

CHAPTER 4

RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH

This chapter presents the results of the error analysis in English compositions written by the third year English major students in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Buriram Rajabhat University. The results are presented in 3 parts as follows:

- 4.1 The main categories and frequency of errors in English Compositions
- 4.2 Causes of errors in English compositions
- 4.3 Summary of the chapter

4.1 The Main Categories and Frequency of Errors in Compositions

To have the overall view about the errors of the English compositions, the researcher has summarized the types of errors and the number of errors by arranging them in order and classifying them into 3 main categories: grammatical errors, syntactic errors, and lexical errors based on the scheme of error classification which was adapted from Dulay et al. (1982). Table 4.1 presents the types and number of errors of all three categories of errors the students made in their writings.

4.1.1 Overall Categories of Errors Found in English Compositions

The three categories of errors found in English compositions written by English major students, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, BRU are presented as follows:

Table 4.1

Number and Percent of Overall Categories of Errors Found in English Compositions

Error Types	Number	Percent
1. Grammatical errors	635	67.55
2. Lexical errors	156	16.60
3. Syntactic errors	149	15.85
Total	940	100.00

As shown in Table 4.1, it reveals that there were three categories of errors that the students made in their English compositions with the total number of all errors of 940. It was found that grammatical errors occurred most frequently ($f=635$, 67.55%), followed by lexical errors ($f=156$, 16.60%) and syntactic errors ($f=149$, 15.85%) respectively.

After the overall categories of errors presented above, the subtypes of each category are presented to illustrate the details of the errors found as follows:

4.1.2 Grammatical Errors Found in English Compositions

In this study, grammatical errors refer to the errors occurring when the students did not follow the rules of grammar. Table 4.2 shows the number and types

of grammatical errors made by the students. In addition, this kind of errors was found most frequently among the three categories of errors. Grammatical errors were classified into 3 main error types as shown in Table 4.2:

Table 4.2

Number and Percent of Grammatical Errors Found in English Compositions

Error Types	Number	Percent
1. Parts of Speech		
1.1 The use of prepositions	57	8.98
1.2 The use of verbs	41	6.46
1.3 The use of nouns	37	5.83
1.4 The use of pronouns	28	4.41
1.5 The use of adjectives	15	2.36
1.6 The use of conjunction	14	2.20
1.7 The use of adverbs	3	0.47
Total	195	30.71
2. Tenses		
2.1 The use of tenses	183	28.82
Total	183	28.82
3. Mechanics		
3.1 The use of punctuations	93	14.65
3.2 The use of capitalization	65	10.24
3.3 The use of possessives	5	0.79
Total	163	25.68

Table 4.2 (Continued)

Error Types	Number	Percent
4. Miscellaneous		
4.1 The use of agreement	48	7.56
4.2 The use of determiners	34	5.35
4.3 The use of contraction forms	12	1.89
Total	94	14.80
Grand Total	635	100.00

As shown in Table 4.2, it reveals that there were four main types of grammatical errors found in English compositions with the total number of 635.

The most frequently occurred grammatical errors are the use of parts of speech (f=195, 30.71%), followed by the use of tenses (f=183, 28.82%), the use of mechanics (f=163, 25.68%), and miscellaneous (f=94, 14.80%), respectively.

After the number of grammatical errors presented above, the sub-types of them are presented to illustrate the details of the errors found both in quantitative and qualitative ways as follows:

4.1.2.1 Errors in Parts of Speech

In grammatical errors, errors in parts of speech were found most frequently.

The number, percent, and example sentences are presented below.

Table 4.3**Number and Percent of the Sub-types of Errors in the Use of Parts of Speech**

Grammatical Error Types	Number	Percent
1. The use of prepositions		
1.1 Misuse of prepositions	38	19.49
1.2 Omission of prepositions	19	9.74
Total	57	29.23
2. The use of verbs		
2.1 Confusion between verbs and other words	14	7.18
2.2 Modal/Auxiliary	12	6.15
2.3 Confusion between verb to have and verb to be	8	4.10
2.4 Misuse of gerund and infinitive	7	3.59
Total	41	21.03
3. The use of nouns		
3.1 The use of plural nouns instead of singular nouns	9	4.62
3.2 The use of singular nouns instead of plural nouns	8	4.10
3.3 Confusion of nouns with other words	7	3.59
3.4 Omission of plural endings	7	3.59
3.5 Misuse of plural endings	4	2.05
3.6 Omission of nouns	2	1.03
Total	37	18.97

