

**MORPHO-SYNTACTIC ERRORS OF ESL LEARNERS' WRITTEN
ESSAYS: A MINIMALIST APPROACH**

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**FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS
UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA
KUALA LUMPUR**

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ORIGINAL LITERARY WORK DECLARATION

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**MORPHO-SYNTACTIC ERRORS OF ESL LEARNERS' WRITTEN
ESSAYS: A MINIMALIST APPROACH**

Field of study: **Generative Morphosyntax**

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to investigate and analyze morpho-syntactic errors on ESL learners' essays; it attempts to identify these errors, justifies and provides evidences, and establishes how lexical information affects the sentential structure. The subject of this study comprises of 36 narrative essays written by Sudanese university students, Minimalist Program is used as analytical tool. The results revealed that, agreement features, inflectional morphology, categorical features, and lexical projections of TP to be errors found in the study. In addition the lexical item has an effect on both logical form (meaning) and sentential structure (syntax). Overall, it's possible to encourage our teachers of ESL to do extensive practice and exposure instruction toward their students since all reviewed studies indicated the consistence of the similar errors in writing as the skill in second language acquisition.

ABSTRAK

Kajian ini bertujuan untuk menyiasat dan menganalisa isu-isu morpho-sintaktik dalam esei pelajar pelajar ESL. Kajian ini juga cuba untuk mengenal pasti isu-isu ini, justifikasi dan memberi bukti, meneroka factor-faktor di belakang isu-isu ini dan menubuhkan bagaimana informasi leksikal memberi kesan kepada struktur sentential. Subjek kajian ini merangkumi 36 karangan naratif yang ditulis oleh graduan universiti Sudan, program minimalis digunakan sebagai alat analisis. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa ciri-ciri perjanjian, berinfleksi morfologi, ciri-ciri categorial, dan unjuran leksikal TP adalah isu yang dijumpai dalam kajian ini. Selain itu, kedua-dua negatif dan positif dan overgeneralization merupakan penyebab di belakang isu-isu morpho-sintaktik. Akhir sekali, item leksikal memberi kesan atas kedua-dua bentuk logik (bermakna) dan bentuk struktur (sintaksis). Keseluruhannya, kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa ada kemungkinan untuk menggalakkan pengajar-pegajar ESL untuk membuat praktis yang mendalam dan mengajar pelajar mereka kerana beberapa kajian menunjukkan konsistensi isu-isu yang sama dalam penulisan sebagai kemahiran dalam pemerolehan bahasa kedua.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Subject	Page
Title Page	I
Original Literary Work Declaration	II
Abstract	III
Abstrak	IV
Acknowledgement	V
Table of Contents	VI
List of Figures	X
List of Abbreviations	XII
Chapter One: Background to The Study	1
1.0 Introduction	1
1.1 Statement of The Problem	3
1.2 Objectives of The Study	4
1.3 Research Questions	4
1.4 Scope and Limitation	5
1.5 Significance of The Study	5
1.6 Theoretical Framework	6
1.7 Summary	9

Chapter two: Review of Related Literature	10
2.0 An Overview of Second Language Acquisition	10
2.1 An Overview of Morpho-syntactic Features	12
2.2 Review of Related Literature	15
2.3 Summary	24
Chapter Three: Research Design	25
3.0 Introduction	25
3.1 The Subject of The Study	26
3.2 Instrument	26
3.3 Data Collection	27
3.4 Data Analysis	28
3.5 Summary	29
Chapter Four: Results and Analysis	30
4.0 Introduction	30
4.1 Section One: Categorization and Analysis	30
4.1.1 Errors of Agreement Features	31
4.1.1.1 Subject-Verb Agreement	31
4.1.1.1.A. Subject-Verb Agreement in Number	31
4.1.1.1.B. Subject-Verb Agreement in Person	34
4.1.1.2 Tense Agreement	36
4.1.1.2.1 Omission of Inflectional Morphology	36
4.1.1.2.1.A. Omission/Misused of Tense Marker on Verb	36

4.1.1.2.1.B. Omission/Misused of Auxiliary	40
4.1.1.2.1.C. Misused of Verb Form	44
4.1.1.3 Errors of Categorical Features	47
4.1.1.3.A. Misused of Prepositions	48
4.1.1.3.B. Misused of Adjectives	48
4.1.1.3.C. Misused of Determiners	49
4.1.1.4 Verbal Morphosyntax of Infinitive	50
4.1.1.5 Projection Errors of TP	51
4.1.1.5.A. Omission of Subject	52
4.1.1.5.B. Double Subject	53
4.2 Section two: The Effect of Lexical Choice on The Sentential Structure	55
4.3 Factors Behind Morpho-syntactic Errors	57
4.3.1 Interlingual Transfer	57
4.3.2 Interlingual Interface	58
4.4 Summary	59
Chapter Five: Summary, Discussion, Conclusion, and Recommendations	60
5.0 Introduction	60
5.1 Summary of The Results According to Research Questions	60
5.2 Discussion	63
5.3 Conclusion	63
5.4 Recommendation for future's Research	65

References	66
Appendix I	68
Appendix II	70
Appendix III	71

List of Figures

Figure	Page
Figure 1.1	6
Figure 1.2	7
Figure 1.3	7
Figure 1.4	8
Figure 2.1	20
Figure 2.2	20
Figure 2.3	21
Figure 4.1	33
Figure 4.2	34
Figure 4.3	35
Figure 4.4	35
Figure 4.5	38
Figure 4.6	39
Figure 4.7	40
Figure 4.8	42
Figure 4.9	43
Figure 4.10	43
Figure 4.11	45
Figure 4.12	46
Figure 4.13	47

Figure 4.14	51
Figure 4.15	51
Figure 4.16	53
Figure 4.17	53
Figure 4.18	54
Figure 4.19	54

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

A	Adjective
ADV	Adverb
AP	Adjective Phrase
C	Complementizer
CP	Complementary Phrase
CS	Computational System
Deg	Degree
DP	Determiner Phrase
EC	Economic Conditions
EPP	Extended Projection Principle
ESL	English as Second Language
FLA	First Language Acquisition
FL	Faculty of Language
GB	Government and Binding Theory
L1	First Language
L2	Second Language

LA	Language Acquisition
LF	Logical Form
LI	Lexical Item
MP	Minimalist Program
N	Noun
NEG	Negative
NEGP	Negative Phrase
NP	Noun Phrase
P	Preposition
PF	Phonological Form
PLD	Primary Linguistic Data
P&P	Principles and Parameters Approach
PP	Preposition Phrase
Q	Quantifier
SLA	Second Language Acquisition
Spec	Specifier
T	Tense
TP	Tense Phrase

UG	Universal Grammar
v	light verb
V	Verb
vP	light verb Phrase
VP	Verb Phrase