FRAGMENT ERRORS MADE BY THE SIXTH-SEMESTER STUDENTS OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT OF WIDYA MANDALA CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN THEIR COMPOSITION

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ABSTRACT

Limena, Elmida. 1998. **Fragments Errors Made by The Sixth-Semester Students of English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University in Their Composition (a Second Language Acquisition Study)**. Thesis, Program Study Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris, Fakultas Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan. Universitas Katolik Widya Mandala, Surabaya. Advisors: (1) Drs. M.P. Soetrisno, M.A., (2) Drs. Hendra Tedjasuksmana, M.Hum.

Keywords: Fragments, Errors, Composition, Second Language Acquisition.

Language is an instrument for communication among human beings in a society. People use the language to express their ideas, feelings, opinions, or information. There are some ways to express the ideas, feelings, opinions, or information. The two most common ways are speaking and writing.

When people are in a conversation, they often use fragments, incomplete sentences which are spoken or written as if they were complete sentences, to express those ideas, feelings, opinions, or information. In a conversation, fragments can be used because the interlocutor has the facilities to answer the questions by using the other fragments in order to complete their ideas, feelings, opinions, and information as long as the interlocutor understand what each of them mean. Besides that, the interlocutor wants to be in a relax situation. However, fragments cannot be used in the formal compositions because the writer cannot use the speaking advantages to express the ideas, feelings, opinions, or information. That is why, fragments can disturb the readers and also destroy the meanings of the sentences in a composition.

To find out whether the English Department students make the fragments in their compositions or not, the writer carried out the study under report at the English Department of Widya Mandala University by studying and analyzing the writing V final test. In this study, the sixth-semester students of English Department of Widya Mandala University were used as the subject.

After the writer identified, analyzed, classified, and counted the fragments occurrences as well as the reasons why the students made those fragments based on the functions and the formal structure of the units, she ranked them from the most to the least according to the frequency of errors occurrences. Based on the functions, she found out that the most fragment errors was Co-ordinated Head (55,26%) and the least fragment errors were Subject (1.32%) and Modifier (1,32%). Based on the formal structure, she found out that the most fragment errors was Co-ordinated Head Clause (55,26%) and the least fragment errors was Noun Phrase (1,32%).

The findings of fragment errors based on the functions occurred because of the students' ways of thinking. They thought that the fragments as meaningful

units were the complete thoughts. Based on the formal structure, the students made the fragment errors because they did not realize that the fragments cannot stand alone as if it were the complete sentence which can be written by itself.

The findings of fragment errors can be categorized into global errors. It is because the fragments can affect the overall sentence organization in a composition. In addition, the fragment errors are probably due to simplification, the students' tendency in expressing the target language into a simpler system, and ellipsis, the students' way of thinking to express themselves in their composition that takes up the way that people speak.

The findings of this study give us more information of why the students made the fragments in their compositions. Besides that, this study also offers some suggested exercises which have the purpose to minimize the fragments in a composition so that the English Department students can make the best compositions with the complete sentences. She also suggested that further studies of this kind of study should be made by using better procedures and more research techniques to get more conclusive solution.