

Error Analysis in Social Media Caption: A Study on Instagram

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Abstract. Many people idolize using English captions on their social media. However, some of them create errors in writing the caption. This error can cause misinterpretation by the reader. On this basis, the researchers aim to analyse the writing mistake in social media captions. The selected social media in this research was Instagram. The researchers conducted research over several months. This research was conducted by following descriptive qualitative research, in which the respondents were young adults of Instagram Users from Sintang. This research was conducted by analysing the mechanics and language use components. By the end of this research, the researcher found that the biggest mistake was the misformation type, which consisted of 35%, and the lowest was addition error. However, this result does not reveal the Sintang people's English capability. The researchers only analyze frequent errors made in the Instagram caption.

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INTRODUCTION

Social media is a platform that can facilitate people to create or share user-generated content (Davis, 2016). Social media is also defined as a functional component of a technological platform that needs an internet connection, which allows many people to share or know each other (Wolf, Sims, & Yang, 2018). Social media is an internet platform that facilitates people to interact with others by creating or sharing content.

Nowadays, many people have social media. Even some people habit with “there is no day without opening social media”. Social media addiction is an overly concerned behavior. It is because they can spend a day only scrolling social media; one popular application is Instagram.

People use Instagram as a medium to express feelings, ideas, and activities by displaying photos and uploading videos. Instagram allows users to edit and upload photos and short videos. Pictures and videos often published by users on Instagram are usually accompanied by words describing the images and videos uploaded. These words are known as captions.

According to the Cambridge Dictionary (2023), a caption is a description text under a picture in an article or book that explains people’s activity or words. It makes the use of captions have become essential and often found in the use of social media. Even some of them create captions in English.

English is not the Indonesian mother tongue, which has been lined up to become a foreign language. However, the use of English has become popular in Indonesia. The important role of the English language in Indonesia cannot be denied, which has been used for many different purposes.

Indonesian brings their culture when using English in their interaction. This makes English mixed with Indonesian culture when Indonesians use it as a medium of exchange, even though it is not the mother tongue of Indonesia (Yamin, 2017). Apart from being one of the subjects that

people must master, the popularity of English is evident from its use on many occasions in Indonesia.

However, the English language ability of Indonesian is relatively low. Indonesia is in 14th position out of 24 countries in Southeast Asia (Putri, 2022). It means the error may occur in the English language used by Indonesian. This error will confuse the listener or reader to understand the meaning of the information given.

It is important to consider how people usually perceive what they hear or read. When people write a word, people share its meaning. However, when an error occurs, the meaning the listener or reader understands differs from what the speaker or writer intended. Thus, a shared understanding of the words' meaning is necessary to achieve what is expected. This misunderstanding can be caused by several factors, such as language errors.

Dulay, Burt, and Krashen (1983) stated that several types of errors usually occur: linguistic errors, surface strategies, comparative analysis, and communicative effects.

1. Linguistics category errors: this error is classified according to either or both the language component or the particular linguistics constituent of the error effects. Language components include phonology (pronunciation), syntax and morphology (grammar), semantics and lexicon (meaning and vocabulary), and discourse (style). While constituents include the elements that comprise each language component.
2. Surface strategy taxonomy: the surface strategy taxonomy is classified based on the way surface structures that will be altered, such as omitting necessary items, adding unnecessary ones, misforming, and misordering items.
3. Comparative taxonomy: this classification is based on comparing the structure of second language errors and certain other types of construction. For example, if used comparative taxonomy to classify the errors of Indonesian learners of English, learners might compare the structure of English with their first language. These comparisons have yielded two major error categories within this taxonomy: developmental and interlanguage errors.
4. Communicative Effect Taxonomy: this type is based on the "perspective which effects the listener or reader". It focuses on distinguishing between errors that cause miscommunication and those that do not.

This Error, according to Corder, can be analyzed in several steps (Hikmah, 2020). These steps are (1) collecting the data, (2) identifying or analyzing the error, (3) describing the error, (4) explaining the error, and (5) evaluating. The first is collecting the data; this can be done by collecting writing data. The second step is identifying errors, which is done by underlining the items that contain errors. The third step is to explain the error. In describing the error, the identified data must be classified based on the type of error. The fourth step is explaining the error, and the last is evaluating the error. Error identification can be made by analyzing the psychological factors of why the error exists.

