



# Students' Interferences in Writing a News Item Text at Grade XI of Public Senior High School in Padang

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## ABSTRACT

This research is descriptive research which analyses the students' interferences in writing news item text. It is aimed to find out the students' interferences in writing news item text. The result of this research can be as references for English teachers and other researchers to develop English teaching methods especially writing skill. The design of research is descriptive research. The population of this research is the students of class XI SMA N Padang. The Instrument used in this research is writing test of news item text based on information given in 60 minutes. After that, the researcher finds out the students' interferences in writing the text. Based on the findings, it can be said that the most common interferences found in students' writing was incorrect verb tenses (53,37%), followed by incorrect word orders (37,54%) and problems with singular and plural nouns (9,09%).

**Keywords:** *interference, news item text, writing*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

One of the language skills that must be learned by the students is writing. Because expressing and exchanging ideas, thoughts and experiences can be done through writing. Someone can also use it in transferring information and knowledge to others. It can be said that, the writer and the reader use writing as a tool in communicating each other. The process of expressing ideas or thought in words is called writing[1]. It is enjoyable activity for the writer when they have the ideas and the means to achieve it. In academic writing, the writer have to consider three basic principles namely (1)content; the writer should write the content clearly, specific and relevant, (2) register; the writer should write formal writing, to the point and concise, the last one is (3) topic; it should be free from offences and avoid sensitive issues in most cases. As any skill like typing, driving, or cooking, writing also is a skill that can be learned[2]. So that, it is a process of discovery that involves a series of steps which are very often a zigzag journey of the process. Writer will explore their thought in writing first unless they will not discover what they want to write about. In addition, writing is also a skill that enjoys special status- it is through writing someone can do communication to close or distant, known or unknown readers about a variety of messages [3]. This type of communication is very crucial in this era, both in form of traditional way or the most popular advanced technolog. In conclusion, beside a media to express the ideas, writing also can be learnt through several steps.

Since writing is essential it is put in English education curriculum in Indonesia from elementary, junior high schools, and senior high schools. As stated in curriculum, the students have to learn some texts such as recount, spoof, review, descriptive, narrative, procedure, news item, etc.

For senior high school, one of the text that have to be learnt not only as a reading text but also in writing It is news item. Despite of right or wrong the teacher in teaching, writing news item text needs to follow certain rules. A news writer should know the concept of 5W+1H (Who, what, where, when, why and how) when they are writing a news item text. Moreover, the news writer needs to have sense of journalism. So, the news item text become newsworthy and has value. It is a kind of text which informs the event that is newsworthy [4]. The social function of this text is to give information about the current event to the readers, listeners, or viewers that categorized as newsworthy [5]. It takes important part in journalistic study and has big roles in media as the consumption of the public. News comes from many sources based on the fact that happened in the field. In other word, news that is delivered must be important and has a value to the people.

Anything that can attract people' attention that has never been brought to their attention is called a news [6]. It means that the news must be something that can catch attention of the readers, then it is not news anymore if the readers already know that. News should fit at list some criteria. He has grouped the list into three: (1) the occurrence of the event (the where and

when); (2) the nature of the event itself, that is what events are considered newsworthy; (3) the treatment of the events.

Based on the preliminary research, it seems that writing the text is still difficult for the students especially news item. This difficulty might be caused by two factors, students' factors and teachers' factors. Actually, in writing the teacher have to lead the students into the process of writing; prewriting, writing, revising, editing, and publishing. Unfortunately, this process seems not to be applied. While the explanation on the generic structure and lexico grammatical are also not too complete. There are two components of news item text namely generic structure of the text, and lexicogrammatical features. There are three generic structure of the text; (1) Important: main event, (2) background: elaboration of event, (3) source: comments and opinions of witnesses or expert of the event [4]. In addition, generic structures of the text consists of; (1) Important event(s): event summarized in short form, (2) background; tells what happened, to whom, in what circumstances, (3) sources: comments by participants in, witnesses to and authorities expert [5].

