Assessing Mistake Potential in Writing German Passive Sentences (An Approach of Language Error Analysis)

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Abstract. The purpose of this study is to identify the types of errors experienced by students in writing German language passivation. The study uses a qualitative approach, especially the language error analysis approach. The data in this study are in the form of the writings of German students. The results showed that there were 4 types of errors experienced by students: 1) werden conjugation was wrong, 2) did not use Partizip Perfekt, 3) errors in the process of declination of articles, 4) errors in writing subjects or objects. One of the mistakes caused by one of them is the interference of the Indonesian language in learning German.

Keywords: Passive Voice, Interference, Error Analysis, German Language.

INTRODUCTION

The study of language error analysis has become one of the important topics that has been widely studied by previous researchers (Hinkel, 2018; Atmowardoyo, 2018; Khalifa, 2018; Lan, 2019; Karim et al., 2018). The research emphasizes that by knowing the mistakes that learners tend to experience, the teacher can focus more on explaining the section compared with other materials. In addition, through the language error analysis approach, the teacher can also determine the learning time in each material. Material that is considered complex certainly requires a longer learning time compared to younger material.

One of the main causes of learners experiencing language errors is the problem of language interference (AlTameemy, 2019; Navidinia, 2019; Sari et all., 2019; Mohammed, 2019). Interference can be interpreted as a mistake caused by the tendency to use elements of a language against other languages including pronunciation of sound units, grammar, and vocabulary. This problem is certainly a common thing found in learning foreign languages. However, it is important to know that the problem of interference in language learning can be overcome by knowing the tendencies of errors experienced by learners due to this interference factor.

Language interference certainly does not only occur in learning English as some of the studies previously mentioned, but also occurs in learning other foreign languages, one of which is in learning German for Indonesian students. Problems experienced in learning German certainly vary both in terms of learner motivation, learning outcomes, textbooks, learning facilities and several other problems (Mantasiah et all., 2019; Mantasiah et all., 2019; Angreany & Saud, 2017; Mantasiah & Yusri, 2018). But one of the dominant problems that occurred was the presence of Indonesian language interference in learning German.

This study focuses on examining the tendencies of errors experienced by German language learners in writing passive sentences. Passive sentences are certainly one of the basic materials that must be understood by German learners, because in writing or speaking, they will always use active sentences or passive sentences. Through the results of this study it is hoped that the teacher will be able to understand the tendencies of errors experienced by students, so that in the future students will not experience these mistakes again both when writing and speaking.

RESEARCH METHOD

The study is a qualitative research with language error analysis approach. The data of this study are in the form of German passive sentences obtained from the writing of German language students at Makassar State University. The data that has been collected is then analyzed using a qualitative descriptive approach through 3 stages namely data presentation, data classification, and data verification.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Based on the results of data analysis, there are 4 types of error tendencies experienced by students in writing German passive sentences

1. *Werden* **conjugation was wrong**

   Here are some data that show errors in this aspect:

   a. Der Kaffe <u>werdet</u> von meinem Vater getrunken
      Correct Sentence: Der Kaffe <u>wird</u> von meinem Vater getrunken
   b. Die Kinder <u>wird</u> von einem Mann gesehen
      Correct Sentence: Die Kinder <u>werden</u> von einem Mann gesehen
   c. Der Reis <u>werden</u> von seiner Mutter gekocht
      Correct Sentence: Der Reis <u>wird</u> von seiner Mutter gekocht
   d. Die Zwiebeln <u>wirst</u> von meiner Schwester geschnitten
      Correct Sentence: Die Zwiebeln <u>wird</u> von meiner Schwester geschnitten
   e. Das Auto <u>werdet</u> von meinem Bruder gewaschen
      Correct Sentence: Das Auto <u>wird</u> von meinem Bruder gewaschen

