A CORPUS STUDY OF THE TOKENS

OF NOUN PHRASES, PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES,

AND CLAUSES FOUND IN THE ENGLISH WRITTEN TEXTS

WRITTEN BY ENGLISH NATIVE SPEAKERS AND INDONESIAN WRITERS

A THESIS

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ABSTRACT

Hertiki. 2006. A Corpus Study of the Tokens of Noun Phrases, Prepositional Phrases, and Clauses Found in the English Written Texts Written by English Native Speakers and Indonesian Writers. Unpublished Thesis. English Department, Teacher Training Faculty of Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya. Advisor I. Dr.D.Wagiman Adisutrisno, M.A., Advisor II. Mateus Yumarnamto, M.Hum.

Keywords: corpus, token, noun phrases, prepositional phrases, clauses.

People have been communicating a lot using media. Printed media such as, newspapers, magazines, journals, books, were the first media to communicate and to share ideas to public. Most of the English written texts are written by English native speakers, but now Indonesian speakers have tried to write English texts too. In this study, the writer uses journals to be analyzed. The writer wants to know whether Indonesian writers can write as well as English native speakers based on noun phrases, prepositional phrases, and clauses. She uses some journals written by English native speakers and Indonesian writers with different fields. There are some fields nowadays, but Economic, Education and Psychology have been selected because they are scientific English written texts that most written by both of the speakers.

The writer's analysis is based on the theory of corpus. A corpus essentially tells us what language is like, and gives information about how a language works. As stated by Hunston (2002:2), "a corpus is described as a collection of naturally occurring examples of language, consisting of anything from a few sentences to a set of written text or tape recordings, which have been collected for linguistic study." There are some key terms used in corpus, the writer is interested to make a study about token. As what Biber in Hunston (2002:17) says, "a token is the figure that word-count function of a word-processing program gives". In this case, the writer emphasizes her study in analyzing noun phrases, prepositional phrases, and clauses using content analysis especially parsing technique which divide the sentences into their constituents. She is interested in examining the noun phrases, prepositional phrases, and clauses of English texts since those parts can make sentences become longer and also occur most frequently in sentences.

In doing her thesis, the result shows that Indonesian speakers write more noun phrases than English native speakers. (English native speakers = 5, 58 tokens; Indonesian writers = 6 tokens). The result also shows English native speakers write more prepositional phrases than Indonesian writers. (English native speakers = 7, 55 tokens; Indonesian speakers = 7, 23 tokens). Finally, the result shows that English native speakers write more clauses than Indonesian writers. (English native speakers = 15, 65 tokens; Indonesian writers = 15, 54 tokens)

The result of this study can prove that Indonesian speakers write more noun phrases whereas English native speakers write more prepositional phrases, and clauses. However, the result in this study shows that Indonesian writers might have the same ability as English native speakers in writing long sentences.