

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The modern world that we live in today is developed further. Technology and globalization made several beneficial contributions in communication aspects. One of them is the appearance of a global networking application known as social media. Social media allow people to stay connected with others no matter how far the distance is. People can send messages, call someone, and post videos or photos to stay 'connected' to the world outside. Arya (2021:1) pointed out that nowadays, social media have become a must-have item that is essential to humans. Social media is widely used by society, especially young people. Among many features and services offered by social media, text messaging is still the most widely used media for communication.

As it enables people to communicate within the country, social media also allow their users to communicate outside the boundaries by providing a cross-country messaging feature. For instance, *WhatsApp*, *Instagram*, *Facebook*, *Telegram*, *Messenger*, *LINE*, and new social media like *SLOWLY* are popular in Indonesia. Since *SLOWLY* is considered a brand new application, it offers new features to the users.

SLOWLY is a geo-social networking application that allows its users to send messages through letters. What makes *SLOWLY* unique and different from any other social media is that this application brings back the traditional pen-pal experience in a modern platform. Even though *SLOWLY* is labeled as a social

media platform, this application does not provides its users to have a real-time communication like *WhatsApp*, *Facebook*, or *LINE* as the system is similar to the pen-pal system, in which there is a waiting time to sent and to receive the letter. This application connects people from all over the world and allows its users to communicate with each other based on the user's interest without the needs to have their contact first. Therefore, most users in this application, even the ones from Indonesia, also write in English. Consequently, it is ideal to use this application as the main platform to gather the data on the common grammatical errors madeby its users on their letters. Many people use *SLOWLY* mainly because they want to find new friends within or outside their own countries as they can choose who they want to communicate to by using a manual search. For most users, this application is beneficial because they can feel a real-life experience to communicate with someone using another language, mostly in English, so they can test their language skills. As most users used this application to learn other languages and to practice their skills, this application can become a good social media platform that is used as a benchmark to informally measure the users' language skills by assessing their writings.

The beneficial and the interesting cross-country feature of social media may lead to a new problem in a society. People who come from various countries will face difficulties when communicating with each other since they use different languages. English has become the solution to this communication problem. English is a language that unites people from all over the world as a *lingua franca* (Kecskes, 2019). As an international language, English is not only widely spoken, but it is also widely taught as a second language or learned as a compulsory

subject in every level of education, starting from elementary school to senior high school. Even to university level, English is learned for academic purposes in many countries, including Indonesia. Indirectly, people are highly required to master English to be able to communicate globally.

To master English, there are four main skills of the language that need to be learned which are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Those four skills are essential in learning English, especially writing. By writing, language learner can communicate their ideas, thoughts, and experiences through texts. As the technology launch many new communication feature, writing activity can also be done digitally using technological platforms such as social media that includes websites and applications. The texts that written down in these platforms no longer categorized as printed text, but become what is so called as digital text. As stated by Manalu (2019), digital text is a type of text made through digital or electronic technological devices. In other word, the text that being typed down using software program like *E-Mail*, *Microsoft Office*, or phone application including *WhatsApp*, *Facebook*, *Twitter*, or even *Google* are considered as digital text in which the text is not in the form of printed text. Digital text is also known as electronic text (e-text) (Ross et al, 2017:1).

Both printed or digital, writing is considered the hardest skill activity. Richards and Renandya (2002:303) stated that writing is the most difficult skill to master. Harris (1993) pointed out that writing is considered to be a highly complex process. It is complex because, according to Hedge (2005:51), in order to have a good piece of writing, one should have a high degree of vocabulary and a deep understanding about the structure of the sentences. Besides, he or she needs

to master the rules of the language. It means that he or she has to master the grammar of the language.

Grammar is a basic component that is highly important for every English learner. What is considered as grammar is actually a pattern of structured sentences (Alvarez, 2011). Gerot and Wignell (1994:2) stated that grammar is the theory of a language, of how language is put together, how it means, and how it works. In other words, grammar is the key to make a well-structured writing because how the words are combined may affect their meaning. Since writing is difficult, it is not hard to find the errors made by English learners and students in their messages, especially on the grammatical aspect.

The reason why the writer is interested in analyzing further about the grammatical errors because she frequently found some grammatical errors made by the *SLOWLY* Application users from Indonesia in the text. Since it is clear that writing with the correct grammar is indeed hard, for the participants who are Indonesians within the age range of 15-18 whose native language is Bahasa Indonesia, writing properly in English would be harder for them. Although they are still in a learning period, in which English is still taught in their schools. Nurani (2017:129) pointed out that senior high school students are prone to make grammatical errors on their writing no matter how advance their knowledge are. She also added that senior high school students tend to make various types of errors. Therefore, it is important to start getting to know what grammatical errors made by the young learners are. Because, by figuring out the types of the grammatical errors, the language learners can focus on learning about which types of errors that the other learners are prone to make, so that they will not create the

same errors in the future. Knowing the common errors from the language learners also important for the teacher in order to provide a better teaching method to the students to make sure that they can understand better about the application rules of grammar in the sentence.

The term grammatical errors refer to errors that occurred in the grammatical structures of the sentence which make sentences difficult to be understood (Schulze, 2008). By analyzing the errors, it can provide insights on what the grammatical rules are violated by the learners, and why such errors can be committed on the first place. According to Emmaryana (2010:5), error analysis includes the process of identifying, classifying, and analyzing the errors created by language learners in their conversational speaking or textual writing skills.

