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## An Analysis of Grammatical Errors on “Twitter”

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### Abstract

This research was conducted to find out about the grammatical errors on Twitter. This research used descriptive qualitative research to aimed the types of grammatical errors by using the strategy taxonomy by Dulay, Burt, and Krashen that was realized on Twitter. The method of collecting the data in this research used the observational method. And the purpose of this research was to identify and describe the types of grammatical errors on Twitter. Thus, the researcher found 4 types of grammatical errors, those were 4 data of addition with a percentage 26.7%, then for the second type was 6 data of omission with a percentage 40%, the third type was 3 data of misformation with a percentage 20%, and for the last were 2 data of misordering with the percentage 13.3%. For the data result, it can be concluded that the most types of grammatical errors on Twitter were omission types with 6 data and a percentage 40%.

**Keywords:** *Grammatical errors, Twitter, strategy taxonomy*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Social media in today's era is something that most people favor. Both from children to the elderly, but of course, the majority of social media users are held by teenagers. The services on social media can attract the interest of today's youth. Social media is not only a place for entertainment, but its functions are very diverse, such as a medium for education, or seeking learning information or important news. Social media can also communicate with each other over long distances. Social media can also be used as a place to pour out the contents of the human mind because basically social media has very diverse functions.

One of the social media that is widely used by the general public at this time is “Twitter”. Twitter is an online social networking and micro blogging service that allows its users to send and read text-based messages of up to 140 characters but on November 7, 2017 it increased to 280 characters known as *tweets*. In Twitter, people can freely express what is on their mind. They can also comment on one post or another. Various kinds of tweets and comments that appear on Twitter today often use English in their

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application. However, sometimes tweeting is not a formal thing, and sometimes the people do not pay attention to the use of grammar.

Leech, Deuchar & Hoogenrad (1982) explain that grammar refers to the mechanism according to which language works when used in communication. From this understanding, we can understand that grammar is the study of how a language works to communicate. Of course, in communication there must be rules. And grammar is also included in these rules. Knowledge and good word choice greatly influence the formation of good grammar when communicating or in other matters such as writing essays, articles, and so on.

Meanwhile, in this digital era, there are many ways to teach and learn languages. And Twitter can also be one of those language learning tools. Because at this time, this way of learning English is not only in the classroom, especially for teenagers who are addicted to technology. On social media Twitter, people can pour out their thoughts and feelings about anything they want to pour out. And on Twitter, in addition to providing a feature to make “tweets”, there is also a feature for “comments and retweets” from other people’s posts. From here sometimes people can communicate with people between countries, and they can exchange ideas using English as an intermediary. And without realizing it, the posts, comments, and re tweets of each of these people can be their English learning.

However, from interactions with fellow Twitter users that are carried out using English, errors can often occur in the use of grammar. According to Mackey in Faiza, Bestari & Mayekti (2020), basically, errors occur because the learner himself has had experience with the use of other languages. Therefore, when someone who has owned and used their native language since childhood, of course, has experience with the original language when someone starts learning a language that is not their native language, then that person will have difficulty with sounds, words, and sounds. different sentences. Sometimes Twitter users even design English using the grammar of their respective home languages. However, in fact English also has its own rules on how to use the correct spelling, correct grammar, and also correct pronunciation.

In analyzing grammatical errors, the researcher uses the theory of (Dulay, Burt, and Krashen in Rusmiati, 2019). They identified errors in the surface strategy taxonomy into four types, namely addition, omission, mis formation, and mis ordering. Addition is a type of error that is characterized by the presence of a word or item that should not be in the sentence. Then the understanding of the second type of error, namely omission is the opposite of addition because there should be words or items added but not added in one sentence. The third is mis formation, which means that when a sentence is written or

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typed there is an error in the form of a morpheme or its structure. And the last is a mis ordering error which means that the placement of the morpheme in the sentence used is not correct.

Research on this grammatical error has been previously studied by several previous researchers. And for the first, the researcher taken from (Kumala, Aimah & Ifadah, 2018). This research is analyzed about grammatical errors on student's writing base on surface strategy taxonomy by Dulay, Burt, and Krashen. The researchers found four types in analysis of grammatical errors. Thus, omission errors with 37% percentage, then addition errors with 32% percentage, mis formation errors with 30% percentage, and the last is mis ordering with 1% percentage. And for the factors causing errors where 73% percentage is carelessness, then with 61% percentage is first language interference, and the last with 67% percentage is translation. And the most data are occurred in omission and carelessness.

Then for the next research is taken from (Faiza, Bestari & Mayekti, 2020). This research is analyzed about grammatical errors found in "K-pop Tweets". The researchers found five types of grammatical errors. Thus, the first is omission with 78% percentage, then tenses errors with 48% percentage, subject-verb agreement errors with 40% percentage, part of speech with 32% percentage, and the last is yes/no question errors with 16% percentage. And the most grammatical errors are found in the types of omission with 78% percentage.

Based on the explanations of the two previous researchers, there must be similarities and differences between the previous researchers and this research. The similarity is using the same theory, and for the differences lies in the data source. In this study, the researcher used "Twitter" as a data source, but not only in the K-pop tweets like the second previous research, in this study took for all of the tweets that possible with grammatical errors. And the researcher chose "Twitter" as a data source because, because on twitter there are many possibilities to reply to each other's tweets using English, both among countries and between countries that clearly use different languages. From some of these explanations, the researcher can make the research with the title "An Analysis of Grammatical Errors on Twitter."

