

# **ERROR ANALYSIS IN USING PREPOSITION OF PLACE**

## **Chapter I: Introduction**

This chapter presents the basic consideration of this research regarding the problem of preposition error in students' writing and a query in the research question followed by research objectives, research delimitation which compiles the scope of the research and the focus of this study; the types of error in using preposition of place in students' writing, as well as research significances which present a high significance in theoretical and practical contribution.

### **Basic Consideration**

Preposition is a part of English word classes. Preposition is generally viewed as a member of word classes which is found in many languages of the world (Chukwukaelo, 2016). They are usually used before nouns, pronouns or other substantives to form phrases which functions as modifiers of verbs, noun or adjectives.

Previous reason is what makes the preposition an important grammar component. Unfortunately, some students still show improper use of preposition and the wrong use of the preposition will change the meaning of a phrase or sentence. Based on the researcher's observation in Syntax class of 2014's students in English department, it was found that they displayed difficulty in using prepositions based on their functions and rules. For example, there are still many students make error in using prepositions *in* and *at*. Even though it is clear that to explain a wide place or general place, we must use the preposition *in*, while the preposition *at* is used to explain a place more specifically, such as the phrase "I bought this book at Indonesia." This sentence is incorrect because it used preposition *at* to indicate the place "Indonesia" instead of using the

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preposition *in* because Indonesia is a wide place (country). Therefore, the correct sentence would be "I bought this book in Indonesia." It is related to Özışık (2014) who stated that the main reason why students faced difficulty in preposition is caused by the lack of specific rules usage.

Related to the problem, the researcher sought to analyze the errors that occur in the use of prepositions of place because based on the researcher observation, most of the students often made error in using of prepositions, particularly preposition of place such as the use of prepositions *in*, *at* or *on* which are often exchanged. Preposition of place itself is the preposition that is used to describe place or preposition of all type of nouns. According to Yates (1999, p. 146), the functions of preposition of place are *in*, which is usually used to specify that someone or something is in a (a border which can be physical or virtual place). In general, *in* is used for abounded space. *On*, which is usually used to specify someone or something is on top of a surface, and *at*, which is usually used to specify something or someone that is located at a specific place.

Moreover, there are many studies that are related to preposition error. Most of them are about error of preposition in general, but the researcher chose to focus on analyzing the preposition of place. It is because there are many cases about error of using those prepositions such as: research which conducted by Nina Suzanne (2005). The outcome revealed that the errors in the use of preposition *in* and *at* were happened more often than the errors in another use of preposition. Another research was done by Pindho Anjayani (2016) to determine students' foremost errors in the use of preposition that might be occurred in their writings and to give details on how students use prepositions in their writings.

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There were 117 improper preposition usage or 11.68%. The foremost error was the use of preposition of place which were 66.67% or 78 errors.

Furthermore, another previous study of preposition error which is from Suzanne (2005) and Anjayani (2016) took the first year students as their sample of the study. They analyzed preposition errors made by them. Based on those previous studies, the researcher wants to analyze the error of preposition of place that is still made by the students especially the students of English department. This study also will focus on the error preposition that the students do in their written text. Because if they still have a problem with the preposition or has a prepositional error, it will affect their writing skills. It would be bad and very influential in the development of their proposals and *skripsi* writings. Therefore, this problem made the researcher interested in carrying out the research entitled “Error Analysis in Using Preposition of Place in Students’ Writing”.

### **Problem Statement**

This study focused on one research question:

What kinds of errors do the students make in using preposition of place in their writing?

### **Aim Of Research**

According to the research question, the aim of this study is to analyze the kinds of errors in using preposition of place in writing that occurred in students’ descriptive writing.

### **Significances**

This research provides several significances that can be useful for the readers, whether from its practical perspective or theoretical perspective.

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In theoretical significance, this research could provide an assistance for the students in determining the type of error in the usage of the preposition.

Moreover, the students who might read this paper could learn more and improve their skill in using prepositions in their writing. This research is also provide a topic for the future researchers who possibly have interest in conducting similar researches that are related to this research, specifically, researches about preposition.

In practical significance, this study could help the lecturers or teachers in finding out the ability of students in writing, especially writing using the preposition. Thus, if there are students who still have any concerning difficulties in using the preposition, the lecturers or teachers could use effective teaching methods in order to improve students' ability in writing.

### **Scope Of Study**

This study is focused on preposition error in students' writing by using Marcela Frank (1972, p. 182) theory and theory of Surface Strategy Taxonomy by Dulay, Burt and Krashen (1982). This study focused on types of preposition: preposition of place, because the researcher sought after the types of errors that the students produced in using preposition of place in their writing, especially in English Department students. The participants of this study are the 2014 students' of English department that have passed 3 basic skills of writing: Writing General Communication, Writing Professional context, Writing for Academic Purposes, and also have passed the Basic English Grammar and Advance English Grammar class.