Based on the explanation above, there are some studies related to this study. Hudri and Husna (2017) conducted a study about grammatical errors made by *Facebook* users. The data were collected from status and comments posted in the *Facebook* group of English Department Program at Muhammadiyah University of Mataram in the academic year 2015-2016. The study found that there were four classification errors found, namely Omission error, Addition error, Misformation error, and Misordering error.

Tokhwan (2019) conducted a study about grammatical error analysis on social media. *WhatsApp* conversations among the members of International Badminton Family were taken for the objects of the study. The aim of this study is to identify the types of grammatical errors in writing made by International Badminton Family members on *WhatsApp* group chatting. This study found that the frequent grammatical errors were part of the syntactical and lexical grammar.

Yuliah, Purnamasari, and Yunita (2020) conducted a study on the analysis of grammatical errors found in social media captions. The data used in this study are the social media captions of Eigerindo's product in @exsportbags, @bodypack, and @eigeradventure official *Instagram* accounts. According to the study, the grammatical errors from Eigerindo's captions consist of errors on sentence, errors on spelling, errors on parallelism, errors on propositions, errors on passive voice, and lastly errors on subject-verb agreement which are the most frequent errors that occurred in the caption.

Although this study and the other three related studies are quite similar by having the same focus on the grammatical errors found in digital text on social media, there is a gap between this study and the three related studies. The difference lies on the object of the study. This study use digital texts in the form of a letter as the research object. The platform, which is *SLOWLY* Application has never been used in those three previous studies. Based on the *SLOWLY* application system in which the users can be anyone not only the users in the same city, it provides a wide range of people with different backgrounds in education, in this case, different teaching methods in their school. Therefore, the participants that were taken from the application users in this study believed in providing new diverse insights rather than the previous studies in which the participants came from the same school or the same area.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In relation based on the background of the study above, this study is intended to answer the following questions:

1. What are the common grammatical errors found in *SLOWLY* Application users' digital text?
2. What are the probable sources of the common grammatical errors found in *SLOWLY* Application users' digital text?

1.3 Objective of the Study

In relation based on the statements of the problem above, this study is aimed to answer the following objectives:

1. To identify the common grammatical errors found in *SLOWLY* Application users' digital text.
2. To describe the probable sources of the common grammatical errors found in *SLOWLY* Application users' digital text.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The significance of this study is divided into two purposes, which are for theoretical and practical use. Theoretically, the result of this study is expected to be able to confirm the theory of errors analysis by Dulay, Burt and Krashen (1982). This study is also expected to strengthen the previous studies. Besides, the result of this study can be used as reference for the next researchers who want to conduct further study about grammatical error analysis, especially using digital texts on social media platforms to enrich the existing study.

Practically, this study is expected to be a useful input to develop the English teaching and learning, specifically in writing skill and grammar. Since this study provides the information of the errors made by social media users in their daily communication writing. The result of this study is also beneficial for the teachers as it can help them to correct students' grammatical errors in writing as a feedback

to help the students learn better about grammar, and as a suggestion that English teacher should be more precise when they teach English grammar to their students in order to reduce the common errors as well as to improve their writing skills. Not only are for the teachers, but the result of this study also help the students find out the frequent error in daily communication writing, so they are expected to enrich themselves with the correct use of grammar to prevent them from making the same mistake in future writing.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study is primarily focused on the grammatical errors on the digital text made by *SLOWLY* Application users from Indonesia. The writer aimed to identify what kinds of common grammatical errors that are made by the Indonesian *SLOWLY* Application users in their digital texts writing and to find out what the probable sources of the errors are.

In determining the common grammatical errors, this study used error taxonomy theory by Dulay, Burt, and Krashen (1982). As Dulay, Burt and Krashen (1982) stated that error can be classified into four types, namely error based on linguistic category, surface strategy taxonomy, comparative taxonomy, and communicative effect taxonomy, it would not be possible to analyze the data using all of the classifications. The writer limit the analysis by only using the surface strategy taxonomy as the main theory to identify the common errors made by *SLOWLY* Application users.

As there are a large number of *SLOWLY* Application users, the writer limit the users that are taken to be the participants by randomly choose the users according to the predetermined criteria. The participants should be Indonesian

who live in Indonesia territory with the age range from 15-18 whose native language is Bahasa Indonesia. The data were mainly collected online only through *SLOWLY* Application. The study was done merely in the writer's house and Airlangga University's main library for references finding.

As *SLOWLY* Application not only allows its users to exchange letters, but also to post photos and status as well, the writer limit the data that are used in this study by only using the letter of responses that were sent by the participants to the writer.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

Digital Text	Digital text is a type of text made through digital or electronic technological devices which is usually found in written mode of communication (Manalu, 2019).
Error Analysis	Error Analysis is the study of errors created by the second language and foreign language learner which includes the process of identifying, classifying, and analyzing the errors created by the learners in their conversational speaking or textual writing skills (Emmaryana, 2010).
Grammatical Errors	Error in the grammatical structures of the sentence which makes sentences is difficult to be understood (Schulze, 2008).

<i>SLOWLY</i>	<i>SLOWLY</i> is a geosocial networking social application which shares the same feature as traditional pen-pal system that allows its users to chat with another users from the same or different countries using digital letters as the media.
Surface Strategy Taxonomy	Error analysis on the surface structure of the sentence in which language learners may omit, add, misform, and misorder the parts and the components of the sentence (Dulay, Burt and Krashen: 1982).