

Chapter 1: Introduction

The goal of this chapter is to present the basic consideration, research question, objectives, scope and delimitation of research and the significances of this research. Furthermore, this chapter also tells the general information of the research. Subheadings below also contain of information about this research.

Basic Consideration

Writing is an important skill and must be mastered by students, because writing is a productive skill. Otherwise, by having this skill, it can be an evidence that we are being educated. Also, having a good skill in writing is necessary. As Wright (2011) stated that writing skill is important. It is always being important for professionals and academics to use proper grammar and communicate well, but now, it is increasingly important for more people to have good writing skills. As known that people do not only communicate by face to face, but also communicate through written form if they cannot communicate directly. So that, through having a good writing skill, people can transfer all their feelings and their thought onto written form easily. Moreover, the other people can also easily understand to something that written, even though they cannot talk directly.

Then, currently, the media of writing are also developed. As seemed that nowadays beside people able to write on paper by their handwriting, they also able to write on media online, such as web sites, pages, blogs and still many more media. Then, blog as an online diary which is created for making it easier for people to write and to express what is on their mind into written form. Moreover, everyone can have their own blog account and they are free to write on it, such as for sharing their feelings, knowledge and also for promoting business. It is also ageless, because children, teenagers, and adults can have their own blog. Furthermore, students,

teacher, lecturer, businessman, they also can share their knowledge and business on blog.

Sometimes, both teacher and lecturer asked their students to write on their blog then assessed it.

Then, academically, as English as Foreign Language learners in English Department's environment, the English Department students of UNG are also use media online in learning activity, particularly in writing course through Writing I to Writing IV courses, which begins from second semester to fifth semester. Then, more particularly, in writing IV course, some students were requested by their lecturer to create an account of blog for each student and post their articles weekly as an assignment.

Furthermore, the preliminary study of this research, the researcher observed the students' writing on their blog. It is admitted that their articles were interesting, but sometimes it is found that some part of the sentences were having disorder meaning and also delivering unnatural-sounding. Factually, they wrote in English, but their style of writing is still seemed influenced by their native language, which is Indonesian language. Therefore, it was because of the incorrect way in combining words did by students. They were still making mistakes in choosing words, and it made the meaning they delivered did not clearly understand by the readers. At first, it is thought that the mistakes were done by the students. They might be being not really thoroughly focused when they wrote the articles. But then, when it is looked at the date, it is realized that they posted the articles weekly. So then, it means that they made mistakes repeatedly. Otherwise, it can be said as an error in combining words.

Then, theoretically, the study of word combination is called *collocation*. It is also usually called as *couple of words*, where if one word is replaced by the other word, it builds a disordered and an incomplete meaning. In other word, the unite meaning of the word combination itself is

undelivered clearly. For example, a student wrote “I am not a *protruding student* in education but I ever have an achievement in my major.” This sentence contains of a collocation, particularly lexical collocation, where two words combined in order to create a unite meaning. The types of the word combination is combination word of *adjective + noun*, but unfortunately, when it is looked up on Oxford Collocation dictionary (2002), there is no such word combination as *protruding student* available, while the provided word combination is *clever or smart student*. Therefore, it can be said that the student made a mistake in using collocation.

Furthermore, lexically, based on Oxford Dictionary (2002), the word ‘protruding’ is the gerund form of ‘protrude’ which the meaning is “to stick out from or through something”. For example, “a rotting branch protruded from the swamp like a ghostly arm.” The sentence means that there is something appeared from or through something. In other words, it does not match if word ‘student’ is combined by word protruding. While, if the student wrote ‘protruding ears’ or protruding teeth’, those word combinations are absolutely accepted and used by English natives. They are also delivering a complete meaning without built any confusion when it is read or heard. Otherwise, word ‘student’ is usually combined by word ‘smart’ or ‘clever’. Moreover, ‘clever student’ is creating a natural-sounding when it is read or heard. Furthermore, word combination “clever student” is delivering a stronger meaning rather than “protruding student”.

