Errors Analysis of Indonesian Sentence Construction: An application of Dubois' Theory of Syntax

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ABSTRACT

This study explores Indonesian Sentence Construction Errors for students of the Universitas Nasional Jakarta (UNAS) from the aspect of syntactic level analysis. This study uses a descriptive qualitative method to describe the linguistic facts contained in the data. The analysis was carried out by using Dubois' theory which describes the elements and intricacies of word structure or the internal structure of words, syntax studies the relationship between one word and other words in forming a larger structure, namely phrases, clauses, and sentences. Research objectives are formulated; 1) to detect the form of errors in Indonesian sentences written by Unas Jakarta students, and 2) to describe the construction aspects of phrases, clauses and sentences at the syntactic level. The results of this study indicate that errors in Indonesian sentence construction at the syntactical level based on the tracking data are clearly visible in the form of phrases, clauses and sentences. This is because students are less aware of sentence construction according to standard Indonesian language rules. The benefits of this research can be used as a basic reference material in research on sentence construction in a wider range of data.

Keywords: Error Analysis, Indonesian, Sentence Construction, Dubois' Theory, Syntax

1. INTRODUCTION

An analysis of Indonesian sentence construction by students is an important matter for mapping the location of errors in producing sentences for the benefit of scientific work. In general, this error occurs because students are less aware of sentence construction according to standard Indonesian language rules. Due to the negligence factor in constructing sentences to reinforce ideas, they are not achieved due to errors in conveying ideas through language. This is not only in the use of foreign languages, but also occurs in native languages [1], [2], [3].

Many think that errors in the syntactic aspect are common without them realizing that it is a very fatal thing. An idea is not conveyed because the language media used is messy and difficult to understand. Only the maker of the sentence understands when what is really important is the reader. Therein lies the important function of language as a medium of communication between writers and readers. One of the most frequent errors is syntax errors. In a simple sense, syntax errors are errors or deviations in the structure of phrases, clauses or sentences, as well as the inaccuracy of the use of

particles, for example. This study focuses on examining this topic because it is always present before our eyes.

Some previous studies related to the topic that inspires this research such as 1) [4], in her article entitled "Kesalahan Berbahasa Bidang Sintaksis pada Karya Ilmiah Mahasiswa Universitas Pekalongan", published in *Jurnal Parafrasa: Bahasa, Sastra, dan Pengajaran*, 2) [5], in their publication entitled Analisis Kesalahan Berbahasa pada Tataran Sintaksis dalam Tugas Akhir (Skripsi) Mahasiswa Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Indonesia FKIP UMSU", 3) [6] pubished an article entitled "Kesalahan Sintaksis pada Skripsi Mahasiswa IAIN Syekh Nurjati Cirebon," in *Indonesian Language Education and Literature*, 4) [7] puslished an article entitled "Tipe Kesalahan Berbahasa dalam Skripsi Mahasiswa Institut Seni Indonesia Denpasar", dan 5) [8] also published an article entitled "Kesalahan Penggunaan Bahasa Ilmiah dalam Penulisan Skripsi: Studi Kasus Mahasiswa Jurusan Tadris Bahasa Indonesia IAIN Syekh Nurjati Cirebon", With the topic of language error analysis, of course, the goal is to provide information to language users about errors that often occur and are made outside of the language user's awareness.

2. STUDENTS SENTECES CONSTRUCTION

This study examines students' sentences construction, the data of which was obtained from students' theses of Unas Jakarta. This is a study of the field of syntax. A total of 10 data units will be presented here as sample cases of ungrammatical sentence construction, each consisting of 2 phrases, 2 clauses, and 6 sentences (2 sentences without subject, 2 sentences without predicates, and 2 sentences without subject and predicate). The data are as follows;

