

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

In introductory chapter, issue of subject verb agreement in essay will be presented in the background of the study. In addition, the aim of this research as well as the research question are provided. This chapter also discusses the uses of the study, scope of study, and clarification of key terms.

1.1 Background of study

Writing is one of main skills taught in the university for the students because in order to be successful the students have to be able to write various forms of writing including thesis or report , argument papers, expository papers, exam essay, email blogs, and journal. This is why writing is needed to be learnt by the students. Writing is also considered more interesting than other skill. Baron (2000) states that written language is more interesting than variety of spoken language because in writing the students can write and check their writing while in spoken the students have to be able to speak directly or even students want to write first all the things we want to deliver. This is supported by Alex(2014) states that written word is often more significant and crucial than the spoken word, signifying its overwhelming importance.

Writing is a style or form of composition. It is supported by Byrne (1996) defines writing as encoding of a certain message or idea through write it in a shape of a sequence of sentences put together in a systematic way. The way of ordering the written sentences should include some conscious mental effort such as making notes, drafting, and revising. Furthermore, White and Arndt (1991) define 'writing' as "a form of problem-solving which involves such process as generating ideas, discovering a voice with which to write, planning, goal setting, monitoring and evaluating what is going to be written, and searching with language with which to express exact meanings.

Involving writing in English students' activity is familiar for many assignments. They learnt writing start from the first year until 3rd year to make them have a really good pattern in writing. There are a lot of things done by English students by writing skill such as creating article, journal, letter, cv, and many more. All these things are important for them because as English students, they are known well by people outside in having all those things..

In English as foreign language context, students attempt to produce their interlanguage. Nordquist(2018) defines interlanguage as the type of language used by foreign language learners who are in the process of learning a target language. Hammad(2012) states that it is important to understand the learners' problems in writing in order to improve the quality of foreign language mastery.

Kleppin(2001) states that error is not such a big mistake, but it is very motivating. Positive error correction may represent a kind of motivation in the foreign language learning process.

1.2 Research Question

Concerning to the focus of the research, the question of this research is :

What types and quantity of subject verb agreement error found in students' essay writing?

1.3 Research objective

The objective of this research is :

To identify the type of subject verb agreement error of the first year university students made in writing an essay

1.4 Uses of the Study

1.4.1 Theoretical Use

Theoretically, this research discusses a specific study of subject verb agreement used in the essay writing of students in university level. University level is expected to reach a big even the biggest goal for their studies . Because, their level is a different level and that is why they are called higher level. The researcher tried to find a new perspective after analyzing the data. The researcher tried to find something new even if the researcher used some method from the previous research.

1.4.2 Practical Use

This research is used in the term of practice because as the use in daily life of the students. They also can use this study for their activities not just for having a good score in essay writing class but also in having good work as the result of the study. They can also have a good conversation when they have good grammar in writing. They have a good practice in writing while in having conversation, they can also be good because they are wanted in using good grammar.

1.5 Scope of the Study

It is important to limit the analysis and the object of the analysis in order to get a clear and satisfactory result. Therefore, the researcher would like to focus only on subject verb agreement which is written by the first year of university students in Universitas Teknokrat Indonesia. This is the limit part of grammatical error, and the limit part in error. Moreover, the first year students also brought reason and limitation because the first year students were fresh learner in higher level after Senior High School. The researcher limited the research only in English Literature students because writing an essay was their part in the first year of being English Literature students. The researcher also limited the participants, they came from English Literature who learnt English as foreign language and also limit number of participants. The participants limited in one class because the researcher tried to focus in looking for the error produced by the first year university students.