AN ANALYSIS OF VERB FORM ERRORS OF CHINESE ESL STUDENTS

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Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!
    For His mercy endures forever.

Psalm 118: 1 – 2
For my family, as ever.
ABSTRAK


ABSTRACT

This study sets out to investigate the types of errors in the simple past and past progressive tenses found in the written English of 40 Form Four Chinese students of Sek. Men. Tanah Merah Site 'C', Negeri Sembilan.

The errors are examined according to Corder's (1981) taxonomy of errors. In the essays, selection errors accounted for the highest percentage of simple past tense errors, followed by addition and then, omission errors. In the past progressive tense, the omission category has the highest occurrence of errors, followed by the selection category with no errors in the addition category.

In the structured test, all the simple past tense errors were selection errors. However, in the past progressive tense, most of the errors were of the selection category, followed by the omission category, with none in the addition category.

The corpus consists mainly of selection and omission errors which were the result of interference of L1, overgeneralisations and simplification of the rules of the English language and avoidance of using the difficult verb forms.
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NOTATIONS

ESL  English as a Second Language
L1   First Language
L2   Second Language
TL   Target Language
EA   Error Analysis
CA   Contrastive Analysis
CAH  Contrastive Analysis Hypotheses
No.  Number
%    Percentage
L    Interlanguage
V    Verb
*    Grammatically incorrect sentence/erroneous sentence