

AN ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' ERROR IN USING DEGREES OF COMPARISON OF ADJECTIVE AT EIGHT GRADE STUDENTS OF SMP ISLAM AYATRA

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Abstract

The objective of this research was to know types of students' errors and the most common or least type of students' error in using degrees of comparison of adjective at eight grade students of SMP Islam Ayatra. Degrees of comparison is an important element of grammar that rules how to change the form adjective to show a comparison. The research used qualitative method. The participants of this research consisted of thirty students. The source of the data in this research was collected from students' written test in using degrees of comparison of adjective. The result of this research stated that there were four types of errors, they are omission, addition, substitution, and permutation. The total of them is 485 errors. The highest percentage type of error was substitution with 54,64% (total frequency of errors was 265). And the lowest percentage type of error was addition with 2,06% (total frequency of errors is 10).

Key words: Degrees of comparison of adjective, error analysis.

INTRODUCTION

In the globalization era, English becomes an international language. So, many countries use English as their first or second language. In Indonesia, we use regional language as the first language, Indonesian language as the second language and English as the first foreign language. To master English, the curriculum used in Indonesian schools teaches grammar. It is because grammar is used to make the sentences that will be learned by students are comprehensible and meaningful.

Actually, grammar has many elements to be learned by students. One of them is the degree of comparison of adjectives. According to Herring (2016) degree of comparison of adjective used to compare the object, the person or the place through quality level or its adjective. Unfortunately, students still feel the rules of degree of comparison of adjectives are difficult because the degree of comparison of adjectives has three types and each type also has regular and irregular forms. It can lead students to produce some errors in using degree of comparison of adjectives. But producing errors is not bad, teacher can diagnose the students' error and then the teacher can give the right treatment based on their cause of error using error analysis.

THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

Keshavarz (2012) stated that error analysis tries to explain the cognitive process of students to use what they receive in learning a second or foreign language by analysing their incorrect form of target language, so it is part of students' language acquisition. According to Corder (1973), McKeating (1981), Brown (2000) explanations in Keshavarz (2012) there are four types of error in process based classification, they are omission, addition, substitution, and permutation. Omission happens when some required linguistic elements

in utterance is neglected, such as prepositions, auxiliaries, morphemes, articles, etc. Addition uses or adds some unnecessary linguistic element in utterance. Substitution uses wrong linguistic element in utterance. Permutation is the order of words that are wrong. Therefore, the researcher was interested to conduct an analysis of students' error in using degrees of comparison of adjective at eight grade students of SMP Islam Ayatra". Judging from the case above, the aims of the study are to know types of students' errors and the most common/least error in using degrees of comparison of adjective

RESEARCH METHOD

In this research, the writer used qualitative method to investigate deeply about students' error in using adjective comparison degree. The source of data was obtained from students' errors in using the adjective comparison degree and observation by the researcher. In order to collect the data, the writer decided to use observation and test (elicited technique) to the respondents. The respondents here were thirty students from 8.1 Class in SMP Islam Ayatra. In analysing the data, the writer used three steps, they were data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing from Miles and Huberman data analysis model as written by Sugiyono (2017).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the analysis of the data, the writer found out four types of errors made by students as the participants in this research, they were omission, addition, substitution, and permutation error.

The omission errors were made by all students (30 students) as participants in this research, with the total of omission errors was 197. Here are two of 197 omission errors:

1. A chicken is bigger than a bird

The first omission error was made by students 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, and 30. The adjective that students changed to form a comparative form was lack of 'g' letter before 'er' suffix. The sentence should be: A chicken is bigger than a bird.

2. Yesterday was happiest day of my life

The second omission error was made by students 4, 5, 11, 12, 15, and 18. The adjective that the students changed to form a superlative form was lack of 'the' word before the adjective. The sentence should be: yesterday was the happiest day of my life

The addition errors were made by students 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 18, and 21, with the total of addition errors was 10. Here are two of 10 addition errors:

1. My mother is pretteier than my aunt

The first addition error was made by student 18. The student added unnecessary 'e' letter in the adjective. The sentence should be: my mother is prettier than my aunt

2. My younger brother is the most dilligent member of my family

The second addition error was made by student 9. The student added unnecessary 'l' letter in the adjective. The sentence should be: my younger brother is the most diligent member of my family

The substitution errors were made by all students (30 students) as participants in this research, with the total of substitution error was 265. Here are two of 265 substitution errors:

1. A chicken is more big than a bird

The first substitution error was made by students 1, 5, 17, 19, and 20. The students used wrong linguistic element (more) instead of add 'er' suffix to the adjective. The sentence should be: A chicken is bigger than a bird

2. Yesterday was the most happy day of my life

The second substitution error was made by students 1, 3, 6, 8, 13, 17, 19, 20, 21, 25, and 26. The students used wrong linguistic element (most) instead of add 'est' suffix to the adjective. The sentence should be: yesterday was the happiest day of my life
 And the last type was permutation error, it was made by students 9, 12, 18, 24, and 29 with the total of substitution errors was 12 errors. Here are two of 12 permutation errors:

1. Antartica is the coldtes country in the world

The first permutation error was made by students 12, 18, 24, and 29. The students wrote 'tes' suffix instead of 'est' suffix, so the students did the wrong order of the letter. The sentence should be: Antartica is the coldest country in the world

2. Sudirman hall is the bigtes room in this building

The second permutation error was made by students 12, 18, 24, and 29. The students wrote 'tes' suffix instead of 'est' suffix, so the students did the wrong order of the letter.

The sentence should be: Sudirman hall is the biggest room in this building

Based on the discussion above, the total of all types of error was 485. In order to know the most common type and least type of errors made by students, the writer made a recapitulation of students' types of errors below.

Table 1. Recapitulation of students' types of errors in using adjective comparison degree

No	Type of errors	Frequency of errors	Percentage of errors
1	Omission	197	$\frac{197}{485} \times 100\% = 40,62\%$
2	Addition	10	$\frac{10}{485} \times 100\% = 2,06\%$
3	Substitution	265	$\frac{265}{485} \times 100\% = 54,64\%$
4	Permutation	13	$\frac{13}{485} \times 100\% = 2,68\%$

Based on the recapitulation of students' type of errors in using adjective comparison degree, there were four types of errors. The highest percentage type of error was substitution with 54,64% (total frequency of errors was 265). After substitution there was omission error with 40,62% (total frequency of errors was 197), next there was permutation error with 2,68% (total frequency of errors was 13). And the lowest percentage type of error was addition with 2,06% (total frequency of errors is 10). After presenting the recapitulation of students' type of errors in using adjective comparison degree in table 4.1, the writer also made a chart to show the type of error in order from the most common error to the least error made by students in using degree of comparison of adjective.

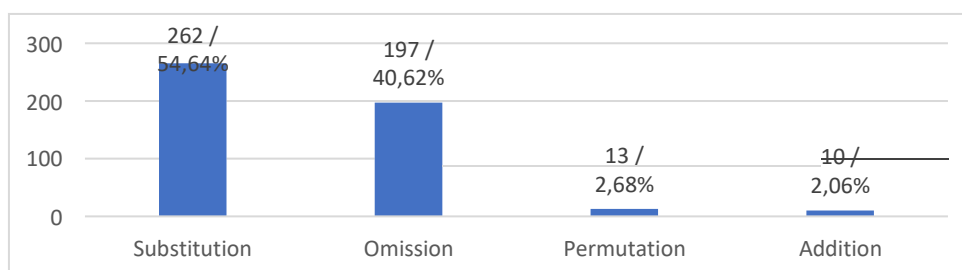


Figure 3.1 Chart of students' type of errors in using adjective comparison degree

Based on figure 3.1 Chart of students' type of errors in using adjective comparison degree, we can conclude that the most common type of errors made by students as the participants in this research was substitution with 54,64% or 265 errors and the least type of error made by students as the participants in this research was addition with 2,06% or 10 errors.

CONCLUSION

Degree of comparison of adjective is an important element of grammar that needs to be mastered by students. It rules how to change the form adjective to show a comparison. In the process of studying the degree of comparison of adjectives, students will made errors because it is a sign that students are still learning. Then, error analysis is needed, because it can analyze students' errors so that both teacher and students can fix the errors.

This study is focused to analyze students' error in using degree of comparison of adjective at eight grade students of SMP Islam Ayatra. The objective of this research is to find out what types of errors and the most common or least errors in using the degree of comparison of adjectives (comparative and superlative). Based on the research finding and discussion above, the writer found out that :

1. There are four types of errors made by students in using degrees of comparison of adjectives, they are omission, addition, substitution, and permutation.
2. The most common error made by students in using degree of comparison of adjectives is substitution with total of error is 265 or 54,64%. After substitution there was omission error with 40,62% (total frequency of errors was 197), next there was permutation error with 2,68% (total frequency of errors was 13). And the least error made by students in using degree of comparison of adjective is addition with total of error is 10 or 2,06%.

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