This error may cause misunderstanding for the reader. In this case, it makes many researchers interested in studying error analysis. Such as the research conducted by Fitria (2020) that found the most dominant spelling error that occurs in students' writing is the aspect of omission. Other research is conducted outside of school, such as the research from Yuliah, Purnamasari, and Yunita (2020) and Sihotang et al. (2021) about grammatical errors in social media captions. The results of the two studies show weaknesses in writing captions on Instagram social media. Thus, by these phenomena, the researchers are interested in conducting a study on the Instagram caption error made by people in West Kalimantan. The error analysis that is studied is surface strategy taxonomy error. Following Dulay, Burt, and Krashen (1983), there are four types of surface strategy taxonomy error: omission, addition, misformation, and misordering. However, the error made is not only sourced from the grammar but the writers' understanding of

the words also being the sources, such as punctuation and spelling (Fitria, 2020). Following Klimova (2011), punctuation and spelling are classified as mechanics components and grammar mistakes include in the language use component. Thus, this research will analyze omission, addition, misformation, misordering, punctuation, and spelling.

METHOD

This research is a document analysis research. Bowen (2009) defines an analysis document as a systematic procedure for reviewing or evaluating documents in printed or electronic form. The data was collected from December 2022 to March 2023, which taking Instagram post started from 2019 post to 2023. The data was taken from the young adult of Instagram users from the east area of West Kalimantan.

In this data collection, the researchers only collect the English caption from four late posts from Instagram users. It is because there may be a high difference in posts from each user if it is not limited, which will also cause bias. This research is conducted by following the step in analyzing writing errors by Corder (Hikmah, 2020), which begins by (1) collecting the data, (2) identifying or analyzing the error, (3) describing the error, (4) explaining the error, (5) evaluating. Then, the validation was gained by expert judgment. This step is detailed as follows.

1. The researchers collect the data from Instagram captions. The users that used English as the caption were used in this research.
2. After the data was collected, the researchers analyzed each Instagram caption, the only error caption writing those researchers used in this research.
3. The next researcher described the error. This description was based on several types: omission, addition, misformation, misordering, punctuation, and spelling. The expert judged the result of the description to get the validity.
4. After the data had been described, the researchers explained the data in the research. This step was done together with evaluating the result of the analysis.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

By the end of the data collection process, the researchers collect data from several respondents. Following Dulay, Burt, and Krashen (1983), there are four types of error: omission, addition, misformation, and misordering. However, the error made is not only sourced from the grammar but the writers' understanding of the words also being the sources, such as punctuation and spelling (Fitria, 2020). Following Klimova (2011), punctuation and spelling are classified as mechanics components and grammar mistakes in language use components. All the components that researchers got were analyzed and then shown below.

Table 1. Analyzed Finding Caption

No	Findings	Percentage
1	Omission	26%
2	Addition	3%
3	Misformation	35%
4	Misordering	7%
5	Spelling	13%
6	Punctuation	16%
	Total	100%

With this data, the total language component and mechanic component error are shown in the figure below.

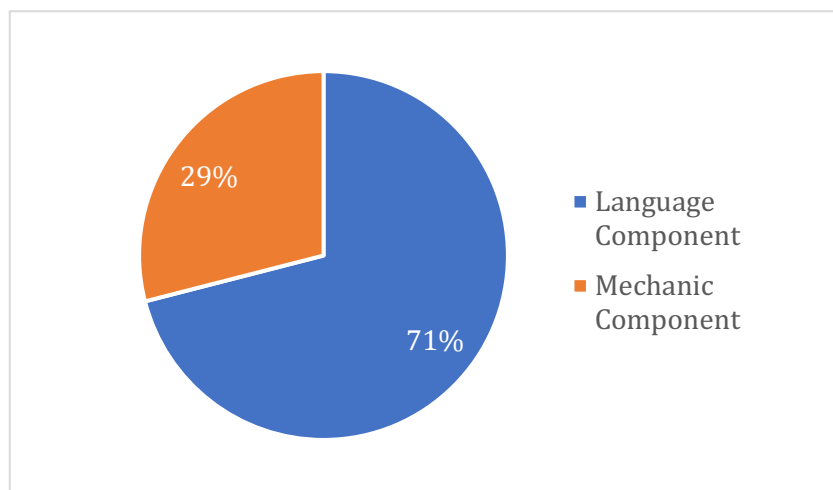


Figure 2. The language component and mechanic component error

This data is gained from several kinds of English captions, including words, phrases, and sentences. The portions of the text that researchers found are figured in the figure 3.