Then, when the researcher read the other article, a mistake of using collocation was found again. The student wrote “...it is a process guys for us to *grow up our ability, skill* and etc.”. This sentence also contains of collocation, where the collocation or word combination is ‘grow up ability’. This is a word combination of *verb + noun*. Then, unfortunately, when it was looked up again on the collocation dictionary, no such word combination available of that word, but *improve ability or skill* is available. Where if this is looked up at the lexical meaning aside,

based on Oxford dictionary (2002), word 'grow up' is a phrasal verb where the head word is grow and it has meaning "to gradually become an adult". It means that word 'grow up' is commonly used for explaining human, particularly a boy or girl that is gradually become an adult. Then, it does not match if word 'grow up' is combined by word 'ability'. While on Oxford dictionary (2002), word 'improve' itself has meaning "to (cause something to) get better". Then word ability itself has meaning "the physical or mental power or skill needed to do something". Furthermore, based on the lexical meaning of each word, word 'ability' is creating a stronger meaning if it is combined by word 'improve' rather than word 'grow up'. Beside of the meaning becomes disorder, it is also delivering unnatural-sounding to both the hearers and the readers. In other words, the inappropriate word combination creates a disorder meaning and unnatural-sounding as it was explained. In addition, as the early observation did above, it can be said that the students wrote unacceptable word combination repeatedly, so that it is thought as not a mistake, but an error of writing collocation. Basically, this is happened due to of lack knowledge about word combination and also due to of poor understanding of choosing words to be combined.

So then, learning and having a deep understanding regarding to collocation itself is a necessity in order student can write the correct word combination and it can create a natural-sounding both in speaking and writing, particularly for English Department students. Then, the other importance of the learning regarding to lexical collocation is needed to be paid more attention by the students, is in order, other time, when they write in English, they will write the correct word combination and will create a natural-sounding in their English writing without being influenced by their native language anymore, which is Indonesian language.

Then, this research is conducted because the researcher is prodded to show the students' weaknesses in writing and combining word and hopefully by conducting this research, it can push the students in order to reduce the mistake or even the error in writing collocation and can improve their writing ability in the future, as the academic learners and as the users of English. Then, this research also can be an evidence of the students' writing skill where the researcher can find out the error of using collocation written by students and put the correct one as the correction.

Furthermore, students need to learn collocation to write well, because writing is a productive skill. Then, the importance of mastering collocation, students can easily determine the correct word to be combined due to create a natural-sounding and unite meaning, and they can deliver their meaning thoroughly in the sentences without making confusion both to the readers and hearers. Gabrielatos (1994, p. 9) stated that collocational relations are an important part of the language to be mastered, and it is an area which 'resists' tuition and, therefore, requires special systematic attention. It means that learning collocation is necessary. The other statement of the importance of learning collocation is coming from Benson, Benson and Ilson (1997) as cited in Taeko (2005, p. 3) as follows:

Learners of English as a foreign or second language, like learners of any language, have traditionally devoted themselves to mastering words – their pronunciation, forms and meanings. However, if they wish to acquire active mastery of English, that is, if they wish to be able to express themselves fluently and accurately in speech and writing, they must learn to cope with the combination of words into phrases, sentences and texts. (p. ix)

Then, Anggadha (2010) states that an easy way to remember the meaning of collocation is think of "col-" or "co-" (together) and "location" (place) = place together, locate together, or go together. In other word, collocation is couple of word. It can also be defined as two or more

words that locate together, or go together. This is a simple definition and easily to recognize concern to what collocation is.

Moreover, collocation is divided into two major types, which are grammatical collocation and lexical collocation. Grammatical collocation is collocation which focusing on the grammatical parts, and lexical collocation is focusing on the meaning of words and word choices. Students' errors in using lexical collocation in their writing will be the focused area of study in this research in order the students already wrote the correct word combination of grammatical collocation and more write the incorrect word combination in lexical collocation apart.

Generally, there are five types of lexical collocation. The types are listed below. This is supported by Hausmann's theory (1980) regarding to the types of lexical collocation itself.

