

AN ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS ERROR IN USING PUNCTUATION IN WRITING DESCRIPTIVE TEXT OF THE TENTH GRADE STUDENTS AT SMK SWASTA AL MA'SHUM KISARAN IN 2020/2021 ACADEMIC YEAR

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ABSTRACT

This research was conducted to analyze what kinds of punctuation dominant error are usually used by students. The objective of this research is to analyze the kinds punctuation dominant errors made by students in writing descriptive text to the Tenth Grade students at SMK Swasta Al Ma'shum Kisaran in 2020/2021 academic year. This research is a qualitative research. The subject of this research was the Tenth Grade students at SMK Swasta Al Ma'shum Sidodadi in 2020/2021 Academic Year. The techniques of collecting data was through observation and test based on practice who given from the researcher that is description text without punctuation. In this study use qualitative method in descriptive analysis. It was do with an explanation as follows; collecting data from the respondents, classifying data into grammatical errors based on Dulay, analyze data, describe data, interpret data, and the last is conclude the data. The total population of sample was 77 students but she used only X-3 as the respondent with 25 students. The research finding showed that the most common error which most students made are capital letter 50,2%, period 27,1% and comma 22,7%. It can be concluded that most of the Tenth Grade Students of SMK Swasta Al Ma'shum are still make error of using punctuation.

Key words : *Analysis, Error, Writing, Descriptive, Punctuation.*

I. INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of Study

In language learning process, there are four skills that must be mastered by students. Those skills are listening, reading, writing and speaking all of the skills are important for students to mastered, especially at writing. Writing is the most difficult skill in language. Writing is the putting down the graphic symbol in sentence or

paragraph and to delivers some meaning to the reader. In writing, students can express their feeling, emotion and desire they want to write. When students want to write, they must know about conventional aspect in writing like grammar, vocabulary, structure, and punctuation. In globalization era, people used their writing to show their idea, as a newspaper which used to informing the reader about

what they have done through writing.

To write a good text especially in descriptive text, the students must understand and know the important parts in the text such as; Generic structure and language features. Generic structure means that how a text is organized to help the readers or listeners understand about the information present in the text. Language feature means the students must understand and know the component of writing skill like content (ideas), organization, language use, and mechanic.

There are some kind symbols which are belonged to punctuation mark. Based on Oxford University press, the symbols consist of Capital letter, period or full stop (.), commas (,), semicolon (;), colon (:), hyphen (-), dashes (--), apostrophes (',s), quotation marks (""), question mark (?), and exclamation (!). The whole of punctuation mark have different function in completing the sentence. The students who are learning writing skill have to study it seriously to write complete sentence in order.

SMK Swasta Al Ma'shum is one of schools in North Sumatera Province. It is located in Kisaran. This school also presents English as one of the subject. English is taught by having a guide to 2013 curriculum where the passing grade is 75. By this curriculum, the students are able for the purpose to write a short text to describe their house and its surroundings by mentioning the existence of people, objects, animals, and numbers, with correct spelling and punctuation.

In reality, the students skill in writing were still low, because most of the students have not yet been known

how to write well from the sentence or paragraph, from grammarly or how to use punctuation. Based on the researcher experience in Tenth Grade students of SMK Swasta Al Ma'shum, the teacher gave a paragraph without punctuation and then she asked students to do it but they can't understand well. In this case, means many of students did not comprehend how to use punctuation correctly, they still did not know the function of the punctuation, and did not comprehend the rule of the punctuation. Punctuation is the smallest important elements in phrase, sentence, paragraph and text.

So that's why the researcher is interesting to research the title of "**An Analysis of Students' Errors in using Punctuation in Writing Descriptive Text of The Tenth Grade Students at SMK Swasta Al Ma'shum**".

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A. Place and Time of The Study

This research was conducted at SMK Al Ma'shum Kisaran located on Jl. Batu Asah No.2 Sidodadi, postal code 21212. West Kisaran District, Asahan Regency, North Sumatra Province. Research was carried out on June 2021

B. Research Design

To compile this study, the writer used descriptive-qualitative. Creswell (2009:1) said that qualitative is way for exploring and expertise the which means people or organization ascribe to a social or human trouble. It way a qualitative is knowing of a human trouble from exploring the totally of the scenario. According to Creswell (2014:183) qualitative strategies depend on textual content and photo records, have specific steps is records

evaluation, and draw at the various design. This approach is used to make a description about a situation or event. Therefore, this method is to discover the students' errors in the used of punctuation in writing descriptive textual content is regarded through errors are made through the students and reasons do frequently make it.

The researcher defined the data primarily based totally on photo and textual content evaluation. It means that the researcher have to make interpretation meaning of the data. So, the researcher will be easy to collect and conclude basedon the data. The researcher used some steps to collect the data, firstly brief explanation of the descriptive text, give punctuation in a descriptive text, classifying, and the last isanalysis.

C. Subject of The Research

The subject of this research is the Tenth Grade students of SMK Al Ma'shum Kisaran in academic year 2020/2021. The Population of the students included the first year students of SMK Swasta Al Ma'shum Sidodadi. The total number of population is 78 students. Knowing that the population is huge in number, therefore, the researcher took only one class that is X-3 TKJ, it means there are 25 students.

D. Technique of Data Collecting

1. Observation

Observation is a method of data collection in which the situation of interest is watched the relevant facts, action, and or behaviours are recorded. Observation involves

collecting information without asking questions. This method is more subjective, as it requires the researcher, or observer, to add their judgment to the data.

2. Test

The test is students are asked to complete the text without punctuation by using the correct punctuation. The test consist of 4 paragraphs; consist of 16 periods, 9 commas, and 22 capital letters.

III. RESEARCH FINDING AND DISCUSSION

A. Description of Data

The researcher uses field research; The researcher got the data from the English written test scores. The test is given by the teacher; it is a controlled descriptive essay entitled "My Mother". In this test, students are asked to complete the text without punctuation by using the correct punctuation. The test consist of 4 paragraphs; consists of 16 periods, 9 commas, and 22 capital letters. The following table is the classification of punctuation tested; These punctuation marks then become the focus of errors analyzed by the researcher.

B. Discussion

After analyzing all of the data of the research, it is necessary to discuss the result of the research. The aim is to figure out the answer of the research questions. The research question is "What the kinds of punctuation dominant errors are made by the students' in using punctuation mark in writing descriptive text?", it can be explained by the result of students'

test. From the result of students' test each categories or aspect of error in using punctuation in writing descriptive text are, error of using capital letter are 188 (50,2%), error of using period are 101 (27,1%) and error of using comma are 85 (22,7%).

Based on the result of the students' test, the highest percentage of the test result in using punctuation in writing descriptive text is error of capital letter with the percentage rate of 50,2%. It means capital letter is dominant error faced by students.

IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the description in chapter four, the researcher concluded that the Tenth Grade students of SMK Swasta Al Ma'shum still made the errors when

they use punctuation mark in their writing, especially in capital letter, period, and comma.

1. The result of the students' test showed that all of the students got difficulties in using punctuation in writing descriptive text. The students' difficulties in using punctuation in writing descriptive text consist of misformation in capital letter, misformation in period, and misformation in comma. Based on the score of the students' test the most dominant error faced by students is misformation in capital letter, students are very difficult to classify punctuation correctly. It makes students difficult to write text well.

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