While grammatical features of the text are (1) headline, (2) action verb, (3) saying verb. Similarly, news item text has four significant lexico grammatical features; (1) short, tells the story in headline telegraphically, (2) use of material processes to retell the event, use of projecting verbal processes in sources stage, and focus on circumstances [5]. Unclear explanation about generic structure and lexico grammatical makes the students confuse when they are asked to write. Then they make some errors in their writing. Some of the errors because of interferences of their Indonesian language. When speakers or writers use knowledge from their native language to a second language it is called linguistic interference. [7].

It can be said that when someone do a mistake by changing the use of language system in other element of language because the influences of their native language is called by interferences. In addition, interferences become one of the factors that makes students do the error in their writing. Interference is derivations form the norms of either language which occur in speech of bilingual as the result of familiarity with more than one. Furthermore, interference can be said as the negative transfer [8]. He explains that if the use of first language benefits to learning tasks of the second language it is called positive transfer, however, if it disturbs the performance of the second language task it is called interference as the negative transfer. The negative transfer, interference, can influence the students of the second/foreign language to master the new language since the inappropriateness of the L1 structures in L2 structures. When the students write the English text, they tend to use their LI structures which they have already had. Consequently, they frequently make errors in their writing to use the second foreign language [9]. Considering the definition of interference, this research defined interference as errors in grammar

which are caused by negative transfer of structures from Bahasa Indonesia to English.

An analysis of interferences is considered as a crucial thing especially for the teachers to improve the accuracy of students' writing. In addition, by knowing the students' error in writing, can be as awareness of the teachers about learning process. That's way the researcher is interested to analyze students' interferences in writing a news item text.

## 2. RESEARCH METHOD

The design of this research is descriptive. It aims to describe things as the way and also analyzing the interrelationship of the data. The purpose of this research design is collecting the data in order to answer the research question concerning the status of the subject of the research [10]. It is used to specify, delineate, or describe naturally occurring, phenomena without experimental manipulation. The researcher used this kind of research design because she investigated and reported the grammatical interference found in students' writing.

The students of SMA N in Padang were chosen as the population of the research. In order to get the samples, the clustering sampling technique was used and the groups were randomly selected. Cluster sampling technique is sampling that selects group of the population as the sample randomly and it is used when the sample have similar characteristic. Writing test was used as the instrument.. The students were required to write news item text based on current topic given. And then, the data were analyzed based on the sub-indicators of the instrument.

## 3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### Grammatical Interferences made by the Students

Based on the students' writing, it can be explained about interferences found in their writing as follows:

#### a. Incorrect verb tenses

Incorrect verb tenses is considered as the most dominant interferences found in students' writing. Almost all of the students got problems in this component. There were 57 errors found in writing of SMA X students, 54 errors found in writing of SMA Y students, and 71 errors found in writing of SMA Z students. So total errors made by the students in form of incorrect verb tenses were 182 errors.

The students have to use verb in form of "past tense" since it tells the event in the past time. In other word the students have to use verb2 in their sentences. However, in Indonesian rules there is no verb2. There is only one form of verb. So, the students were influenced by their Indonesian rules in creating the sentences. They tended to use verb in form of present tense (v1). The examples of students writing as in the following table.

Table 1. Incorrect Verb Tenses

No	Students	Students' Sentences	The correct sentences
1	1X	There is a fire	There was a fire
2	5X	There is a incident	There was an incident
3	8X	There are two people died	There were two people died
4	4Y	Flames come from	Flames came from
5	9Y	This fire is caused by	This fire was caused by
6	10Y	He see this fire	He saw this fire
7	8Z	I see smoke	I saw smoke
8	11Z	There is a victim	There was a victim
9	16Z	This event have one victim	This event had one victim

## b. Incorrect word orders

Related to the error interference in form of incorrect word orders, it can be said that most of the students also had problem in this component.. There were 38 errors in form of incorrect word order found in writing of SMA X students. 36 errors found in writing of SMA Y students, and 54 errors found in writing of SMA Z students. So, total errors in form of incorrect word orders found in students' writing were 128 errors.