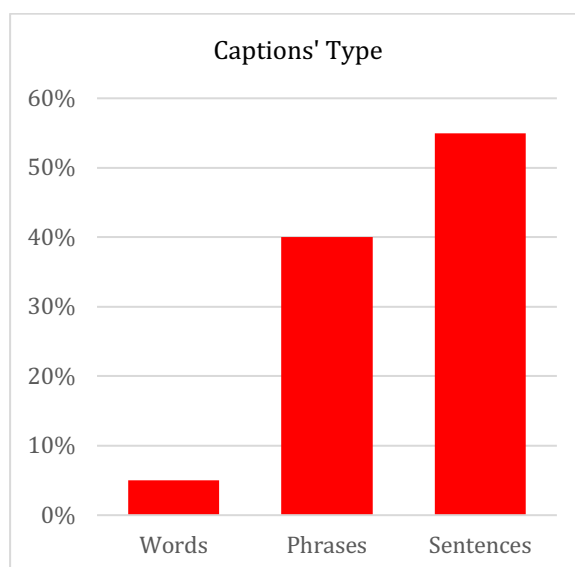


Figure 3. The form of captions error

1. Language Use Component Error

The language use component is a kind of writing component that covers the accuracy of the language used in writing (Klimova, 2011). This component includes using prepositions, articles, sentence construction, tenses, and word order. It means that this component seems similar to the function of grammar in language, where grammar is a rules system that reveals and structures meaning in language (Eunson, 2020).

Dulay, Burt, and Krashen (1983) mentioned several types of error: omission, addition, misformation, and misordering. This error needs to be minimalized to get a better meaning and understanding of the language. However, all error types are found in this research (see Table 1). For further discussion, below are all the points of error types found in this research.

a. Omission

Omission can also be called a deletion. This error is known by the absence of an item that must appear in a well-formed utterance (Dulay et al., 1983). It is the missing one or more items that

must exist in a sentence or utterance (Hikmah, 2020). It happens if the lexical item which should be present is omitted or deleted. Several aspects of omission are inflexion, articles, verb auxiliaries, and prepositions (Dulay et al., 1983). Following the explanation of omission, this research reveals 26% of omission errors from the total of English captions found in Instagram users. The examples of this error are below.

“Thanks for memories” – OM1

“Healing sanggau” – OM3

Both of two sentences are categorized as ungrammatical. The OM1 text is not grammatical because it undergoes an omission of the article “the”. The article “the” is used to refer to specific or special nouns, such as the intention in the caption to refer to the word “memories”. To become a more appropriate sentence, the correct form of the sentence is below.

“Thanks for **the** memories”.

The second sentence is coded by OM3. This sentence is also not grammatical because it omits the article “to”. The correct form of the sentence becomes,

“Healing to Sanggau”.

b. Addition

Addition is the opposite of omission. As previously mentioned, the omission is a deletion, while the addition is an adjunction of an item. In other words, addition is characterized by the presence of an item (Dulay et al., 1983). Addition error made by the writer is classified as double marking, regulations, and simple additions (Dulay et al., 1983).

Does can he sing? – Ad1

The sentence above is incorrect because the auxiliary verb “do” is used in question sentence form. This sentence is a yes-no question that asks about someone's capability in doing something. It means the correct form is eliminating the word “do”. Even “do” can be used for starting a yes-no question but “do” in this context does not show the right place. The sentence should be correct if the word “do” is removed so that the correct sentence becomes.

Can he sing?

This error is classified as double marking, which uses double question marks “do” and “can”. These question marks or auxiliary verbs cannot be placed together because they have different functions. Many addition errors usually happen in the later stage of L2 acquisition, when the learner or user has already acquired some L2 language (Dulay et al., 1983).

c. Misformation

Misformation is a kind of error when someone uses the wrong form in the language structure (Dulay et al., 1983). While omission error is similar to deletion, it is made by supplying something, even if it is ungrammatical. Misformation is divided into regularization, archi-forms, and altering forms (Dulay et al., 1983). The data that contain misformation errors is available below.

This is so great experience – MF1

This sentence seems to be correct with the formula S + is/am/are + Complement. However, this is an incorrect sentence because the time signal that appears with this sentence's context must be in the past; the writer finishes the activity that was experienced. Thus, this sentence must be written in the past form. The past form in this sentence is formulated as S + was/were + complement.

This was so great experience.

d. Misordering

The last kind of language use component error is misordering. This error happens when someone incorrectly places the word in the text (Dulay et al., 1983).

Not myself that I hate, yet **attitude your** to make hate yourself – MS1

This sentence is in ungrammatical form. However, the primary error focus is on the word “attitude your” which should be written as “your attitude”. Moreover, this sentence should be corrected as follow.