Table 4.3 (Continued)

Grammatical Error Types	Number	Percent
4. The use of pronouns		
4.1 Repetition of pronouns or insertion of an unnecessary pronoun	9	4.62
4.2 The use of singular pronouns instead of plural Pronouns	6	3.08
4.3 The use of subject pronouns instead of object Pronouns	5	2.56
4.4 The use of object pronouns instead of subject pronouns	4	2.05
4.5 The use of personal pronouns instead of possessive Adjectives	3	1.54
4.6 The use of plural pronoun instead of singular pronoun	1	0.51
Total	28	14.36
5. The use of adjectives		
5.1 Misuse of adjectives	7	3.59
5.2 Confusion between adjectives and other words	4	2.05
5.3 The use of adjectives without verb to be	2	1.03
5.4 Confusion between adjectives and adverbs	2	1.03
Total	15	7.69

Table 4.3 (Continued)

Grammatical Error Types	Number	Percent
6. The use of conjunction		
6.1 Misuse of conjunction	10	5.13
6.2 Omission of conjunction	4	2.05
Total	14	7.18
7. The use of adverbs		
7.1 Misuse of adverbs	2	1.03
7.2 Confusion between adverb and adjective	1	0.51
Total	3	1.54
Grand Total	195	100.00

As shown in Table 4.3, it depicts that there were seven main types of errors in parts of speech found in English compositions with the total number of 195. In terms of errors in each aspect, the three most frequently occurred errors in parts of speech were the use of prepositions ($f=57, 29.23\%$), followed by the use of verbs ($f=41, 21.23\%$) and the use of nouns ($f=37, 18.97\%$), respectively. In contrast, the three least frequently occurred errors were the use of adverbs ($f=3, 1.54\%$), followed by the use of conjunction ($f=14, 7.18\%$), and the use of adjectives ($f=15, 7.69\%$), respectively. In terms of errors in each item, the three most frequently found errors were misuse of prepositions ($f=38, 19.49\%$), followed by omission of prepositions ($f=19, 9.74\%$), and confusion between verbs and other words ($f=14, 7.18\%$), respectively. In contrast, the least frequently found errors were confusion between adverb and adjective ($f=1, 0.51\%$) and the use of plural pronouns instead of singular

pronouns (f=1, 0.51%), followed by misuse of adverbs (2, 1.03%), the use of adjectives without verb to be (f=2, 1.03%), confusion between adjectives and adverbs (f=2, 1.03%), and omission of nouns (f=2, 1.03%), respectively.

For the next section, the examples of errors in parts of speech are shown as follows:

1) Errors in the Use of Prepositions

According to Table 4.3, it was found that errors in the use of preposition were the highest errors in parts of speech. The total number of errors was 57 (29.23%). The errors that occurred most frequently were misuse of prepositions (f=38, 19.49%), followed by omission of preposition (f=19, 9.47%). Examples of errors in the use of prepositions are as follows :

1.1) Misuse of prepositions

Example 1: a) We are going to buy things in Chiangmai in Monday. (S17)

Correct sentence

We are going to buy things in Chiangmai on Monday

b) There are many foreigners and the places to relax in holiday.

(S9)

Correct sentence

There are many foreigners and places to relax on holiday.

1.2) Omission of prepositions

Example 2: a) I'm very angry ... him and I don't want to start with him.

(S18)

Correct sentence

I am very angry with him and I do not want to start with him.

b) I can take care ... myself and love my parent very much after I
ever love the man. (S18)

Correct sentence

I can take care of myself and love my parents very much after I
ever love the man.

2) Errors in the Use of Verbs

According to Table 4.3, it was found that errors in the use of verbs are the second highest among errors in parts of speech. The total number of errors was 41 (21.03%). The error that occurred most frequently were confusion between verbs and other words (f=14, 7.18%), followed by modal /auxiliary (f=12, 6.15%), and confusion between verb to have and verb to be (f=8, 4.10%). In contrast, misuse of gerund and infinitive was the least frequently found (f=7, 3.59%). Examples of errors in the use of verbs are as follows:

2.1) Confusion between verbs and other words

Example 3: a) I am very fear. (S5)

Correct sentence

I am very fearful.

b) I can see the foreigners and I practice spoke with them. (S5)

Correct sentence

I can see the foreigners and I practice speaking with them.