   In English werden can be interpreted as to be, where in German when writing passive sentences after the subject must be followed by werden, where the word werden must be conjugated with the subject. Some students do not conjugate werden correctly with the subject in the sentence. In general, the rules for writing passive German sentences are the same as English, which requires werden as to be and requires a verb in the third form

2. **Do not use** *Partizip Perfekt*

   Here are some data that show errors in this aspect:

   a. Das Buch wird von mir <u>lesen</u>
      Correct Sentence: Das Buch wird von mir <u>gelesen</u>
   b. Das Handy wird von ihrem Bruder <u>kaufen</u>
      Correct Sentence: Das Handy wird von ihrem Bruder <u>gekauft</u>
   c. Die Milch wird von den Kindern <u>trinken</u>
      Correct Sentence: Die Milch wird von den Kindern <u>getrunken</u>
   d. Das Motorrad wird von dem Onkel <u>reparieren</u>
      Correct Sentence: Das Motorrad wird von dem Onkel <u>repariert</u>
   e. Die Schuhe werden von der Tante <u>tragen</u>
      Correct Sentence: Die Schuhe werden von der Tante ge<u>tragen</u>

   As explained earlier that in writing German passive sentences requires verbs in the third form. The data above shows that some students did not change the first verb into a third form of verb. This

error also often occurs in learning English, because English also requires verbs in the third form, when active sentences are converted into passive sentences

3. **Article Declination Error on the Object**

   Here are some data that show errors in this aspect:

   a. Das Spielzeug wird von <u>der</u> Kindern gespielt
      Correct Sentence: Das Spielzeug wird von <u>den</u> Kindern gespielt
   b. Die Zeitung wird von <u>mein</u> Freund gekauft
      Correct Sentence: Die Zeitung wird von <u>meinem</u> Freund gekauft
   c. Der Ring wird von <u>die</u> Frau gesucht
      Correct Sentence: Der Ring wird von <u>der</u> Frau gesucht
   d. Der Kuchen wird von <u>das</u> Gast gekauft
      Correct Sentence: Der Kuchen wird von <u>dem</u> Gast gekauft
   e. Essen und Getränke werden von <u>die</u> Gästen gebracht
      Correct Sentence: Essen und Getränke werden von <u>den</u> Gästen gebracht

   One of the uniqueness of German that is not found in Indonesian and English is the article declination process. When changing an active sentence into a passive sentence, before the object there is a preposition "von" which means by. In German, the preposition "von" is identical to the dativ case, so the article of the object must undergo the process of declination of the dativ case

4. **Errors in Writing Subjects or Objects**

   Here are some data that show errors in this aspect:

   a. <u>Die Katze</u> wird von <u>dem Fisch</u> gegessen
      Correct Sentence: <u>Der Fisch</u> wird von <u>der Katze</u> gegessen
   b. <u>Sie</u> wird von <u>dem Bad</u> geputzt
      Correct Sentence: <u>Das Bad</u> wird von <u>ihr</u> geputzt
   c. <u>Die Leute</u> wird von <u>der Musik</u> gehört
      Correct Sentence: <u>Die Musik</u> wird von <u>der Leute</u> gehört
   d. <u>Meine Freunde</u> wird von <u>dem Museum</u> besucht
      Correct Sentence: <u>Das Museum</u> wird von <u>meinen Freunden</u> besucht
   e. <u>Der Lehrer</u> wird von <u>dem Brief</u> geschrieben
      Correct Sentence: <u>Der Brief</u> wird von <u>dem Lehrer</u> geschrieben

   One of the characteristics of passive sentences whether in German, Indonesian or English

is the process of exchanging positions between subjects and objects when converted from active sentences to passive sentences. The data above shows that there are students who do not change the position of the subject or object, so the meaning of the resulting sentence is not appropriate.

CONCLUSION

There were 4 types of errors experienced by students: 1) werden conjugation was wrong, 2) did not use Partizip Perfekt, 3) errors in the process of declination of articles, 4) errors in writing subjects or objects. One of the mistakes caused by one of them is the interference of the Indonesian language in learning German.

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