ABSTRACT

In the process of learning English, an error commonly made by the language learners and the error might enable the learners in understanding the language. Error is an invaluable source of information to the learners, and especially to the teacher because from the errors the teacher knows about which items are being mastered and which are not. In relation to the errors the learners commit, the writer is interested in writing about an analysis on the errors made in the 10th grade students' composition of SMU Kristen Kanaan Tangerang. Thirty students participated in this research. The students are asked to write free composition that consists of three kinds of Tenses: Simple Past Tense, Simple Present Tense, and Future Tense. The result shows that there are 11 types of errors: vocabulary (132 cases = 23%), verb form (120 cases = 22%), preposition (83 cases = 15%), syntactic structure (71 cases = 13%), BE (51 cases = 9%), bound morpheme (s) (34 cases = 6%), article (22 cases = 4%), pronoun (21 cases = 4%), conjunction (13 cases = 2%), gerund (8 cases = 1.5%), and determiner (3 cases = 0.5%). In this study, the writer classified the errors into details, for example vocabulary category is specified into: 'wrong choice of word', 'misspelling', 'false friend', 'Indonesian borrowing', 'addition of unnecessary word', 'the use of verb instead of noun', 'the use of noun instead of verb', 'the use of adjective instead of adverb', 'the use of noun instead of adjective', 'the use of adjective instead of verb', 'the use of verb instead of adjective'. From the result, we know that most students have problems in vocabulary and verb form category, which are the lack of linguistics knowledge of target language and native language transfer. It is also found out that most students use L1 (Indonesian vocabulary, grammar) as a basic for expressing their ideas into L2 (English language). Besides, most students (80% of the students) stated that they still did not understand the English grammar.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all, the writer would like to thank God the Almighty for His grace and guidance in her, especially during the writing of her thesis. She is glad to express her deepest gratitude to all people who always helped, supported, and encouraged her in doing this study therefore she can finish this study. She would also like to thank to her lovely parents, especially her mom who always support her by praying for her. The writer also would like to thank the following people who have helped her in doing this study:

1. Dra. Ienneke Indra Dewi, M.Hum as Dean of Faculty of Letters, thanks for all.
2. Risa Rumeatha Simanjuntak, S.S. MAppling, M. A, as the head of English Department, thanks to give her some information to support this study.
3. Endang Fauziati, Dr, as her best mentor, thanks for giving her good advice and brilliant idea and also thanks for always helping and supporting her to finish this study.
4. Wiwik Andreani, Dra, as her best lecturer, thank you so much ma’am. You are the best teacher that she has ever met. Love you!
5. SMU. Kristen Kanaan, Tangerang. Thanks for giving her a chance to do her observation.
7. Jost. Kokoh Prihatanto, as her best priest. Thanks for supporting and praying for her success.
8. PDKK teams of prayer of Paroki Santa Maria, Tangerang. Thanks for all of you who had already prayed for her.
9. Haudi, S.P.d. Thanks for giving her permission to be absent from her jobs and also thanks to give her a chance and trust her to teach at his English course (JOTIKA, English and Education Center). Thank you so much.

Thank you for all your supports and hepls. Love you all. GBU!

Jakarta, July 28, 2008

Cheery. Mayami
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