2.2) Modal/ Auxiliary

Example 4: a) But my family aren't eat group worms because it's a fried. (S6)

Correct sentence

But my family did not eat group worms because they are fried.

- b) The last I must to stop my car for mama dog. (S8)

Correct sentence

The last, I must stop my car for the mama dog.

2.3) Confusion between verb to have and verb to be

Example 5: a) They have beautiful and pretty. (S5)

Correct sentence

They are beautiful and pretty.

- b) I have happy to travel with my family and eat Isaan food for the first time of me. (S6)

Correct sentence

I was happy to travel with my family and to eat Isaan food for my first time.

2.4) Misuse of gerund and infinitive

Example 6: a) We are Thai people, should take care of our country by learn

Thai's history and enthuse to present Thailand to foreigners. (S2)

Correct sentence

We are Thai people, should take care of our country by learning Thai history and enthuse to present Thailand to foreigners.

- b) Before that, He was a great man for me because he make me to be fun and happy when he talk to me. (S3)

Correct sentence

My friends are good people and everybody can help me something about learning in University.

- b) Over there have a beautiful view such as beach , mountain and the sea. (S15)

Correct sentence

Over there, there are beautiful views such as beach, mountain and the sea.

3.3) Confusion of nouns with other words

Example 9: a) I don't belief... (S12)

Correct sentence

I did not believe that...

3.4) Omission of plural endings

Example 10: a) Nowadays I don't want somebody and I fell love myself because I used to hurt a lot of time. (S18)

Correct sentence

Nowadays I do not want somebody and I love myself because I used to hurt a lot of times.

- b) And we will received good think when we will know gave to another person, I have many thing in love experience such as happy sad funny etc. (S18)

Correct sentence

We will receive good thing when we know giving to another person. I have many things in love experience such as happiness, sadness and fun, etc.

3.5) Misuse of plural endings

Example 11: a) He didn't spoke enythings. (S14)

Correct sentence

He didn't speak anything.

b) And in English B.A. have 38 peoples and my friend have be happy because we want to travel pattaya, Bangkok and Ayutthaya. (S4)

Correct sentence

There are 38 people and my friend are happy because we want to travel Pattaya, Bangkok and Ayutthaya.

3.6) Omission of nouns

Example 12: a) Finally I don't love him and I have a new boyfriend. But he is friend of my first, I laughing in my hearth, It's love three sad. (S18)

Correct sentence

Finally, I do not love him and I have a new boyfriend, but he is a friend of my first boyfriend. I laugh in my heart. It is a love triangle.

b) In my life from when I can remember it happened to my life is a lot to remember because I have had long time born.

(S16)

Correct sentence

In my life from when I can remember what happened to my life, there are a lot of events to remember because I have had long time born.

4) Errors in the Use of Pronouns

As shown in Table 4.3, it was found that errors in the use of pronouns are the fourth highest errors in parts of speech. The total number of errors was 28 (14.36%). The most frequently found errors were repetition of pronouns or insertion of an unnecessary pronoun (f=9, 4.62%), followed by the use of singular pronouns instead of plural pronouns (f=6, 3.08%) and the use of subject pronouns instead of object pronouns (f=5, 2.56%), respectively. On the other hand, the least frequently found errors were the use of plural pronouns instead of singular pronouns (f=1, 0.51%). Examples of errors in the use of pronouns are as follows:

4.1) Repetition of pronouns or insertion of an unnecessary pronoun

Example 13: a) The place of Pai it's beautiful such as coffee in love, chinese village, history bridge Pai river. (S9)

Correct sentence

The places of Pai ... are beautiful such as coffee in love, Chinese village, history bridge Pai River.

b) My mother she buy the strawberry to get my relative. (S9)

Correct sentence

My mother ...bought the strawberry for my relative.

4.2) The use of singular pronouns instead of plural pronouns

Example 14: a) It was very beautiful places that I have ever seen. (S2)

Correct sentence

They are very beautiful places that I have ever seen.

b) It be funny, happy, exciting and so sad in my life. (S10)

Correct sentence

They are funny, happy, exciting and so sad in my life.

