



Mechanical Errors Made by the Second Semester Students of Stie-Sak in Writing Paragraph Academic Year 2024/2025

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ABSTRACT

This research was a descriptive research, it was done at second semester of STIE-SAK academic year 2024/2025. The aim of this research was to analyze students' mechanical errors made by the second semester of STIE-SAK academic year 2024/2025. The population of this study is all of the second semester students of STIE-SAK. There were six classes of the second semester of STIE-SAK. To limit the population, the researcher needed the sample. The sample of this research was chosen by using random sampling or change sampling. By using random sampling, the researcher got the second semester students of Development Economics Major at STIE-SAK as a sample in this research. After analyzing the data, In conclusion, from the students' score, it was found that the students' writing paragraph was failed. The students' average score was 49 %. From the students scoring criteria, there was no students got A, and there were only 4 students got B, 1 students got C, there were 8 students got D, and most of them or 12 students got E. From the explanation above, it was found that the students made errors in punctuation, capitalization and spelling words. In using punctuation, most of them made errors on it. In using capitalization, most of the students made errors. While in using spelling word, there were any of them made errors on the spelling words.

Keywords: Writing; Mechanical Errors; Paragraph

INTRODUCTION

In learning language, students needs to know how to write paragraph well. The lecturer should be able to increase the students' writing ability. They should be creative to select teaching technique and media taught how to write especially in writing paragraph. The students were hoped to be able construct their sentence and share their ideas in writing. The students at second semester of STIE-SAK especially in learning Indonesian language were also taught to understand how to write the paragraph. They should master not only the grammar and vocabularies but also the ability in expressing their ideas and opinions into good sentences.

Richards and Schmidt (2002: 592) give opinion about writing, writing is the strategies procedures and decision-making employed by the writers as they write. Writing is viewed as the result of complex processes of planning, drafting, reviewing and revising and some approaches to the teaching of first and second language writing to teach students to use these processes.

Monmouth University (2013) states a paragraph is a group of sentences that fleshes out a single idea. In order for a paragraph to be effective, it must begin with a topic sentence, have sentences that support the main idea of that paragraph, and maintain a consistent flow. An effective paragraph consists of:

1. Presents a single idea
2. Begins with a topic sentence that makes this single idea evident
3. Contains support in form of sentence that convey this single idea
4. Is strategically organized to maintain flow
5. Maintains your essay's objective, and informs and entertains your reader about your paper's overall idea

It could be said that there were many kind of mechanical errors in paragraph writing. These errors should be known, students should know the rule of punctuation to avoid from the errors in order to make a good writing. In this research, the researcher only analyzed students' errors on punctuation, capitalization and spelling of words made.

Based on the researcher's observation in the class, it was proved that students still had many problems in writing paragraph especially in mechanical errors that were used by the students in writing paragraph namely students had lacked of knowledge on grammar, they had limited vocabulary, the use of mechanics were still low, and they were hard to arrange their ideas in constructing sentences.

Related to these problems, the researcher intended to help the students to improve their ability in writing paragraph. The researcher would investigate and analyze the students' writing in writing paragraph. The aim of this research was to enable students to develop their writing ability. It was necessary to identify the errors in mechanics, because without a good mechanics the information that they really wanted to say is confusing for the reader, the message seemed difficult to be understood.

By analyzing the students' errors in using mechanic errors, it was hoped that the data would help the both of them. From the problems, the researcher was interested to analyze students' mechanical errors made by the second semester students of Development Economics Major of STIE-SAK academic year 2024/2025.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research was descriptive research. Kothari (2004: 37) state that descriptive studies are those studies which are concerned with describing the characteristics of a particular individual, or of a group, whereas diagnostic research studies determine the frequency with which something occurs or its association with something else. The aim was to obtain complete and accurate information in the said studies; the procedure to be used must be carefully planned. Next, Gay (2000: 10) says that descriptive research involves collecting data in order to answer question concerning the current status of subject of the study. Furthermore, Gay (2000: 188) states that descriptive research is useful in investigating many kinds of educational problem.