I'm not the one who hates it, but your attitude that makes you hate it.

2. Mechanic Components

Mechanics is one of the components that need to be considered in writing. This component is divided into spelling, punctuation, paragraphing, and capitalization (Klimova, 2011). However, following the research need, paragraphing and capitalization are not included in the analysis. From the result of the analysis, the researchers found spelling at 13% and punctuation at 16% (see Table 1).

a. Spelling

Spelling is correctly assembling words from the letters to relate to the right choice and a suitable arrangement of letters to form a word (Fitria, 2020). Spelling is one of the important skills in language comprehension, especially for writing needs. By using correct word spelling, the reader will easily understand what the writer means. It is because error spelling will affect the sentence's meaning (Fitria, 2020). It makes correct spelling produce meaningful writing (Paramitha, Indah & Syahrul, 2021). This research shows the spelling error made by Instagram users below.

Whay – SP2

The caption with code SP2 is a kind of caption classified as a word caption. This caption only consists of a vocabulary. The vocabulary mentioned in the caption asks about the reason with written in incorrect spelling. In the correct form, the writer does not need to add the/a/ letter after /h/. Thus, the correct form for this vocabulary is “why”, which asks about the reason for something.

b. Punctuation

Punctuation is divided into several, which are full stops/periods (.), commas (,), semicolons (;), colons (:), quotation marks (“ ”), parentheses ([]), brackets ([]), apostrophes (’), dashes (—), ellipses (...), question marks (?), exclamation marks (!), and slash (/) (Pratiwi & Ramalia, 2022). In this research, most data show that the error made in the Instagram caption is the use of a comma (,). Below is an example.

Thank you, guys. for everything. I love you all and i miss you. Thank you for always being my support system. – PU3

This sentence concerns with several errors, such as spelling, punctuation, and misordering. The first is spelling, the word “i” in this caption means the writer. So, it will be correct if the word is written in “I” word. The second is punctuation; the writer makes a mistake in using stop/periods (.), and commas (,) signs. The last is misordering, moving phrase “for everything”. Below is the sentence.

Thank you for everything, guys. I love and miss you all. Thank you for always being my support system.

3. Discussion

Error is a systematic mistake that cannot be self-corrected (Hanifatus, Faiza, & Rosyidah, 2022). Error is something that frequently happens in people writing. In making an error, the text will be more complex to understand than the correct sentence. The error text will cause misunderstanding because it will give a different meaning to the reader (Erlangga, Suarnajaya, & Juniarta, 2019). Hsu adds that the error is caused by incomplete comprehension in applying language rules that consists of semantic meaning and incorrect form (Erlangga et al., 2019).

In this research, the most frequent mistake found is misformation. Misformation is a kind of error when someone uses the wrong form in the language structure (Dulay et al., 1983). According to Noris, the error is made by several factors, such as first language, carelessness, and translation (Rinata, 2018). In this research, the first language and translation may cause the error. Indonesian language and English are different, for example, in making an Indonesian sentence below.

Table 2. Different Indonesian Language and English

Indonesian Language word	Dia	membawa	sebuah	buku	baru
English	She/he	bring	a	book	new

If the word translated one by one, it must be as mentioned in the table. However, the phrase “buku baru” in English is not “book new” but “new book”. Moreover, the English verb must be added by s/es if the subject is “she/he”. Thus, the correct sentence is “**She brings a new book**”. Even more, the difference between the Indonesian language and English is found in grammatical form and speaking.

The use of English captions by Instagram users allows them to practice English. Gunawan and Transiata (as cited in Nabila, 2022) stated that Instagram is a platform that can be a place to practice writing freely in a fun and comfortable way without having to think hard, such as making complex texts. Mansor and Rahim (as cited in Nabila, 2022) also added that writing captions increases one's motivation to learn English. That is, this can be one of the media substitutes usually used by teachers at school. This is under the concept of innovation, namely media renewal, whose main goal is to increase students' attention, interest, thoughts, and feelings (Rais & Sa'adah, 2022).

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the collected data, six errors were found in English grammar in captions on the Instagram caption. The errors that researchers found are arranged by most to the lowest: misformation 35%, omission 26%, punctuation 16%, spelling 13%, misordering 7%, and addition 3%. However, this research does not map Instagram users' English skills. This is because the number of captions found by researchers does not represent the total number of Instagram users who use English in the area studied. In addition, this research also only describes the tendency of mistakes that Instagram users often make during that period.

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