Most of the students write the sentences like Indonesian sentences. They were influenced by Indonesian sentence order. They tended to translate Indonesian sentences to English sentences without considering the correct order of English sentences. So that makes their sentences become unmeaningful. And most of their sentences were long sentences since they only change Indonesian sentences become English sentences by translating word by word. They did not consider the meaning of the sentences. It can be seen in the following table.

Table 2. Incorrect Word Order

No	Students	Students' Sentences	The correct sentences
1	3X	This tragedy have victim	There were some victims in this tragedy
2	8X	Our obstacle is far water sources	Our difficulty is the location that is far away from the water sources

3	11X	We can call fire department with quickly	We can call fire department quickly
4	14X	In white house have festival there	There is a festival in white house
5	5Y	On street bypass no. 12	On bypass street No.12
6	9Y	In this accident that became witnesses is pak Adi	Pak Adi is a witnesses of this accident
7	17Y	This incident resulted in three victims	There were three victims in this incident
8	2Z	From the incident a victim named Siska	There was a victim named Siska
9	9Z	Of the incident are some victim woman	Some victims in this incident were women
10	11Z	Otherwise the loss up 130 million rupiah	Financial loss of this incident were about 130 million rupiah
11	16Z	In this event have one victim	There was a victim in this event

## c. Problem with singular and plural noun

Beside making errors in form of incorrect verb tenses and incorrect word orders, some of the students also had errors in form of singular and plural nouns. From the result of the research, it was found that there were 8 errors found in writing of SMA X students, 8 errors found in writing of SMA Y students, and 15 errors found in writing of SMA Z students. So total errors in form of singular and plural noun found in students' writing were 31 errors.

In English there are two types of noun; singular and plural nouns. We have to add "s" ending when we use plural nouns. However, in Indonesian there is no rule of adding "s" ending when we use plural nouns. So that the students were influenced by their Indonesian rules in creating English sentences. We can see the examples in the following table.

Table 3. Problem with singular and plural noun

No	Student	Students' sentences	The correct sentences
1	4X	Three other house	Three other houses
2	8X	Some resident	Some residents
3	15Y	A victims	A victim
4	16Y	Two house burning	Two houses burning
5	6Z	After 30 minute	After 30 minutes
6	9Z	Some victim	Some victims
7	23 Z	Five unit	Five units

From the explanation above, it can be said that the students still had problems in writing news item text related to the use of verb tenses, word order and singular and plural nouns. Total of the students' errors can be seen in the following table.

Table 4. Students errors in writing news item text

School	Errors		
	Incorrec t verb tenses	Incorrec t word orders	Proble m with singula r and plural nouns
<b>SMA X</b>	57	38	8
<b>SMA Y</b>	54	36	8
<b>SMA Z</b>	71	54	15
<b>Total</b>	182 (53,37 %)	128 (37,54 %)	31 (9,09% )

From the table 4 above it can be seen that incorrect verb tenses is the most frequent errors found in students' writing that is 53,37%, followed by incorrect word orders (37,54%), and the last one is problems with singular and plural nouns (9.09%). It can be concluded that the most grammatical interference faced by grade eleven students in writing a news item text is incorrect verb tenses.

#### 4. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

From the result of the research, it can be said that that the students got interferences in writing a news item text. They are incorrect verb tenses, incorrect word orders, and problem with singular and plural nouns. Among three interferences made by the students, incorrect verb tenses is the most common interferences found in the students writing, then followed by incorrect word orders and the last one problem with singular and plural nouns. They got errors since they were influenced by Indonesian rule in creating the sentences.

Based on the findings and conclusion, there are some suggestion that have to consider as follows:

1. In order to write the news item text well, all aspects of text must be discussed together by the teacher and the students before writing the text.
2. It is hoped that the teachers have to guide their students how to write news item text by using good material and good media in teaching. By using the good material and media, the students not only get knowledge but also much information to improve their writing.
3. It is also hoped that high frequency of writing task should be given to their students. So, the students can practice their writing easily.

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