# AN ERROR ANALYSIS OF SCIENTIFIC PAPERS WRITTEN BY PUBLIC HEALTH STUDY PROGRAM STUDENTS OF STIK BINA HUSADA PALEMBANG

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**ABSTRACT:** One of the student's obligations as a graduation requirement is to write a thesis. Scientific writing is written work that is systematically arranged according to certain rules according to the results of scientific thinking. There are several types of scientific work reports, namely: research reports, scientific works, dissertations, and proposals. Abstract is an important part of a scientific work located on the first page of a scientific paper. Abstract is a brief description of a scientific work, background, questions, methods used, results obtained, conclusions, and recommendations. This paper discussed the results of the analysis of the errors in English abstract of postgraduate students STIK Bina Husada Palembang majoring Public Health Study Program in Scientific Writing Course. The design of this type of research was observational with a descriptive approach. The aim was to collect data through observation of scientific documents which aims to explain the feasibility of writing the English abstracts. 100% abstracts were appropriate in giving background detail, 70% were appropriate in describing the research activity and stating the conclusion, while reporting result only 60% and 40% describing the methods were appropriate. Google Translate sometimes cannot convert the word meanings appropriately, such as Posyandu, Gasurkes, and Perwali. The students must recheck their work and not rely solely on the translation application.

Keywords: error, analysis, scientific papers

## ANALISIS KESALAHAN DALAM PENULISAN KARYA ILMIAH OLEH MAHASISWA PROGRAM STUDI KESEHATAN MASYARAKAT STIK BINA HUSADA PALEMBANG

ABSTRAK: Salah satu kewajiban mahasiswa sebagai syarat kelulusan adalah menulis skripsi. Karva tulis ilmiah disusun secara sistematis menurut kaidah-kaidah tertentu menurut hasil pemikiran ilmiah. Ada beberapa jenis laporan karya ilmiah, yaitu: laporan penelitian, disertasi, karya ilmiah, dan proposal. Abstrak merupakan bagian penting dari sebuah karya ilmiah. Terletak di halaman pertama sebuah karya ilmiah. Abstrak adalah uraian singkat suatu karya ilmiah, latar belakang, pertanyaan, metode yang digunakan, hasil yang diperoleh, kesimpulan, dan saran. Makalah ini membahas tentang hasil analisis kesalahan abstrak bahasa Inggris mahasiswa pascasariana STIK Bina Husada Palembang Program Studi Kesehatan Masyarakat pada Mata Kuliah Karya Tulis Ilmiah. Desain penelitian ini adalah observasional dengan pendekatan deskriptif. Tujuannya adalah untuk mengumpulkan data melalui pengamatan dokumen ilmiah yang bertujuan untuk menjelaskan kelayakan penulisan abstrak bahasa Inggris. Abstrak 100% tepat dalam memberikan detail latar belakang, 70% tepat dalam menggambarkan kegiatan penelitian dan menyatakan kesimpulan, sedangkan hasil pelaporan hanya 60% dan 40% menggambarkan metode yang sesuai. Ada beberapa makna kata yang menggunakan Google Translate kurang tepat, seperti Posyandu, Gasurkes, dan Perwali. Mahasiswa diharapkan mengecek pekerjaannya dan tidak hanya mengandalkan aplikasi terjemahan.

Kata Kunci: kesalahan, analisa, karya ilmiah

# **INTRODUCTION**

One of the student's obligations as a graduation requirement is to write a thesis. Scientific writing is written work that is systematically arranged according to certain rules according to the results of scientific thinking. There are several types of scientific work reports, namely: research reports, dissertations, scientific works, and proposals. Abstract is the result of a summary that includes the essence of the scientific work, it is also a benchmark for the content of scientific works. Whether a reader is interested in reading a scientific work also depends on the abstract. The abstract is located on the first page of the article and is designed to help the reader gain a quick understanding and explain the purpose and content of the research (Polontalo & Golpour, 2014). Abstract is a brief description of a scientific work, background, questions, methods used, results obtained, conclusions, and recommendations.

The ability to write scientific papers as one of the requirements to develop academic skills is what students need to complete their studies. With these skills, new information, new ideas, research, and research results compiled in the form of theses, dissertations, and articles or journals can be communicated to the academic community in a systematic and consistent manner.

Writing scientific papers is one of the main characteristics of higher education activities. Scientific works are writings or other forms that are recognized in the field of science, technology, or art, which are written or completed according to scientific procedures and agreed or determined scientific guidelines or conventions. Through the creation of scientific works, the university's academic community can exchange information, ideas, research or new research results.

