on a piece of paper are as sources of the data. The data were taken randomly from some topics which were analyzed.

Their writing as the source data will be analyzed as the common types of errors that are often made by students when they do formal, or academic writing. The first step is to be aware that an error has been made; the second step is to recognize or identify it, the third step is to correct it and the last to classify the differences of their level in writing. The majority of the students fail to achieve the competence of writing; they often write a peculiar language of their own.

## **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

According to Mackey (1965) there are some reasons that lead the students to the formation of such a peculiar language in learning second language that the learners are faced with problems of adjustment in writing of the native language. Mackey (1965:107) suggests”...the problems of dealing with these same surrounding and the same experiences in an entirely different way, not only, with the different sounds; words, sentence but different group of things.... and different arrangement of time, space and matter, all of which may conflict with the structure of his native language (Mackey, 1965:107).” Mean while Alan Mountford (1978:12-22) states that:” Learners of English as auxiliary to academic or professional skills are generally more aware of what they want to use

## **DISCUSSION**

Students need to know how to write a letter, how to write an article, how to reply to advertisements, how to write using electronic media. Those are the reasons why they need to know grammatical rule, punctuation, paragraph construction etc. Teaching writing to the students of English as a foreign language need reinforcement, language development, learning style and writing as a skill but so far it will be based on how much language the students know, what their interest are and what they think. It will not only be useful for them but also motivate them as well as.

The writer tried to give some topics as materials of writing. They are:

### ***The topics***

#### Topic I. "What makes a good language Learner?"

Written by Nur Maryati (2010060119)

"What makes a good language Learner?"

*Being a learner we have to keep practice all the grammar, idiom, words, and multipart and try to memorize all the vocabulary especially for English language. So if we want to be a good language learner, we have to study hard such as: practicing for writing, listening, and we have to memorize gradually. I acquired and cultivated for reading. And we have to exercise how to read and make understanding some word. By reading fables, fairy tales, novels, poems and essays of any literary value, magazines, anecdotes, humorous books, detective and ghost stories make us more a lot of knowledge and vocabulary .And also if we want to make a good language learner we have to practicing our English with the right person with converse, convincingly and politely*

*I sometimes attend the seminar especially of course about English, how we improved our English language more advanced. By reading a newspaper we can be a good learner in language we have to have communication by foreign correspondents, who owing to a long stay abroad, have got an intimate knowledge of the country. I keep in touch with my sister in London and also her sons. Lately, I also joint the drama to more improved my English be a good language learner makes me bringing many a ray of sunshine into my live*

*God please help me to be a good language learner in English. Amin Ya robbal alamin.*

### ***The error***

If we look at the words, phrases, clauses, some nouns and some verbs above carefully, there are some mistakes in the writing. There are some common causes of error that have been made such as: The error is from the student's own language into English, the students tend to use their own linguistics, word choices, noun agreement and grammatical rules

### ***Suggested writing***

Being language learners, we have to keep practicing all the grammar, idiom, words, and multipart and try to memorize all the vocabularies especially English. So if we want to be a good language learner, we have to study hard such as, practicing for writing, listening, and memorizing vocabulary gradually. I acquired and cultivated for reading. And we have to do some exercises on how to read and to understand some words. Reading fables, fairy tales, novels, poems and essays of some literary values, magazines, anecdotes, humorous books, detective and ghost stories will improve our knowledge and vocabularies. If we want to be a good language learner we have to practice our English a lot.

I sometimes attend the seminar about English especially, how will we improve our English language better. By reading a newspaper we can be a good language learner, we have to communicate with the foreigners whose language used is English; we have got to know the culture of the country. I keep in touch with my sister in London and also her sons. Recently, I also join a drama to improve my English. Being a good language learner bring a ray of sunshine into my life.

God please help me to be a good language learner in English. Amin Ya robbal alamin.

### ***Advice***

Advice:

1. Be careful with the noun agreement and verb agreement with the correct verb forms
2. The use of lately, vs recently  
Lately and recently refer to a period of time that begins in the past and continues until now ( the moment of speaking ), and ” specially” when you mean that something is done or made for a particular purpose
3. Word choice which are used refer to the students own language into English
4. The use of grammatical rules
5. The words that have been used incorrectly

## Career woman is good

*Right now, not only man have a carrier but also woman too. It is the effect of economy problem. In one side, if the woman can get a job it is good for her economics. Because if the woman also have a carrier, she can help the economy problem in their family. Because we need money to be alive. Because that I can to summarize the woman carrier is good .If the woman have good position in their carrier, they must stand to pay homage to her husband.*

*But, if we see in another side. The woman carrier also have bad side. I think if woman have good position in her carrier and they lead a company, it is not good because sometimes the woman work with her felling and they are sensitive. And sometimes they work with their mood. I can to summarize that because I have a leader like that. And I think I bad luck. But, If my leader have good mood she kind to me. So I must be careful if I want speak to her. And I think if the woman have a carrier it is not good for their family. Because she can't to share her time for her time for her family and her carrier .*

### ***The error***

If we look at the text above the error is from the student's own language into English, verb agreement, noun agreement, modal auxiliary, the use of grammatical rules and words choice.