No	Types of Collocation	Examples
1	Verb + Noun	Take a break
2	Adjective + Noun	Heavy rain
3	Noun + Verb	Dog Bark
4	Adverb + Adjective	Hopefully influenced
5	Verb + Adverb	Argue heatedly

The table above shows five types of lexical collocation. But, based on my preliminary study, only two types of lexical collocation is commonly occurring in students' writing which word combination of *verb + noun* and *adjective + noun*. These two types are commonly used by

students in their writing. This is caused by the poor understanding regarding to the collocation itself. They only unconsciously combining words based on the context of the meaning they want to deliver by choosing words randomly. Moreover, they just translated words from the source language to the target language based on their thought, not based on the existence of the word combination itself. They don't really pay attention to words that they combined are commonly used by English natives or not. It is not matter if the word combination written by students still delivers a complete meaning and understandable. Then, the problem is, when the students delivered a disorder meaning and unnatural-sounding in the sentences they wrote would create a confusion for both the readers and hearers. Then, based on that problem above, this research is conducted in order to analyze the students' writing, particularly the sentences written by student which contains of lexical collocation errors based on those both types.

The reason of doing errors in using lexical collocation by students are commonly influenced by their native language. As English as Foreign Language learners, Indonesian students' writing are influenced by Indonesian language which is presented in their writing style. In addition, Yan (2010, p. 163) as cited in Moehkardi (2002) stated that most lexical collocation errors are related with the native language. Foreign language learners would intentionally or unintentionally associate or compare the foreign language with their native language, which would induce of collocation errors because of the thinking mode of native language. That is why students commonly do errors in combining words.

Therefore, the source data of this research is student's blog. Blog is chosen to become the source data of this research is because, in this fifth semester, they are learning writing IV and their lecturer asks them to make blog for each student and they have to post articles on their blog weekly. The chosen blogs were created by 20 students in two different classes of writing IV

course were handled by one lecturer. Their blogs are randomly chosen for being the representation of all the students' blogs. Their blogs also contain of their articles which is written by the students themselves and the topics are freely chosen by themselves. Then, the consequence is, this research can analyze the real students' writing ability. Their articles are going to be analyzed because the article is created by their own ability in writing. Fortunately, this study will get the valid data of their errors in using lexical collocation.

Research Question

"What are the lexical collocation errors written by students in their English writing?"

That question will be the research question of this research.

Research Objectives

The objectives of this research are to describe the students' errors in using lexical collocation in their English writing and to show the correct one which is commonly used by native speaker in their writing.

Research Scope and Delimitation

Based on Haussman's theory of Lexical collocation, particularly the types itself, there are five types of lexical collocation. They are word combinations between word classes. The types are, first is the word combinations of "***verb + noun***", which is verb as the collocator and noun as the base. The second is word combinations of ***adjective + noun***, where the adjective verb as the collocator and noun as the base. The third is word combination of ***noun + verb***, where the noun word class acts as the base and verb as the collocator. The fourth is word combination of ***adverb + adjective***, where adverb as the collocator and the adjective as the base. Then the fifth is word combination of ***verb + adverb***. Verb as the base and adverb as the base.

Among those five types, this study only focuses on two types. The types are the word combination of *verb + noun* and *adjective + noun*. These two types are picked up due to of their common occurrence in students' English writing. It does not mean that the others types are not exist in the students' writing. They were existed, but unfortunately, the use of those types is unfamiliar for the most students. Only several students who has good writing skill ever use such those types. Otherwise, these two types are commonly and usually used by students, both they who has good writing skill and intermediate students.

In fact, it is found that most students don't know what collocation is, they only wrote word combination by choosing words to be combined. When they do not know the words in English, they looked up on the dictionary based on what they want to write. Unfortunately, words they combined is delivering a disordered meaning and unnatural-sounding based on the lexical meaning of the word itself. Even though in English, as known that some words have similar meaning, but the usage is different between each words.

Then, based on the familiarly used by students, consciously or not, this study only focus to the both types. While in the other hand, this study limitation gives the opportunity for the others researchers to conduct research concern to the other types of lexical collocation itself.

Research Significances

This research has two significances, which are theoretical and practical significances. For the theoretical significance, this study can be a written evidence of students' writing, which shows that students need to learn more deeply concerning to lexical collocation. As the result, by doing this research, at least it will diminish the errors of using lexical collocation wrote by students.

While for the practical significance, teachers can realize that learning collocation is necessary for increasing the writing skill of students. Then, the teaching of collocation needs more attention, relevant to the teaching and learning grammar and vocabulary. As the result, both students and teachers can realize that they need to learn and teach more about collocation itself.