AN INVESTIGATION OF ERROR MADE BY STUDENTS AT SMAN 2 INDRALAYA UTARA BASED ON THEIR GENDER IN WRITING NARRATIVE TEXT

A THESIS

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English Education Study Program Language and Art Education Department



FACULTY OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION SRIWIJAYA UNIVERSITY 2025

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Palembang, 25 September 2025

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DEDICATION AND MOTTO

DEDICATION

I lovingly dedicate this thesis to my beloved parents, who have been my greatest source of strength and motivation, whose sacrification and unconditional love have made this achievement possible. To my dearest siblings and bestfriends whose companionship have helped me throughout the journey. Thank you very much for the endless support.

MOTTO

"Indeed, with hardship comes ease". (Q.S Al-Insyirah: 5)

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The author,

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ABSTRACT

AN INVESTIGATION OF ERROR MADE BY STUDENTS AT SMAN 2 INDRALAYA UTARA BASED ON THEIR GENDER IN WRITING NARRATIVE TEXT

ABSTRACT

Writing is a complex process which often leads students to face difficulties resulting in errors. Moreover, male and female students may learn language differently. This quantitative comparative study aims to identify and analyze the error made by male and female students in writing narrative text and to examine whether there is a significant difference in their writing performance between gender. 50 males and 50 females students at SMAN 2 Indralaya Utara were selected as samples using stratified random sampling. Data were collected through a writing test then analyzed using surface strategy taxonomy covering the errors of omission, addition, misformation, and misordering, while the writing performance was assessed through a rubric. Results showed that male students produced 305 errors mostly in misformation (53.77%), while female students made 167 errors, predominantly in omission (40.72%). Independent Sample t-Test indicated a significant difference in writing performance, where female students scoring higher (M=73.77) than males (M=66.52), p = 0.000 (< 0.05). The findings indicate that female students not only made fewer errors, but also exhibited stronger mastery of writing elements which led to their higher scores. It is suggested that teachers provide focused grammar instruction and gender-responsive strategies, while students strengthen accuracy through revision, self monitoring, and consistent practice.

Keywords: Error Analysis, Narrative Writing, Gender Differences, Writing Performance, EFL Students

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher explains: (1) Background of the Study, (2) Problems of the Study, (3) Objectives of the Study, and (4) Significances of the Study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Among the four English skills, writing is widely considered the most complex skill due to the systematic process that encompasses various cognitive and metacognitive activities, such as brainstorming, planning, outlining, organizing, drafting, and revising in which the writer must accurately convey the message to the readers (Drijbooms, 2016). Flower and Hayes in Suvin (2020) stated that these processes recognized as unique ways of thinking that writers use to plan and organize during the act of composing. Furthermore, these methods are not the sole consideration when crafting a message; linguistic abilities and knowledge also play a vital role. Despites its complexity, writing is essential for L2 learners as it not only demands on knowledge of vocabulary and grammar, but also the ability to generate and organize ideas, translate it into coherent sentences while adhering to linguistic rules. Hence, writing could develop students' critical thinking effectively especially in digital or academic context. Possessing strong writing skills in English is essential especially in today's global environment, where individuals are required to write and communicate proficiently in English. E-mails, faxes, online chats, and website updates all require an excellent proficiency in English writing to communicate people's need and demand effectively. Writing skills also hold as a foundation for academic success, personal development, and future career opportunities. It is supported by Carter, et al cited in Apsari (2017) that writing is essential for career and personal life because others would jugde individual's thinking ability according to what and how the individual writes.

However, students in Indonesia still struggle to pour their ideas in English through written activity. This issue is evident in the result of the Programme for

International Student Assessment (PISA) 2022 Creative Thinking test which assessed the processes of generating diverse and creative ideas, and improving ideas. It focused on everyday creativity through tasks in four domains: written expression, visual expression, social problem solving, and scientific problem solving. For the result, there are only 31% of Indonesian students achieved a minimum proficiency in creative thinking, significantly less than OECD countries which average of 78%. With a mean score of 19 out of 60 possible points, students in Indonesia scored significantly lower than the OECD average 33 points (OECD, 2024).

Whereas, in senior high school, writing skill is available in the syllabus as this competency is deemed essential for students' success in acquiring the English language. In Merdeka Curriculum, particularly in English subject, students are taught writing skill by providing lessons on how to write types of text in English. It is also required for students to produce visual, oral, and written texts in structured English with a wider range of vocabulary at the end of each chapter (Puji Astuti et al., 2022). The assessment of students' progress in their English writing abilities is based on their proficiency in composing the specific text types effectively. Those various types of text namely recount text, procedure text, descriptive text, argumentative text, explanation text, news item text, analytical and hortatory exposition text, report text, and narrative text. Where English is not frequently used in daily life, students often struggle with expressing their thoughts in English. Several studies have been undertaken to examine the challenges faced by Indonesian EFL students in their writing. Research by Andi Kaharuddin (2020) showed that the students possess a limited vocabulary, which hinders their ability to choose suitable words when attempting to describe an object. Hasan & Marzuki (2017) conducted an analysis of the writing abilities of Indonesian EFL students by assigning them a writing task within a specified timeframe. The results indicated that the students encountered various grammatical issues, including the use of plural forms, articles, verb forms, clauses, passive voice, and prepositions in their writing.

