TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT IN MALAY ii
ABSTRACT IN ENGLISH iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT v
TABLE OF CONTENTS vi
LIST OF TABLES xii
NOTATIONS xv

CHAPTER 1 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

1.0 Introduction 1
1.1 Some background of English language teaching in Malaysia 2
1.2 The KBSM English language programme 3
   1.2.1 The role of grammar in the KBSM programme 4
1.3 The research problem 5
1.4 Purpose of the study 5
1.5 Scope of the study 6
1.6 Significance of the study 6
1.7 Definitions of terms 8
   1.7.1 The Present Tense 8
   1.7.2 The subject of a sentence 9
   1.7.3 Pronouns 9
1.7.4 The verb
    1.7.4.1 Full verbs
    1.7.4.2 Auxiliary verbs
1.7.5 Subject-verb agreement
1.7.6 Countable and uncountable nouns
1.8 Limitations of the study

CHAPTER 2 REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.0 Introduction
2.1 Errors and mistakes
2.2 Contrastive Analysis
2.3 Error Analysis
2.4 Interlanguage
2.5 Causes of errors
    2.5.1 Interlingual errors
    2.5.2 Intralingual errors
        2.5.2.1 Learner-strategy based errors
            2.5.2.1.1 Overgeneralisation
            2.5.2.1.2 Misanalysis
            2.5.2.1.3 Approximation
        2.5.2.2 Induced errors
            2.5.2.2.1 Faulty models
            2.5.2.2.2 Teaching methods (Drills)
            2.5.2.2.3 Exercise-based induced errors
2.5.2.3 Performance errors

2.5.2.3.1 Lack of attention

2.5.2.3.2 Lack of practice in the -s form

2.5.2.4 Ignorance of grammar rules

2.5.2.4.1 Ignorance of L2 rules

2.5.2.4.2 Ignorance of rule restrictions

2.6 Related studies on subject-verb agreement

2.7 Conclusion

CHAPTER 3 RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

3.1 The sample

3.2 A pilot test

3.3 Measurement instruments

3.3.1 A cloze test

3.3.2 A questionnaire

3.4 Method of data analysis

3.4.1 Collection of data

3.4.2 Identification of errors

3.4.3 Classification of errors

3.4.4 Quantification of errors

3.4.5 Description of errors

3.4.6 Analysis of source of error
CHAPTER 4  DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

4.0 Introduction 53

4.1 Distribution of subject-verb agreement errors 54

4.1.1 “Singular subject + does and Plural subject + do” errors 56
  4.1.1.1 “Singular subject she + does” errors 57
  4.1.1.2 “Singular subject he + does” errors 58
  4.1.1.3 “Singular subject it + does” errors 60
  4.1.1.4 “Plural subject I + do” errors 61
  4.1.1.5 “Plural subject they + do” errors 62
  4.1.1.6 “Plural subject you + do” errors 63
  4.1.1.7 “Plural subject we + do” errors 64

4.1.2 “Singular subject + is, Plural subject + are and Singular subject + am” errors 66
  4.1.2.1 “Singular subject she + is” errors 66
  4.1.2.2 “Singular subject he + is” errors 70
  4.1.2.3 “Singular subject it + is” errors 71
  4.1.2.4 “Plural subject they + are” errors 72
  4.1.2.5 “Plural subject we + are” errors 73
  4.1.2.6 “Plural subject you + are” errors 74
  4.1.2.7 “Singular subject I + am” errors 75

4.1.3 “Singular subject + has and Plural subject + have” errors 77
  4.1.3.1 “Singular subject she + has” errors 78
  4.1.3.2 “Singular subject he + has” errors 79
  4.1.3.3 “Singular subject it + has” errors 80
4.1.3.4 “Plural subject they + have” errors 81
4.1.3.5 “Plural subject we + have” errors 82
4.1.3.6 “Plural subject you + have” errors 83
4.1.3.7 “Plural subject I + have” errors 84