Scientific work as a means of exchanging knowledge by using a systematic written form that can be accepted by the scientific community through an agreed writing system. In scientific writing, the scientific character of the work must be empirically sound and objective. There are two aspects of scientific writing skills, namely the writing style of making scientific statements and the skill of not referring to the sources of scientific knowledge used in writing. Scientific writing must use good and correct language. Sentences that cannot identify the subject-predicate relationship and what the subject-predicate relationship is most likely are unclear information. Words must be used correctly, meaning that we must choose words that match the message that must be conveyed.

Abstract is an important part of a scientific work. Located on the first page of a scientific paper, it contains a summary of the research conducted. Abstract provides a brief description of the contents of a scientific paper. Abstract can be interpreted as a summary of a scientific work. Abstract must be written accurately, easy to read, clear, and concise. The word count is about 250-300 words. Abstracts of scientific papers are usually written in 2 languages, namely Indonesian and English.

In writing abstracts in English, a student will refer to a dictionary to find difficult words. A kind of dictionary which is popular nowadays is by using technology, which is called machine translation. Technology is used in most aspects of life including in the field of teaching and learning. With the new situation engulfing the world, technology is seen as a very important and necessary aspect. When students want to write an abstract in English, they try to use technology assistance, one of which is google translate. However, there are times when the technology used does not necessarily guarantee the expected results and requires human intervention. This can be seen in the use of Google Translate. Google Translate has been around for a long time since it was invented by Google and introduced in April 2006.

Error is part of a conversation or composition that deviates from the standard or selected norms of adult language. According to Brown (2000), mistakes are part of the developmental level of language learning towards full mastery of language. these errors are things that deviate from the norm of perfect language use. When language users learn to use a foreign language, they will make many mistakes in using the foreign language. This is a natural thing in the process of mastering the language. The root cause of language errors is in the person who uses the language in question, not in the language he uses. According to Setyawati (2010, p.10), there are three factors that cause a person to make mistakes in language: 1. the first language, 2. lack of comprehension of the language used, and 3. improper teaching of language. It can be said that language errors are caused by interference of the mother tongue or first language (B1) to the second language (B2) being studied. According to Ellis (1998), the types of grammatical errors can be grouped into several errors such as omission errors, misinformation and misordering.

In writing abstracts of scientific works, besides paying attention to the rules in writing abstracts, the use of tenses in English plays a very important role in writing. The rules for using tenses that must be considered are as follows:

| Table 1. | Tense | Usage | in | Abstract |
|----------|-------|-------|----|----------|
|----------|-------|-------|----|----------|

| Type of Information              | Verb Form<br>(Tense or Commonly<br>Occurring Verbs)  | Examples  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|---|--|
| giving background<br>details     | present tense  | The industry <u>is</u> already well known for its efforts to improve the eco-efficiency of its processes  |  |
| describing the research activity | simple past tense, present perfect tense   | The study <u>focused</u> on 2 main areas<br>The framework for life cycle analysis <u>has been</u><br><u>developed</u>   |  |
| describing the methods           | simple past tense (active or passive)  | We <u>carried out</u> a series of field tests<br>A large number of samples <u>were tested</u> for fracturing  |  |
| reporting results                | simple past tense  | Results <u>indicated</u> that the problem is even more serious<br>than previously predicted<br>The third model <u>proved</u> to be more durable than the<br>other four                      |  |
| stating conclusions              | present tense<br>verbs indicating tentativeness:<br>is possible, is likely<br>appears, seems | This indicates that there <u>are</u> , in fact, several factors<br>contributing to the decrease<br>It <u>appears</u> that the incidence of human error cannot be<br>eliminated at any stage |  |
|                                  | might, modal auxiliary verbs,<br>can, may, could, might                                      | <i>There <u>might</u> be a need for revising the list of criteria</i> within the next 5-10 years  |  |

(Source: http://cc.oulu.fi/~smac/TRW/tense\_abstract.htm)

Some writers have conducted the research about Error Analysis. They are Wirantaka and Firajanah (Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta, 2021) and Herdawan (Politeknik Maritim Negeri Indonesia, 2020). The first research was conducted by Wirantaka and Firajanah (2021) entitled "Effective Use of Google Translate in Writing". The research investigated what teachers' perception of the effective use of Google Translate in students' writing. The result of this study showed that the teachers found GT is effective to be used by the students in their writing activity.

The second research was conducted by Herdawan (2020) entitled "an analysis of Indonesian-English abstract translation by Google Translate. The research investigated (1) what translation method is currently used by Google Translate in Indonesian-English abstract translation and (2) what type of errors are committed by GT in Indonesian-English abstract translation. The result of this study showed that GT implemented the literal translation method and committed several linguistic errors and many translations errors. This paper discusses the results of the analysis of the errors of STIK Bina Husada Palembang in making English abstracts in their Scientific Writing Courses.