## **2. RESEARCH METHOD**

In this study, researchers used qualitative methods. Researchers use qualitative research because it is based on the problem of the data taken. Milles & Huberman (2014) said that the data obtained in this qualitative research were in the form of words, not in nominal form. Therefore, the data in this study are in the form of words taken from tweets on "Twitter". And the data collection techniques in qualitative research are divided into interview, observation, document, and investigative techniques. While the results of this study are presented in descriptive form.

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And in the technique of collecting data in this study using the observation method. According to Sudaryanto (2015), this observation method focuses on the use of language. Based on this statement, this research focuses on the use of language taken from “Twitter” as a data source. And in this study, the researcher acts as a non-participant because he does not take part in the phenomena obtained in the data source. According to Sudaryanto (2015), non-participant technique means that the researcher only acts as a data collector.

For the process of collecting and analyzing data, the researchers looked for tweets that used English first. After that, the researcher recorded the username of the tweet and recorded the findings from the tweet. The next step, researchers identify from the data that has been found by rereading all tweets that have been grouped before. Then the researcher sorts the data and analyzes based on the errors of each existing data and grouped them into one based on the type of error. And the last step is to describe the analysis of the data that has been grouped.

### 3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this section, the researcher shows the grammatical error analysis data found in “Twitter” based on the surface strategy taxonomy by (Dulay, Burt, and Krashen in Rusmiati, 2019). And the data that has been found is presented in the following table 1.

Table 1. The Grammatical Errors on Twitter

| No | Types of Error | Frequency | Percentage |
|----|----------------|-----------|------------|
| 1  | Addition       | 4         | 26.7%      |
| 2  | Omission       | 6         | 40%        |
| 3  | Misformation   | 3         | 20%        |
| 4  | Misordering    | 2         | 13.3%      |

From the data in the table above, it can be seen that in this study, researchers found four types of grammatical errors found in tweets on Twitter. And of the four types, the omission is the most common error with a percentage of 40%. While the least data found is misordering with a percentage of 13.3%.

#### 3.1 Addition

This type of error is characterized by the presence of words or items that should not be in the sentence. And it causes an error in the use of grammar. The data that the researcher found in tweets on Twitter, for example is in the sentence, **“I wish I could be there, they are all look fine.”** The sentence comes from a tweet by the account @gyuyeobda. The use of grammar in the tweet is still incorrect.

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Because the use of “are and all” should not be combined. They both mean the same thing, so it should be omitted “to be” “are”. And the correct sentence becomes **“I wish I could be there, they all look fine.”** For the second data that researcher found in Twitter is **“I think online class doesn’t gives me any positive things.”** The sentence comes from a tweet by the account @sayjuan. The use of grammar in the tweet is still incorrect. Because the use of “gives” should be omitted “s”. And the correct sentence is **“I think online class doesn’t give me any positive things.”**

### 3.2 Omission

This type of error is characterized by a lack of words or items that should be added to the sentence. The data that the researcher found in tweets on Twitter, for example is in the sentence, **“Lee Tuk about to cry this early, let me hug you, baby.”** The sentence comes from a tweet by the account @wifeofthesixth. The use of grammar in the tweet is still incorrect. It should be adding “to be” “is” before “about”, so, the correct sentence is **“Lee Tuk is about to cry this early, let me hug you, baby.”** For the second data that researcher found is, **“Happiness is how we cultivate it, how we make it, how we try to make it happen.”** This sentence comes from a tweet by account @dansweuse. The use of grammar in the tweet is still incorrect. It should be adding the conjunction “and” before **“how we try to make it happen.”** So, the correct sentence is **“Happiness is how we cultivate it, how we make it, and how we try to make it happen.”** And for the third data was taken from Twitter also, the sentence is **“Kominfo new policy is peak comedy.”** This sentence comes from a tweet by account @bowghostray. The use of grammar in the tweet is still incorrect. It should be adding apostrophe s in the “Kominfo” and should be adding the article “a” before “peak” because it shows only one subject. So, the correct sentence is **“Kominfo’s new policy is a peak comedy.”**

### 3.3 Misformation

This error occurs due to the use of morphemes and words that are not in accordance with the correct language rules. The data that the researcher found in tweets on Twitter, for example is in the sentence **“She knows that Ginting did it out of desperation and frustration on his own performance after the Olympics.”** This sentence comes from a tweet by account @goodminton45. And for the sentence, the use of grammar is still incorrect. It should be changing the preposition “on” to “with”. So, the correct sentence is **“She knows that Ginting did it out of desperation and frustration with his own performance after the Olympics.”**

### 3.4 Misordering

This type of error occurs because not put the words in the right order to become a good sentence. The data that the researcher found in tweets on Twitter, for example is in the sentence **“This Kominfo**

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**thing is pretty meme. How to does this bypassed the system?”** This sentence comes from a tweet by account @xingqiu109. The use of grammar in the tweet is still incorrect. Because before the subject “Kominfo” it should be use the article “the” not “this”, then before the adjective “pretty” it should be adding the article “a” because it shows only one subject, and the words “how to does” it should be change to “how can”, also omitted “ed” in “bypassed”. So, the correct sentence is, **“The Kominfo thing is a pretty meme. How can this bypass the system?”**

#### 4. CONCLUSION

As found in some researcher such as(Simbolon, 2015)(Hamzah, 2012)(Royani & Sadiah, 2019)(Fithriani, 2020), so the analysis of grammatical errors on “Twitter” had been conducted by the researcher. Base on the result in this research, the researcher can conclude that there are four types of grammatical errors that found in tweets on Twitter. Thus, the first types are addition with the percentage 26.7%, then the second types are omission with the percentage 40%, then for number three with 20% of percentage is misforming types, and the last is misordering with the percentage 13.3%. So, the most types in grammatical errors on Twitter is omission with the percentage 26.7%. And for the last was misordering with the percentage 13.3%.

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