4.3) The use of subject pronouns instead of object pronouns

Example 15: a) I meet they and speak English with they. (S17)

Correct sentence

I met them and spoke English with them.

b) I tell they I want but I never go to Chaingmai. (S17)

Correct sentence

I told them I want to go because I have never been to
Chaingmai.

4.4) The use of object pronouns instead of subject pronouns

Example 16: a) I'm sad for love that him gave for me, He is the person very
think slowly. (S18)

Correct sentence

I am sad with love that he gave me. He is the person who
think
very slowly.

b) When the first boyfriend know him felt angry me. And he try come back to me. (S18)

Correct sentence

When the first boyfriend knew, he felt angry with me and he tried to come back to me.

4.5) The use of personal pronouns instead of possessive adjectives

Example 17: a) She nickname Tai. (S5)

Correct sentence

Her nickname is Tai.

b) They name Paulean, Martean and David. (S17)

Correct sentence

Their names are Paulean, Martean and David.

4.6) The use of plural pronouns instead of singular pronouns

Example 18: a) They drive a motorcycle go to his apartment. (S7)

Correct sentence

He drove a motorcycle to his apartment.

5) Errors in the Use of Adjectives

As shown in Table 4.3, it was found that errors in the use of adjectives are the fifth highest errors in parts of speech. The total number of errors was 15 (7.69%).

The most frequently found errors were misuse of adjectives (f=7, 3.59%), followed by confusion between adjectives and other words (f=4, 2.05%), whereas the use of adjectives without verb to be (f=2, 1.03%) and confusion between adjectives and adverbs (f=2, 1.03%) occurred least frequently. Examples of errors in the use of adjectives are as follows:

5.1) Misuse of adjectives

Example 19: a) Pattaya city have many people has foreiners and place of interesting and I don't exciting because I don't like pattaya.

(S4)

Correct sentence

Pattaya city has many people, foreigners and place of interesting but I am not excited because I don't like Pattaya.

b) Me and my friends to be happy and exciting in travel around thailand. (S4)

Correct sentence

My friends and I were happy and excited in traveling around Thailand.

5.2) Confusion between adjectives and other words

Example 20: a) The Memorable Incident in my life about funny and sad.

(S5)

Correct sentence

The memorable incident in my life is about fun and sadness.

b) My seniors is friendly with me and they helps freshy spending in University. (S4)

Correct sentence

My seniors are friendly with me and they help freshmen to spend lives in university.

5.3) The use of adjectives without verb to be

Example 21: a) Among the road I'm looking the notice about to careful

the tiger. (S10)

Correct sentence

Among the road, I saw the notice about to be careful the tiger.

b) It make me very crazy when love the man very much but the

most I will ... appointed in love. (S18)

Correct sentence

It makes me very crazy when love the man very much but the

most I will be disappointed in love.

5.4) Confusion between adjectives and adverbs

Example 22: a) In First year, final exam we help to exam quiet. (S4)

Correct sentence

In first year final exam, we help each other to do exam quietly.

b) We're eatten very happy and delicious with the first eat North-eastern food or Isan food. (S6)

Correct sentence

We ate very happily and deliciously with the first eating North-eastern food or Isaan food.

6) Errors in the Use of Conjunction

As shown in Table 4.3, it was found that errors in the use of conjunction are the sixth highest errors in parts of speech. The total number of errors was 14 (%).

It was found that misuse of conjunction occurred most frequently (f=10, 5.13%), while omission of conjunctions occurred least frequently (f=28, 2.05%). Examples of errors in the use of conjunctions are as follows:

6.1) Misuse of conjunction

Example 23: a) Pattaya city have many people has foreiners and place of interesting and I don't exciting because I don't like pattaya.

(S4)

Correct sentence

Pattaya city has many people, foreigners and place of interesting but I am not excited because I don't like Pattaya.

b) And in English B.A. have 38 peoples and my friend have be happy because we want to travel pattaya, Bangkok and

Ayutthaya. (S4)

Correct sentence

There are 38 people in English class and my friend are happy because we want to travel Pattaya, Bangkok and Ayutthaya.