Table 1. Data about Phrases

1. Frasa

No	Data Code	Ungrammatical Sentences	Grammatical Sentences	Remarks
1	0.1.01	Hal ini juga menjelaskan beberapa **kegiatan agenda** yang belum dilaksanakan dengan baik sesuai dengan rencana yang sudah ditetapkan.	Hal ini juga menjelaskan beberapa **agenda kegiatan** yang belum dilaksanakan dengan baik sesuai dengan rencana yang sudah ditetapkan.	The pharase *'kegiatan agenda'* → *agenda kegiatan*
2	0.1.02	Keberhasilan suatu perusahaan ditentukan oleh **sumber daya manusia yang dimiliki oleh perusahaan atau tidak**.	Keberhasilan suatu perusahaan ditentukan oleh **sumber daya manusia yang dimiliki atau tidak dimiliki oleh perusahaan.**	Clause makes the sentence ungrammatical: sumber daya manusia yang dimiliki oleh perusahaan atau tidak

The following is the representation the data about clause. This research presents two data. Please compare the ungrammatical sentences and the grammatical one.

Table 2. Data about Clause

2. Clause

No	Data Code	Ungrammatical Sentences	Grammatical Sentences	Remarks
1	0.2.01	Hal ini berarti *Rating* mengalami kenaikan maka **minat beli mengalami peningkatan pada mahasiswa FEB Unas.**	Hal ini berarti jika *Rating* mengalami kenaikan, maka **minat beli mahasiswa FEB Unas mengalami peningkatan**.	Ungrammatical occur *'minat beli mengalami peningkatan pada mahasiswa FEB Unas'*l
2.	0.2.02	Hal ini berarti bahwa *Online Customer Review* mengalami kenaikan maka **minat beli mengalami peningkatan pada mahasiswa FEB Unas**.	Hal ini berarti jika *Online Customer Review* mengalami kenaikan, maka **minat beli mahasiswa FEB Unas mengalami peningkatan**.	Ungrammatical; *minat beli mengalami peningkatan pada mahasiswa FEB Unas'*l

Furthermore, data about sentences, here consists of three parts, and each presents two examples of data.

Tabel 3. Data About Sentence

Sentences Construction: Sentences Without Subject

No	Data Code	Ungrammatical Sentences	Grammatical Sentences	Remarks
1.	3.1.01	Menambah wawasan dan menerapkan ilmu yang	(S) … menambah wawasan dan menerapkan	Subject missing

No.	Data Code	Ungrammatical Sentences	Grammatical Sentences	Remarks
		sudah didapat sepanjang perkuliahan.	ilmu yang sudah didapat sepanjang perkuliahan.	
2.	3.1.02	Diharapkan dapat memberikan informasi yang bermanfaat bagi perusahaan mengenai pengaruh manajemen laba dan profitabilitas terhadap nilai perusahaan dimoderasi oleh perencanaan pajak.	(S) … diharapkan dapat memberikan informasi yang bermanfaat bagi perusahaan mengenai pengaruh manajemen laba dan profitabilitas terhadap nilai perusahaan dimoderasi oleh perencanaan pajak.	Subject missing

Data about Sentences consists of Sentences Construction: Sentences without Predicate as shown in the table above, as well as Sentences Construction: Sentences without Predicate as below;

Table 4. Sentences without Predicate

Sentences Construction: Sentences Without Predicate

No.	Data Code	Ungrammatical Sentences	Grammatical Sentences	Remarks
1.	3.2.01	Tabel 1.1 bahwa rating yang dimiliki oleh Scarlett Whitening mengakibatkan terjadinya kenaikan dengan total jumlah 578 di bulan april sampai dengan juni pada tahun 2022.	Tabel 1.1 *memperlihatkan bahwa* rating yang dimiliki oleh Scarlett Whitening mengakibatkan terjadinya kenaikan dengan total jumlah 578 pada bulan April sampai dengan Juni tahun 2022.	Predicate missing
2.	3.2.02	Selain Disiplin kerja, faktor lain yang mempengaruhi kinerja pegawai beban kerja, beban kerja merupakan salah satu faktor yang mempengaruhi kinerja pegawai dan merupakan sekumpulan atau sejumlah kegiatan yang harus diselesaikan oleh suatu unit organisasi dalam waktu yang telah ditentukan	Selain disiplin kerja, faktor lain yang memengaruhi kinerja pegawai *adalah* beban kerja karena beban kerja merupakan salah satu faktor yang memengaruhi kinerja pegawai dan merupakan sekumpulan atau sejumlah kegiatan yang harus diselesaikan oleh suatu unit organisasi dalam waktu yang telah ditentukan	Predicate missing