So this research was a descriptive study, the aim of this descriptive research was to describe things and also to analyze the data. The data collection was to answer the question from the research questions in this research. In this descriptive research, the researcher would describe the phenomena. The purpose of the research was to analyze mechanical errors made by the second semester students of STIE-SAK academic year 2024/2025.

The instrument of this research was writing test especially in writing descriptive paragraph. The researcher prepared 10 topics of descriptive text as the instrument. The students chose one of the ten topics and then they wrote a paragraph based on the topic. To validate the test, the researcher chose the content validity in which the test materials would be

prepared based upon the curriculum and syllabus. The researcher consulted with the other lecturer who teaches Indonesian language at STIE-SAK. Because this research was in writing form so it did not use reliability of the instrument.

Then, the researcher analyzed types of mechanical errors made by the students. The researcher analyzed the mechanical errors in using punctuation, capitalization and spelling words to know the types of students' errors in using punctuation marks, capitalization, and spelling in compositions, each of the students' errors was marked, and then they were grouped on the table based on the types of errors.

At last, the analyzed of the data was described by using the steps from Gay (2000) as follows:

1. Data managing: the researcher managed the data from the test that would be collected during the research and then organized the data.
2. Reading and memoing: the researcher read the result of each student and note the data based on the mechanical errors made by the students.
3. Description: after reading the data, in this case, the researcher described the students' mechanical errors, and describes what happened with students' mechanical errors.
4. Classification: in this step, the researcher classified the common data was found with the students' writing test based on the mechanical errors made by the students.
5. Interpretation: in this final step of data analysis, the researcher interpreted the data based on their classification above. After that, the researcher also interpreted the data in a more detail way by seeing them based on students' mechanical errors made by the students.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

FINDING

These research finding was based on the data that was gotten from the students' test. The form of the test was writing test, the students were asked to write a paragraph from the topic given on students' paper. After analyzing the data, the researcher found that there were some errors made by the students in writing a paragraph.

The researcher classified result of the study based on students' errors in writing paragraph namely in using punctuation, and using capitalization, and in using spelling. After getting the result of students' writing, the researcher got the result. The researcher analyzed the students' errors in writing paragraph, and described the mechanical errors made by the students. There were some errors made by the students in writing paragraph. The errors were on punctuation, capitalization and spelling words. The description would be described as follows:

Students' Errors in Punctuation

There were some kinds of punctuation, and most of the students made errors in using punctuation in writing. The description of the data in students' error in punctuation could be described as follows:

- Full Stop

In applying full stop, from 25 students, there were 19 students made errors in using full stop. And the errors of the students in using full stop were in addition, omission, misplacement, and no full stop. The types of errors made by the students are addition of full stop, misplacement of full stop, omission of full stop.

Error in applying comma

In using comma, the students also made errors in the types of addition, misplacement, and omission. There were also 19 students made errors in using comma in their writing. The types of errors made by the students were omission of comma, misplacement of comma, and addition of comma,

Error in applying colon

In using colon, only 3 students made errors in applying colon. The types of students' errors in colon were in omission, misplacement, and addition. The types of errors made by the students were addition of colon, omission of colon, and misplacement of colon.

Error in applying apostrophe

In using apostrophe, there were 5 students made errors in applying apostrophe from students' writing. The students only applied errors in the addition of apostrophe like "I' am". In addition, for the misplacement of apostrophe, the students also made errors on it. For example: " 'and that experiences me'".

Error in using quotation mark

In this case, the students used quotation mark in sentences where they were not allowed using it. From the data, it was found that only 1 student made errors in quotation mark. The error was "My Hobby". In the example above, the student added quotation mark in the title of his composition. Quotation mark may not be used in a title. There is no any punctuation mark used in a title.

In conclusion, there were some errors made by the students in punctuation such as full stop, comma, colon, apostrophe and quotation mark. Then after analyzing the data, the researcher analyzed the students' errors on addition, omission, and misplacement. Based on the data that were gotten from the research, there were many students made errors in using punctuation.