# **METHODOLOGY**

The design of this type of research is observational with a descriptive method. According to Richards (2002, p. 152), descriptive method is used to describe accurately and factually a phenomenon, subject or area. The aim was to collect data through observation of scientific documents which aimed to explain the feasibility of writing the English abstracts.

The population in this study was the English abstract on the final project of the Scientific Writing course for postgraduate students of STIK Bina Husada majoring Public Health Study Program. The sampling technique was purposive sampling and obtained 10 abstracts. Data collection was done through document review using a checklist. The data analysis in this study was descriptive, providing an overview of the sections consisting of the introduction, research objectives, methods, results and discussion, and conclusion and suggestions. In analyzing the data, the writer focussed on the appropriateness of English writing rules for abstract in scientific writing and students errors in translating the SL into TL made by the students. Data analysis techniques used in this research is content analysis techniques.

# FINDINGS

Based on the students' abstract translation of postgraduate students STIK Bina Husada Palembang majoring Public Health Study Program in Scientific Writing Course. It was found that there were tenses which translations did not appropriate to English writing rules for abstracts in scientific writings and the students used Google translate application to translate their Indonesian abstract into English.

| Components        | Appropriate | Inappropriate |  |
|-------------------|-------------|---------------|--|
| Background        | 10 (100%)   | 0 (0%)        |  |
| Research Activity | 7 (70%)     | 3 (30%)       |  |
| Method            | 4 (40%)     | 6 (60%)       |  |
| Result            | 6 (60%)     | 4 (40%)       |  |
| Conclusion        | 7 (70%)     | 3 (30)        |  |
| N (sample)        | 10          |               |  |

Table 2. Tense Analysis in Students' Abstract

Table 2 shows that the highest use of inappropriate tenses is found in the components of the research method as many as 6 (60%) abstracts in research articles, for example: *The research method is analytical survey, this research is using observational by cross sectional time approach, taking a sample by purposive sample, using 80 adolescents...*".

The majority of the fault lies in the use of the Present Tense. The next highest error in the use of tenses is in reporting result as many as 4 (40%), such as: "The results, there is a significant correlation between health knowledge of adolescents and Premarital sexual behavior, p value 0,000 (a = 0,05)" and "The result of the research shows that the obstacles in the implementation of the traditional birth and midwife partnership program in the aspect ....". While in describing activity and stating conclusion as many as 3 (30%), 100% abstracts were appropriate in giving background detail, 70% were appropriate in describing the research activity and stating the conclusion, while reporting result only 60% and 40% describing the methods were appropriate.

#### DISCUSSION

Based on the description and analysis of the English abstract, it is obtained a description of the errors in the use of tenses contained in the introduction, research methods, results (findings), discussion, conclusion, and suggestions. The first finding in this study was the use of tenses in the introduction to an English abstract which included appropriate and inappropriate.

The students should not rely exclusively on the instrument or Google Translate. Terzi and Yalcin (2014) stated that interpretation tools seem to speed up the preparation of interpretations, but meaning is not basically an improvement. there are interpretations given that are not in accordance with the setting and culture of the target language. Tongpoon-Patanasorn and Griffith (2000) in her study entitled Google Translate and Translation Quality: A Case of Translating Academic Abstracts from Thai to English Introduction and Rationale of the study revealed that with discretion and caution, there was some potential for GT as an ancillary tool for academic translation. The findings of this study remain useful for language learners as well as language users to be informed about the quality of GT translations and to help them make better decisions about editing with this or any MT application.

The emergence of interpretations that use translating tools is basically different when compared to the human's translation. The same impression as in the source content is simpler to obtain through human interpretation. There are some words that Google Translate as inappropriate, such as: *Posyandu, Gasurkes (Tenaga Surveilans Kesehatan)* and *Perwali (Mayor's regulation)*.

#### CONCLUSION

Based on the information exposure and research findings, several conclusions can be made. Errors in the use of tenses in English abstracts in scientific writings of STIK Bina Husada Palembang, consisting of the use of appropriate and inappropriate tenses. The use of inappropriate tenses is done more than the use of the right tenses, namely in research methods and research results (findings). Because all students translated their abstracts by using google translate application, some words could not be translated properly, therefore the students checked their work again and did not rely solely on the translation application.

The findings of the present study have shed light on the students' writing ability and give an insight into what the problems students face when writing their abstracts. Also, the errors found in the abstracts in the present study have pedagogical implications concerning English language learning, particularly with writing courses.

This research can help students in writing their English abstracts. Some examples of the use of English tenses should be considered in designing or writing English abstract. The results of the analysis can also be shown to students to be careful when using Google Translate. Students also need to be reminded to pay attention to their writing, especially after using Google Translate.

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