### ***Suggested writing***

Today, It is not only men who have a carrier but also women. It is the effect of economy problem. In one side, if the woman can get a job it is good for her economy. If the woman a have a career, she can help the economy problem in her family because we need money to be alive. Because of that I can summarize the woman carrier is good. If the women have good positions in their career, they must stand to pay homage to her husband.

But, if we see it from another side, the career woman also has bad side. I think if woman have good position in her carrier and they lead a company, it is not good because sometimes the woman work with her felling and they are sensitive. And sometimes they work with their mood. So I must be careful if I want speak to her. And I think if the woman has a

career it is not good for her family because she can't share her time for her family and her career.

### ***Advice***

Advice:

1. Noun agreement and verb agreement with the correct verb forms
2. Modal auxiliary and the use of grammatical rule
3. Word choice which are used refer to the students own language into English

### Topic 3: the text, which is written by DWI Susanti

#### **Being single is fun**

*Some times being single is fun like we can follow desire without thinking, like shopping, traveling, watching movie, lunch in restaurant with my friend or to finish time in my room, as usually we need friend or to finish time to share our problem or destroy feeling bored, and I think my life will be better, if I have a son. I can playing and look at the growing my son, and I have one son and daughter with the much problem have to solve, if I have bored I'm playing and talk to Allah and some times I want be back single again, but life is choice and I must choose the best our life and to my son I give him education and love. And to my daughter I give her education of Muslim and love to her. I hope our family being happy and reach heart.*

#### ***The error***

If we look at the text above the error is the same as others ,The students tend to write into the student's own language or linguistics into English, verb agreement, noun agreement, modal auxiliary, the use of grammatical rules and words choice.

#### ***Suggested writing***

#### **Being single is fun**

Sometimes being single is fun, we can do as we want without thinking, like shopping, traveling, watching movie, having lunch in restaurant with my friends or killing the time in my room, as usual we need friends to share our problems or to destroy for feeling bored, and

I think my life will be better, if I have a son, I can play and look at the growing of my son, and I have one son and daughter with the much problem have to be solved, if I have bored I'm playing and talk to Allah and sometimes I want to be back for being single again, but life is a choice and I must choose the best for my life and my children . I give my son well education and love, and I give my daughter Muslim education and love. I hope our family is happy.

### ***Advice***

Advice:

1. Noun agreement and verb agreement with the correct verb forms
2. The use of Modal auxiliary and the use of grammatical rule
3. Word choices which are used refer to the students own language into English

### Topic 4: The text, which is written by Suryani

#### **Technology destroyed people**

*From positive think, technology should we need to progress in our country. From agriculture until architectural need technology to help and easy work, and all need technology. From negative think, new technology can destroid people or our nation. It wasbomb every where, it because technology progress. One one technology misuse. Live terrorist organization in every where, and sometime can kill us in everywhere. Enrichment technology it make destroid nation, so many people doesn't know anything to be a victim from terrorist. The coused Afgannistan war among Amerika, it is because to seize nuclear. Only the technology they fight and kill people doesn't know anything, kill the children and destroy future. Technology misuses make suffering for us, and to extinguish life, to extinguish natural resources. We need just peaceful in everytime, everywhere. What for the progress technology, but make destroid people, destroid nation, why we not develop morals the nation, or develop moral the people to compose good morals, good character it's a good choice for a good life*

### ***The error***

If we look at the text above the error is the same as others. The students tend to write into the student's own language or linguistics into English, the use of verb agreement, noun agreement, modal auxiliary, the use of grammatical rules and words choice.

### ***Advice***

Advice:

1. Noun agreement and verb agreement with the correct verb forms
2. The use of Modal auxiliary and the use of grammatical rule
3. Word choices which are used refer to the students own language into English

### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the students' writing above, the common cause of error and common types of error are often made by students when writing formal or academic English. Probably the biggest cause of error is literal translation from the students own language into English. The students tend to translate word for word into the sentences. The way the students write English is the same way as they speak it. Some common types of error such as: 1. Subject and verb agreement. 2. Uncountable nouns are often wrongly used. 3. When the impersonal 'It or There' subject should be used, it is often wrongly used omitted. 4. Verb tense use confused, particularly the present tense used too frequently. 5. The formation of some verb tenses is not known, particularly the present passive. The formation of the past tenses of irregular verbs also causes difficulty.

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