In particular, the data below is data about Sentences Construction: Sentences without subject and predicate;

Table 5. Sentences without subject and predicate

Sentences Construction: Sentences without subject and predicate

No	Data Code	Ungrammatical Sentences	Grammatical Sentences	Remarks

1.	3.3-01	Begitu pula penelitian yang dilakukan.	-----	Uncompleted sentence
2.	3.3.02	Agar dapat menunjang penampilannya sehari-hari.	-----	

This data presentation is a representation of tracking data from sentence construction carried out by UNAS Jakarta students in a pattern and repeatedly including 1) 'sentences without a subject', 2) sentences without a predicate', 3) 'sentences without a subject and without a predicate' and 4) incomplete sentences.

3. OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

Based on the problem statement mentioned above, the research objectives are formulated; 1) to detect the form of errors in Indonesian sentences written by Unas Jakarta students, and 2) to describe the construction aspects of phrases, clauses and sentences at the syntactic level.

These objectives can be reached through to analyse the data coming from the students sentences production in writing their undergraduate thesis. In order to handle the analyses on the track, the writers make use the theory of Syntax proposed by Dubois.

4. DUBOIS' THEORY OF SINTAX

The theory of Syntax proposed by Dubois introduced that syntax is a syntagmatic relation of language elements. Syntagmatic is often referred to as a linear (horizontal) relationship between language units or units (language) in a sentence. Meanwhile, the paradigmatic relationship is also called the vertical relationship, which involves the distribution (exchange) of certain constituents with other constituents in language units.

Dubois is a grammarian who pays a lot of attention to one area of linguistics, namely syntax. In his book entitled Comment S'initier À La Linguistique?. Librairie Larousse, [9] defined syntax as; *syntaxe est la partie de la grammaire décrivant les règles par lesquelles se combinent en phrases les unités significatives; la syntaxe, qui traite des fonctions, se distingue traditionnellement de la morphologie, étude des formes ou des parties du discours, de leurs flexions et de la formation de mots ou dérivation* (syntax is the part of the grammar describing the rules by which meaningful units are combined into sentences; syntax, which deals with functions, is traditionally distinguished from morphology, the study of forms or parts of speech, their inflections, and word formation or derivation).

From the definition of syntax above, it can be concluded that syntax is the study of linguistics which studies grammar including the structures of phrases, clauses, and sentences. This was then used as the basis for this research. In other words, the topic of this study is very relevant for utilizing theory to achieve the objectives of this research.

5. DISCUSSION

As explained earlier, the data for this study are presented in 10 data units, each consisting of 2 phrases, 2 clauses, and 6 sentences (2 sentences without subject, 2 sentences without predicates, and 2 sentences without subject and predicate)

The case of the phrase as shown in data 0.1.01 is a case where the phrase ['kegiatan agenda'] should have been written ['agenda kegiatan']. As a result of this error, it makes the sentence ungrammatical. Likewise with the case in data 0.1.02 where the phrase ['sumber daya manusia yang dimiliki oleh perusahaan atau tidak'] should written [sumber daya manusia yang dimiliki atau tidak dimiliki oleh perusahaan.] With error in writing phrases, this sentence cannot be understood properly.

