

Chapter 1: Introduction

This chapter provides an overview of the study by expounding the background of the study concerning interference phenomenon in English foreign language (EFL). This chapter also formulates research questions and research objectives followed by the research delimitation and the research significance.

Research Background

Interference is a common symptom in linguistics that occurs due to language contact, namely the use of two languages or more in multilingual speech communities. In addition, language development is relatively rapid in the fields of science and technology. In Indonesia, English had become one of the languages that Indonesian people must master. In contrast, Indonesians do not use English in their daily lives, both on formal and informal occasions. That means they tend to use Indonesian to interact with family, friends, or other people around them and not the English language considering the English language itself only as a foreign language and not a national language of Indonesia. Moreover, language contacts the process of interplay between one language and another language as what might happen from Indonesian to English.

According to Weinrich (1968) cited in Chaer and Agustina, 2004, p. 84, language contact in the event of using two or more languages is used interchangeably by the same speaker. The effect of the first language in the second language can occur in different language systems because the speakers or writers use the system or elements from the first language into the second language. However, when the language contact occurs in the community, it will create interplaying between Indonesia and foreign language, one of them is English, the interplay between first language and second language means that the first language can affect the second language or the second language can otherwise, affect the first language.

According to Ellis (2001, pp. 1-2), students' first language dramatically influences the learning process of the target language. It cannot be denied consciously or not that learners of foreign languages had transferred to developing foreign languages. The use of specific language systems in other languages is called transfer language systems. Language systems was to used in phonology, morphology, and syntax. This event occurs in everyone who has two or more languages. If two languages have different systems, there will be chaos.

By its nature, the transfer was divide into two parts. Transfers that follow language rules are called "positive transfers." Conversely, if the transfer confuses a language called "negative transfer." Negative transfers occur when the speaker or writer adapts a system that does not have the same language to each other. Negative transfers are known as language interference.

Language interference is a phenomenon that occurs in multilingual countries. According to Chaer (2008, p. 259), entering other languages into the language used was changed. A bilingual who speaks or writes will use two language systems, and eventually, a disturbance will occur. Weinreich said the people involved in the practice of using two languages would change called bilingualism. For examples of changes in deviations from the norms of the two languages that occur in bilingual speech as their familiarity with more than one language as a difficulty, this use will increase or depend on people who learn foreign languages.

In learning English at English Education Study Program in Gorontalo State University, the students are obliged to master the four skills. Those are speaking, listening, reading, and writing. These four skills cannot separate from each other caused by the support of each other; they can achieve the level of success in the English learning process. However, to reach success in learning English, the students need to master many vocabulary and grammar rules.

From the four skills above, writing is one of the skills that are still tricky for the students to master, especially the English Department students. This statement was supported by Richards and Renandya (2002, p.203) that argue that writing is the most challenging skill in learning a foreign language. By seeing this statement, the students need to know how to master English skills, especially writing skills, explore their ideas and opinions, and make a good paragraph in academic writing. In addition, Academic writing was designed to convey agreed meaning about complex ideas or concepts for a group of scholar-experts. Thus, if it is talking about the basic consideration, it also talks about academic writing because all characteristics in academic writing also include basic consideration. The basic consideration is a significant part of an undergraduate thesis.

Furthermore, the undergraduate thesis consists of an introduction / basic consideration, theoretical framework, research methodology, result/findings, and discussion. In this final paper, basic consideration is about the exceptional part of the undergraduate thesis because reasonable basic consideration will lead to a good research paper, as of the view of how the research is running and the brief explanation about the whole parts of the undergraduate thesis included on the basic considerations a must for students to have an excellent final paper in college. Thus, many problems occurred in this part, such as phonological interference, lexical interference, and morphological interference.

