

AN ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' ABILITY IN USING MODIFIER ON WRITING PARAGRAPH

(A Case Study of Students English Department at Unika Saint Thomas)

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to analyze the students' ability in using modifiers on writing paragraphs. The design of this research is descriptive qualitative because the result of this study is used as a problem-solving procedure of the observed things by describing the research objects when the research is done based on the facts found. The results of this study show that, the dominant type of modifier in the provided sentences is the adjective modifier, which occurs more frequently compared to the adverb modifier. This indicates a higher usage of descriptive words that modify nouns rather than verbs or actions. Adjectives were found to be the most frequently used type of modifier, suggesting a focus on descriptive language. The conclusion in this study is the examination revealed that adjective modifiers were used significantly more frequently, with 15 instances compared to 5 instances of adverb modifiers. This dominance of adjective modifiers indicates a strong tendency towards descriptive language that enhances the specificity and detail of nouns within the text.

Keywords: *modifiers, adjective modifiers, paragraphs writing*

INTRODUCTION

English has become worldly recognized as the mediator to communicate among the nation or international communities, and for maintain relationship among the world nation. English can be a strong foundation in several aspect of education, tourism, trade, law, and diplomacy. For this reason, the ability to communicate in English would greatly contributes to the effectiveness of fulfilling communication needs, both verbally or written form. Actually, writing is a productive activity in language and can be a good skill acquired for those who do not speak. As Brown (2004) notes, writing is essentially same as learning to make words properly and correctly with attention language structure. Grammar determines the

quality of writing and how competent the writer. Through writing, a writer wants to emphasize their ideas, thoughts, and feelings by using correct use of grammar, words and sentences. As grammar is a fundamental thing in sentences, incorrect grammar in sentences will create confusion and misinterpretation. As English becomes their foreign language, they may find some difficulties in constructing good sentences in a paragraph with the right use of grammar. Thornburry (1999) stated that grammar allows us to use language to define the world in terms of how things occur, when, and where. In part, grammar is the study of acceptable forms or constructions in a language. So that students' need to be aware of their grammar.

In writing, the competency of grammar is needed. Grammar is the structural foundation and it helps people to understand the meaning and the effectiveness of communication, to detect ambiguity, and to exploit the richness of expressions available in English, Crystal (2004).

Studying about place modifiers and its will help people in improving their skills in writing. By knowing the kinds of modifiers will also help writer to make beautiful sentences, it means that someone who knows about the kinds of modifiers have more mastery in writing than the one who does not knows about it. Studying place modifiers is not only useful for people who interested in writing but everyone also need this knowledge in everyday life to have a good competences in written communications with others.

However, many students struggle with using modifiers correctly in their writing. They may use them incorrectly, overuse them, or underuse them, which can affect the overall quality of their writing. Therefore, it is important to analyze students' ability in using modifiers on writing paragraphs, in order to identify areas where they need improvement and to provide guidance on how to improve their writing skills. The ability to appropriately use modifiers is a crucial component of writing skill. Modifiers, when used correctly, can improve the quality and clarity of a piece of writing, however when used incorrectly, they can cause confusion and ambiguity. This study aims to investigate the ability of students in using modifiers on writing paragraphs.

METHOD

The strategy in this research was descriptive qualitative because the result of this study is use as a problem solving

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procedure of the observed things by describing the research objects when the research is done based on the fact find. In this research, the student's answers upon the provided written test, were analyzing in a paragraph form in order to students ability of modifiers in writing. Based on this, the writer want to know the students ability on modifiers in writing paragraph. The subject of the study was the students of English department at Unika Saint Thomas.

The writer used writing test as an instrument of collecting data. As an instrument, the writer asked the students to do the free writing test with a freely topic.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The table below shows the count of each type of modifier in the analyzed sentences:

Table I Type of Modifier

Modifier Type	frequencies
Adjective Modifiers	15
Adverb Modifiers	5

Based on the sentences provided, the modifiers can be categorized into adjectives and adverbs. According to Herring (2016), these are the primary types of modifiers used to describe or modify nouns and verbs respectively.

Analysis of Each Sentence:

1. Pendhalungan is an acculturation culture between Javanese and Maduranese.

Modifier Type: Adjective (acculturation culture)

2. Dolphins and porpoises delight us with their playful antics.

Modifier Type: Adjective (playful)

3. The lion is a large cat of the genus Panthera native to Africa and India.

Modifier Type: Adjective (large, native)

4. On my vacation in Berastagi I really loved the beautiful scenery.

Modifier Type: Adjective (beautiful)

5. One year ago I went to Lake Toba with my family.

Modifier Type: Adverb (with my family)

6. Once upon a time there were two close friends who were walking through the forest together.

Modifier Type: Adverb (walking through the forest together)

7. Public awareness, international cooperation, and strong legal frameworks are essential to combat human trafficking effectively.