4.1.4 “Singular subject + full verb and Plural subject + full verb” errors 86
4.1.4.1 “Singular subject she + full verb” errors 87
4.1.4.2 “Singular subject he + full verb” errors 88
4.1.4.3 “Singular subject it + full verb” errors 89
4.1.4.4 “Plural subject I + full verb” errors 90
4.1.4.5 “Plural subject they + full verb” errors 91
4.1.4.6 “Plural subject you + full verb” errors 92
4.1.4.7 “Plural subject we + full verb” errors 93

4.1.5 “Countable nouns + auxiliary verb and uncountable nouns + auxiliary verb” errors 95
4.1.5.1 “Countable nouns + auxiliary verb” errors 95
4.1.5.2 “Uncountable nouns + auxiliary verb” errors 97

4.2 Conclusion 100

CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSION

5.0 Introduction 103
5.1 Summary 103
5.2 Conclusion 104
5.3 Implications 109
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>Distribution of subject-verb agreement errors</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>Distribution of “Singular subject she + does” errors</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>Distribution of “Singular subject he + does” errors</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>Distribution of “Singular subject it + does” errors</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>Distribution of “Plural subject I + do” errors</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>Distribution of “Plural subject they + do” errors</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>Distribution of “Plural subject you + do” errors</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>Distribution of “Plural subject we + do” errors</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>Comparison of “Singular subject + does and Plural subject + do” errors</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>Distribution of “Singular subject she + is” errors</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>Distribution of “Singular subject he + is” errors</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>Distribution of “Singular subject it + is” errors</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>Distribution of “Plural subject they + are” errors</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>Distribution of “Plural subject we + are” errors</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>Distribution of “Plural subject you + are” errors</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>Distribution of “Singular subject I + am” errors</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>Comparison of “Singular subject + is, Plural subject + are and”</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Singular subject + am” errors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>Distribution of “Singular subject she + has” errors</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>Distribution of “Singular subject he + has” errors</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>Distribution of “Singular subject it + has” errors</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6.1 Distribution of “Plural subject they + have” errors
81
6.2 Distribution of “Plural subject we + have” errors
82
6.3 Distribution of “Plural subject you + have” errors
83
6.4 Distribution of “Plural subject I + have” errors
84
6.5 Comparison of “Singular subject + has and Plural subject +have” errors
85
6.6 Distribution of “Singular subject she + full verb” errors
87
6.7 Distribution of “Singular subject he + full verb” errors
88
6.8 Distribution of “Singular subject it + full verb” errors
89
6.9 Distribution of “Plural subject I + full verb” errors
90
7.0 Distribution of “Plural subject they + full verb” errors
91
7.1 Distribution of “Plural subject you + full verb” errors
92
7.2 Distribution of “Plural subject we + full verb” errors
93
7.3 Comparison of “Singular subject + full verb and Plural subject + full verb” errors
94
7.4 Distribution of “Countable nouns + auxiliary verb” errors
95
7.5 Distribution of “Uncountable nouns + auxiliary verb” errors
97
7.6 Distribution of “Uncountable nouns + auxiliary verb” errors
98
7.7 Distribution of “Uncountable noun + auxiliary verb” errors
99
7.8 Comparison of “Countable nouns + auxiliary verb and Uncountable nouns + auxiliary verb” errors
100
7.9 Distribution of “Subject-verb agreement of the Present tense” errors
102
8.0 Distribution of Singular and Plural subject-verb agreement error category 104

8.1 Distribution of errors by categories 106
NOTATIONS

ESL  English as a second language
LI   First Language
L2   Second Language
IL   Interlanguage
FL   Foreign Language
TL   Target Language
CA   Contrastive Analysis
EA   Error Analysis
MT   Mother-tongue
Q    Question number
%    Percentage

The asterik * and ______ signal error

The symbol Ø indicates no overt manifestation

Bracketing conventions: (     ) indicates well-formedness

Bold indicates key concepts.

Italic type is used for emphasis and examples.