One of the problems that occurred on the basic consideration of undergraduate thesis is morphological interference. The preliminary data reveals that several types of morphological interference take place. In this case, the example: "*the teaching writing have finished in two groups of two **class** namely experimental and control group.*" An example of the sentence interference with the rules of Indonesian in the use of the English language. This is a kind of interference made by the students in his subject verb agreement and the singular plural agreement. In English, there is a term where the subject and its verb should

have an agreement. It happens in third person singular and its verb. Another interference also found in the singular plural agreement that indicates whether the number of nouns or pronouns is one or more than one. In the sentence above, the writer did not add –s or –es at the end of the noun when the entity performs plural number. This kind of morphological interference happened because, in the Indonesian language, a sentence's rule when to write the plural was frequently. The correct sentence is "*the teaching writing has finished in two groups of two **classes**, namely experimental and control groups.*"

According to Suwito (1985, p.55), morphological interference occurs when in the formation of the word of a language absorbs the affixes of another language. So, morphological interference occurs because of the formation of words by using the first language affix into the second language (target language) or vice versa. While Morphological errors are errors formed or made when the morphological aspect of grammar is being tainted, or misinformed. Morphology is the structure of words; it is the relation on how words are formed and how it fits together. Therefore, a morphological interference might also be the morphological error if it is based on the first language pattern or there has no such pattern in the first language, but if there is such pattern in the first language and the grammatical or the structural is incorrect then it is just a morphological error and not an interference.

This had proved that even though the English students had learnt about the writing subject and had passed all the writing subjects in their time of study in the University, but they still tend to make interference to the target language. This might happen as the influence of their first language "Indonesia" that had been translated by its form and structure into the target language "English" where basically these two languages have different structure of language. Considering also the basic consideration is the important part and the pioneer of the undergraduated thesis, therefore the students were expected to write a grammatical and well structure undergraduated thesis, however as had been found that there were still some morphological interference in the English Foreign Learners in Gorontalo State University in

particular the English education students, therefore the researcher would like to rise the issue as the core of this research.

Based on the explanations above, the researcher used the three previous studies as references to help get more information about morphological interference. The researcher also got many data as examples from their findings and theoretical review in the three researchers. Therefore, the three relevant studies become the references in conducting this research. In addition, this study was concerned with Indonesian morphological interference in students' English writing. The researcher is interested in researching with the title "An Analysis of Morphological Interferences on Students' basic consideration in writing an undergraduate thesis."

Research Question

In this research, the writer would like to describe the first language interference in English academic writing on basic consideration of English Department students. So, the research questions to formulated as follows:

What are the types of morphological interference on students' basic considerations in writing an undergraduate thesis?

Research Objective

Based on the research question above, the objective of the research is to find out the types of morphological interference on students' basic considerations in writing an undergraduate thesis.

Research Delimitation

This study focuses on English features indicated as Indonesian morphological interference. This study only employs the theory of interference as the starting point of analysis based on morphological perspective. It was selected because this research aims to investigate the morphological interference phenomenon on English department students as

learners of foreign languages. Regarding this, undergraduate thesis as the area of researching problems and basic consideration as one of those parts had been the concrete area of this research. Furthermore, in collecting the data, the researcher took 13 undergraduate theses as the source of data. In addition, the researcher used inflectional morphology because the researcher found the student's problem in writing the undergraduate thesis was more in inflection and that following the theory that the researcher used.

Another the delimitation would be the time of collecting the data, where since the researcher only used qualitative data so the time were limited. The delimitation was also at the data which were taken had been classified by not presenting all the data found on the field but rather to the representation only. This was done considering qualitative data would be exploded if the researcher did not make effective, so the data were only taken at the most existed morphological interference and not all of the morphological interference.

Research Significance

There are several important areas where this research to give a contribution, theoretically and practically.

Theoretical significances

This research exemplifies morphological interference to help students overcome the errors that can occur in their works. Second, this research can be adopted to reflect the students' performance in the process of learning FL, hence due to empowering students' English ability and knowledge in interference the students and lecturers could have more discussion about the morphological interference at the subject of writing and morphology.

Practical significances

This research observes and proves morphological interference on students of the English department regarding the analysis of morphological interferences on their basic consideration. Besides that, this research intends to visualize the application of students'

comprehension in English writing. Furthermore, this research could reference further research that attempts to investigate the same issue about morphological interference in a different object.