Modifier Type: Adverb (effectively)

8. One afternoon there was a fox that was walking through the forest and spotted a bunch of grapes hanging from over a lofty branch.

Modifier Type: Adverb (walking through the forest, hanging from over a lofty branch)

9. It has been proved that healthy habits not only keep your body but also your mind.

Modifier Type: Adjective (healthy)

10. Reptiles are a diverse group of cold-blooded vertebrates characterized by scales, dry skin, and a reliance on external sources of heat to regulate their body temperature.

Modifier Type: Adjective (cold-blooded, characterized by scales, dry skin, and a reliance on external sources of heat)

11. Taking a few steps backward, the fox jumped but unfortunately, he missed the hanging grape.

Modifier Type: Adverb (taking a few steps backward, unfortunately)

12. Emily woke up to the gentle rays of the morning sun streaming through her curtains.

Modifier Type: Adjective (gentle, streaming through her curtains)

13. In a small village there lived two identical twins, namely Hana and Hani.

Modifier Type: Adjective (small, identical)

14. Kuta is a very beautiful beach.

Modifier Type: Adjective (very beautiful)

15. One morning in a small village the sun rose with bright rays shining on the colorful flowers around the people's houses.

Modifier Type: Adjective (bright, colorful)

16. English has become a very important language for several reasons.

Modifier Type: Adjective (very important)

Dominance of Modifier Types

From the analysis, the count of each type of modifier in the sentences is:

Adjective Modifiers: 15 instances

Adverb Modifiers: 5 instances

The dominant type of modifier in the provided sentences is the adjective modifier, which occurs more frequently compared to the adverb modifier. This indicates a higher usage of descriptive words that modify nouns rather than verbs or actions in the given sentences.



Chart I Types of Modifier Errors

The histogram provides a visual representation of the different types of modifier errors found in the analyzed sentences.

1. Genus Panthera Capitalization Error:

Frequency: 1

Description: This error occurs when the genus name "Panthera" is not capitalized, which is required for scientific names. It appeared once in the dataset.

2. Capitalization of Proper Nouns:

Frequency: 1

Description: This error involves failing to

capitalize proper nouns such as "Lake Toba". Proper nouns should always be capitalized. This type of error was found once.

3. Lack of Commas:

Frequency: 2

Description: This error involves missing commas in lists or complex sentences, which are necessary for clarity and proper punctuation. Two sentences were identified with missing commas.

4. Redundant Phrases:

Frequency: 1

Description: This error involves using redundant phrases, such as "hanging from over," where either "hanging from" or "hanging over" would suffice. This was found once in the dataset.

5. Ambiguous Structure:

Frequency: 1

Description: This error occurs when the sentence structure is ambiguous or unclear, potentially leading to confusion. An example is the phrase "not only keep your body but also your mind," which would be clearer as "not only keep your body healthy but also your mind healthy."

6. Incorrect Spelling and Missing Commas:

Frequency: 1

Description: This error involves both a spelling mistake ("shinning" should be "shining") and missing commas, affecting the readability of the sentence. This type of error appeared once.

7. Missing Comma After Introductory Phrases:

Frequency: 2

Table II Type of Modifier

Modifier Type	frequencies
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Adverb Modifiers	5

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Dominance of Modifier Types

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The dominant type of modifier in the provided sentences is the adjective modifier, which occurs more frequently compared to the adverb modifier. This indicates a higher usage of descriptive words that modify nouns rather than verbs or actions in the given sentences.

CONCLUSION

Based on the histogram provides a visual representation of the different types of modifier errors found in the analyzed sentences. Adjectives were found to be the most frequently used type of modifier, suggesting a focus on descriptive language. The common errors identified highlight areas for improvement in writing, particularly in punctuation, capitalization, and clarity. By addressing these errors, the overall quality and readability of the text can be significantly enhanced, and also the findings from the analysis highlight the importance of using modifiers correctly to enhance clarity, detail, and specificity in writing. The dominance of adjective modifiers suggests a focus on descriptive language, which can significantly improve the richness of the text. However, attention must be paid to common errors such as capitalization, punctuation, redundant phrases, ambiguous structures, and spelling mistakes. By addressing these issues, writers can improve the quality and readability of their work. The dominant type of modifier in the provided sentences is the adjective modifier, which occurs more frequently compared to the adverb modifier. This indicates a higher usage of descriptive words that modify nouns rather than verbs or actions in the given sentences. From the analysis, the count of each type of modifier in the sentences is: Adjective Modifiers: 15 instances and Adverb Modifiers: 5 instances.

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