ERROR ANALYSIS OF PUNCTUATION IN "WRITING A" STUDENTS' COMPOSITIONS

A Thesis

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Sarjana Pendidikan Degree in English Teaching Language



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ABSTRACT

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English has four macro skills needed for communicating: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Between those skills, writing has been proven to be the most difficult language skill to master. To compose good and meaningful writing, the learner need to acquire such writing skills: grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

However, some studies have found that intermediates students still have difficulties in using punctuation. Moreover, from the writer's PPL finding, the high school students have some difficulties in grammar, word choices, and especially punctuation. Thus, the writer is interested to find out what kind of errors the students make and its frequencies.

After analyzing forty-five texts collected from three different Writing A classes, it was discovered that the total number of punctuation error found was 221 times in the following order. The 'Errors of Missing Punctuation' which was occurred 103 times (46.61%) was the most dominant. The second kind of punctuation error was 'Errors of Punctuation Confusion' with the number of occurrences of 69 times (31.22%), followed by 'Errors of Redundant Punctuation' with the total amount of 34 times (15.38%). The last punctuation error was 'Errors of Punctuation/Coordination' with the total occurrences of 15 (6.79%).