The literacy levels among children and adolescents in South Sumatra are still relatively low (Oktareza, 2021). Limited access of reading resources and a lack of enthusiasm in reading also hinder the development of writing literacy (Amila, 2025). Based on the school field observation program and informal interview with an English teacher at SMAN 2 Indralaya Utara, Ogan Ilir regency, Sumatera Selatan province, it was revealed that students frequently encounter difficulties in constructing grammatically correct and coherent sentences. Additionally, they often struggle with selecting appropriate vocabulary to accurately express their thoughts and ideas in English. For instance, In composing written text, the challenges that occur are using appropriate tenses or vocabularies, maintaining chronological order, and developing a cohesive story. Those challenges often results errors in writing.

Moreover, differences in writing ability also be influenced by gender along with cognitive and linguistic abilities, age, interest in writing, self-efficacy, anxiety, and other variables. A significant matter that has been hugely neglected in the context of English as a foreign language writing, specifically, and it deserves to be taken into account in writing process research is a gender (Al-Saadi, 2020). Research has shown that male and female students often exhibit distinct approaches to language learning, which can affect their writing performance. Female students are generally observed to have stronger language skills and a greater tendency to focus on detail and accuracy (Al-Saadi, 2020), while male students may exhibit more creativity but struggle with grammatical precision (Almusharraf & Alotaibi, 2021). The theory of gender differences in language learning, proposed by Sunderland, suggests that males and females may approach language tasks differently due to cognitive, social, and psychological factors (Mitchell et al., 2019).

To determine the link between gender differences and English as foreign language writing, further investigations need to be carried out regarding the acquisition of specific linguistic components, such as grammatical accuracy in narrative text writing. Indeed, it is essential to analyze the types of errors committed by male and

female EFL learners and to examine whether there is a significant difference in their overall narrative writing ability.

A previous study focusing on error analysis in narrative texts found that female students committed more linguistic errors than male students (Sugianto et al., 2023). Furthermore, another research has shown that female students outperform males in narrative writing task (Noviansyah & Anam, 2019). However, research specifically analyzing errors based on gender in writing narrative texts remains limited. Most existing studies tend to focus on general writing proficiency, overlooking how male and female students may differ in the types and frequency of errors they make as well as their overall writing quality spesifically in narrative writing. Additionally, many studies relating this context are conducted in broader EFL contexts, with little emphasis on high school students, particularly in Indonesia.

In line with the background, the present study emphasizes both aspects, namely the types of errors and the gender differences in writing narrative text. This study aims to identify the types and frequencies of errors made by male and female students at SMAN 2 Indralaya Utara in writing narrative text and examine whether there is a significant difference in terms of narrative text writing between the two groups. It is expected that the findings will contribute to a better understanding of gender-based differences in error patterns, ultimately tailoring teaching methods to support both genders effectively and develop more effective instructional strategies to improve students' writing ability.

1.2 Problems of the Study

- 1. What types and frequencies of writing errors are made by male and female students at SMAN 2 Indralaya Utara in writing narrative text?
- 2. Is there any significant difference in writing narrative text between male and female students at SMAN 2 Indralaya Utara?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

- 1. To identify the types and frequency of errors made by male and female students at SMAN 2 Indralaya Utara in writing narrative text
- 2. To determine whether there is significant difference in writing narrative text between male and female students at SMAN 2 Indralaya Utara

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study offers theoretical, pedagogical, and practical contributions by analyzing gender-based differences in writing errors among EFL students at SMAN 2 Indralaya Utara. The findings would provide insights into how male and female students differ in the types and frequency of errors also their narrative writing proficiency, enhancing the understanding of gender-related learning challenges. The results would help teachers implement more effective feedback and differentiated instruction to support both male and female students in developing grammatically accurate and coherent writing. This research would offer meaningful contribution for:

a. English Teacher

Pedagogically, the findings are expected to provide valuable insights for teachers to design more targeted instructional strategies. Knowing which errors are more common among male and female learners allows teachers to deliver corrective feedback that is not only more effective but also more sensitive to learner needs and to create more inclusive classroom practices, and foster a balanced learning environment that supports both male and female students in achieving writing proficiency.

b. Students

Practically, the results of this research will benefit students by raising their awareness of their own writing weaknesses such as grammatical inaccuracies, thus motivating them to improve accuracy and fluency in English.

c. Future Researchers

This study provides a foundation for further investigations into gender and writing development, particularly in Indonesian high school settings where such research remains limited. In this way, the study contributes not only to academic discourse but also to improving classroom practices and student outcomes in EFL writing instruction.

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