Students' Errors in Capitalization

From the student's writing, the researcher found out several errors made by the students in capitalization. From the data, it was found that all of the students or 25 students made errors in using capitalization. The students made errors in the types of addition, omission and misplacement of capitalization. The types of errors made by the students were as follows:

- Addition,

In this case, there were 25 students added the capital word in their sentence. The students capitalized the letter in a word that was not allowed them capitalizing it. For example: *My Hobby is Football, We can Play Game*.

- Omission

In this case, there were 1 students missed to capitalize the letter in a word that required them to capitalize it for the title of the paragraph. For example: *internet, my hobby*.

- Misplacement of capitalization

In this type of error, all of the students or 25 students used capitalization in the wrong places or they did not use it correctly. For example: *My hoBBy is, I like foot BALL Game*.

After reading and analyzing the data, there were many students made errors in using capitalization. From the explanation above, the students made errors on addition, omission and misplacement. Most of them could not use capitalization correctly. It meant that the students' ability in using capitalization was not good.

Students' Errors in Spelling

In spelling, students had several errors in each type of errors like addition, omission, and misplacement. There were 20 students made errors in spelling. The types of errors made by the students were addition, omission and misplacement.

Discussion

As already discussed previously, the mechanical errors made by the second semester of Development Economic Major of STIE-SAK academic year 2024/2025 was failed. There were some errors made by the students in writing especially in mechanical errors (punctuation, capitalization and spelling words).

However, from the students' writing they could not write a paragraph well. There were

some of them did not write the paragraph well. There was no topic sentence, they did not complete the supporting sentences, and they also made errors in making concluding their paragraph, the choice of words were not good, and the mechanic used were in errors too. In detail, the researcher would discuss the mechanical errors made by the students in punctuation, capitalization and spelling words.

In punctuation, students made error in full stop, comma, colon, apostrophe, and quotation mark. There were many punctuation marks where the students had all types of errors, and there were some punctuation marks where the students only had two or one type of errors. In short, the number of error types that the students had for each mark was different. From the result of punctuation, it could be concluded that the students made many errors in punctuation. The students could not use punctuation correctly.

In capitalization, the students also made errors in the types of omission, addition and misplacement. First, omission, they missed to capitalize the word need to be capitalized, or in other case they capitalized to word that may not be capitalized. Second, they also added the words that should not be needed to add. At last, they also made errors in misplacement of the words. Most of the students did not use the capitalization well, for a title, the first word should be written with capitalization but there were some of them did not make it in capitalization. There were many errors made by the students in capitalization from the students' writing.

In spelling, the students made errors for all types of errors. They had omission, addition, and misplacement. The students had complete types of errors. The types of errors made by the students: the students missed to put some letter in the word that required them to put it, the students added some unnecessary letter in their word, and an error happened when students put the letter in wrong position in a word.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

In conclusion, from the students' score, it was found that the students' writing paragraph was failed. The students' average score was 49 %. From the students scoring criteria, there was no students got A, and there were only 4 students got B, 1 students got C, there were 8 students got D, and most of them or 12 students got E.

It could be concluded that the students' writing paragraph at second semester of Development Economics Major students of STIE-SAK academic year 2024/2025 was failed. From the explanation above, it was found that the students made errors in punctuation, capitalization and spelling words. In using punctuation, most of them made errors on it. In using capitalization, most of the students made errors. While in using spelling word, there were any of them made errors on the spelling words.

SUGGESTION

Based on the findings and discussions of the research, the writer would like to propose some suggestions for the lecturer, students and further research:

1. It is suggested to the lecturer to pay attention to the types and the sources of errors that are made by the students on mechanics of writing, especially in the use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.
2. The students should pay more attention to the mechanic especially in the use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling in their writing in writing paragraph.
3. It is suggested to do further research to find out what is the cause of errors that are faced by the students in mechanics.

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