As for the Clausa case, for example in data 0.2.01 it shows how word placement is very important in building sentences. This is seen at the case ['minat beli mengalami peningkatan pada mahasiswa FEB Unas']. Based on the context of the discourse, this clause should be written [minat beli mahasiswa FEB Unas mengalami peningkatan']. The same error also occurs with data 0.2.02 which reads [Hal ini berarti bahwa Online Customer Review mengalami kenaikan maka minat beli mengalami peningkatan pada mahasiswa FEB Unas], this sentence should be [Hal ini berarti jika Online Customer Review mengalami kenaikan, maka minat beli mahasiswa FEB Unas mengalami peningkatan']. There are two errors here, first the word 'adalah' must be replaced with the word 'jika', and secondly 'minat beli mahasiswa' should be the subject of the sentence.

Specifically regarding sentence cases, there were 6 cases found. Regarding the sentence without subject can be found in data 2.1.02 namely [Menambah wawasan dan menerapkan ilmu yang sudah didapat sepanjang perkuliahan] should be changed to sentence which has subject [(+subject) menambah wawasan dan menerapkan ilmu yang sudah didapat sepanjang perkuliahan]. Another example at data 3.1.02 [Diharapkan dapat memberikan informasi yang bermanfaat bagi perusahaan mengenai pengaruh manajemen laba dan profitabilitas terhadap nilai perusahaan dimoderasi oleh perencanaan pajak] should has a subject [(+subject) diharapkan dapat memberikan informasi yang bermanfaat bagi perusahaan mengenai pengaruh manajemen laba dan profitabilitas terhadap nilai perusahaan dimoderasi oleh perencanaan pajak].

Furthermore, cases of sentences without predicates are found in data 3.2.01 namely [Tabel 1.1 bahwa rating yang dimiliki oleh Scarlett Whitening mengakibatkan terjadinya kenaikan dengan total jumlah 578 di bulan april sampai dengan juni pada tahun 2022] This sentence

is without a predicate, and it should read [Tabel 1.1 memperlihatkan bahwa rating yang dimiliki oleh Scarlett Whitening mengakibatkan terjadinya kenaikan dengan total jumlah 578 pada bulan April sampai dengan Juni tahun 2022]. The error also occurs when using proper name with capitals.

Another example of this case is [Selain Disiplin kerja, faktor lain yang mempengaruhi kinerja pegawai beban kerja, beban kerja merupakan salah satu faktor yang mempengaruhi kinerja pegawai dan merupakan sekumpulan atau sejumlah kegiatan yang harus diselesaikan oleh suatu unit organisasi dalam waktu yang telah ditentukan] namely in data 3.2.02. Compare with [Selain disiplin kerja, faktor lain yang memengaruhi kinerja pegawai adalah beban kerja karena beban kerja merupakan salah satu faktor yang memengaruhi kinerja pegawai dan merupakan sekumpulan atau sejumlah kegiatan yang harus diselesaikan oleh suatu unit organisasi dalam waktu yang telah ditentukan.] The word 'adalah' is able to fill the predicate space in this sentence.

The specific thing found from the data tracking is sentence construction where sentences stand without subject and predicate. Two such cases are found respectively in data 3.3-01, for example [Begitu pula penelitian yang dilakukan.] and at the data 3.3-02 that is [Agar dapat menunjang penampilannya sehari-hari.]. Both of these sentences are difficult to understand whether they are stated in context or without the context of the situation.

6. CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion above, it can be seen that the errors seen in the data are errors that are often encountered in writing articles, activity reports and/or writing theses for anyone, including students. Understanding mistakes like this is an effort to improve the quality of writing and conveying ideas.

The results of this study include two things, first, language errors are grouped into four types, namely (1) spelling errors, (2) morphological errors, (3) syntax errors, and (4) paragraph errors. Second, the causes of language errors of each type (spelling, morphology, sentences, and paragraphs) are inaccuracy, interference, and language users' lack of understanding regarding language rules.

These errors can be seen in data 3.2.02 (for spelling errors). The following errors can be seen in data 3.1.01 and 3.1.02 (for morphological errors), then errors in the paragraph context can be seen in data 0.2.01 and 0.2.02 (for syntax errors), and finally errors in data 0.1.02, 3.2.01, and 3.2.02 (for paragraph errors) and phrase structure at data 0.1.01.

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