6.2) Omission of conjunction

Example 24: a) I gained a lot of experience, such as, they teached me

everythings for to be a good person, I must helpful and kindness with other people, honest, ... how can I live with other people. (S1)

Correct sentence

I gained a lot of experience, such as, they taught me everything to be a good person, I must be helpful, honest and kind with other people, and how can I live with other people.

b) Although I met and knew him in a short time but He is a special memory person for me. I want to meet him again. (S3)

Correct sentence

Although I met and knew him in a short time, he is a special memory person for me. I want to meet him again.

7) Errors in the Use of Adverbs

As shown in Table 4.3, it was found that errors in the use of adjectives are the lowest type in parts of speech. The total number of errors was 3 (1.54%).

The most frequently found errors were misuse of adverb ($f=2$, 1.03%); whereas, confusion between adverbs and adjectives occurred least frequently ($f=1$, 0.51%).

Examples of errors in the use of adverbs are as follows:

7.1) Misuse of adverbs

Example 25: a) They stayed with lonely. (S11)

Correct sentence

They stayed with loneliness.

b) In the first time, I don't want to see his face, I feel bored and very hate him. (S19)

Correct sentence

At the first time, I did not want to see his face; I felt bored and hate him very much.

7.2) Confusion between adverbs and adjectives

Example 26: a) Among the road I'm looking the notice about carefully the tiger. (S18)

Correct sentence

Among the road, I saw the notice about to be careful of the tiger.

4.1.2.2 Errors in the Use of Tenses

In grammatical errors, errors in the use of tenses were the second highest found errors. The number, percent, and example sentences are presented below.

Table 4.4

Number and Percent of the Sub-types of Errors in the Use of Tense

Error Types	Number	Percent
1. The use of wrong tenses	135	73.77
2. The incorrect form of tenses	48	26.23
Total	183	100.00

As shown in Table 4.4, it indicates that there were two sub-types of errors in the use of tenses found in English compositions with the total number of 183.

The most frequently occurred errors were the use of wrong tenses (f=135, 73.77%), followed by the incorrect form of tenses (f=48, 26.23%). Examples of errors in the use of tenses are as follows:

1) The use of wrong tenses

Example 27: a) Then I go to the hospital. (S12)

Correct sentence

Then I went to the hospital.

b) Next day I have to call my friends and I receive the bad new. (S4)

Correct sentence

Next day I had to call my friends and I received the bad new.

2) The incorrect form of tenses

Example 28: a) I'm feel funny and happy. (S10)

Correct sentence

I felt funny and happy.

b) I'm go pass the first floor of Erawan waterfall. (S10)

Correct sentence

I went pass the first floor of Erawan waterfall.

4.1.2.3 Errors in Mechanics

In grammatical errors, errors in mechanics were the third highest found errors.

The number, percent, and example sentences are presented below.

Table 4.5

Number and Percent of the Sub-types of Errors in the Use of Mechanics

Error Types	Number	Percent
1. The use of punctuations		
1.1 Omission of commas	50	30.67
1.2 Misuse of commas	26	15.95
1.3 Misuse of periods	11	6.75
1.4 Omission of periods	6	3.68
Total	93	57.06
2. The use of capitalization		
2.1 Capitalization of adjectives	19	11.66
2.2 Uncapitalization of the word at the beginning of the sentences	13	7.98

Table 4.5 (Continued)

Error Types	Number	Percent
2.3 Capitalization of article	11	6.75
2.4 Capitalization of pronoun	8	4.91
2.5 Capitalization of the common noun	7	4.29
2.6 Capitalization of conjunctions	4	2.45
2.7 Capitalization of adverbs	1	0.61
2.8 Capitalization of preposition	1	0.61
2.9 Capitalization of possessive adjectives	1	0.61
Total	65	39.88
3. The use of possessives		
3.1 Misuse of apostrophe s	3	1.84
3.2 Omission of possessive adjectives	2	1.23
Total	5	3.07
Grand Total	163	100.00

As shown in Table 4.5, it indicates that there were three main sub-types of errors in mechanics found in English compositions with the total number of 163.

The most frequently occurred errors in mechanics were the use of punctuations ($f=93$, 57.06%), followed by the use of capitalization ($f=65$, 39.88%), and the use of possessives ($f=5$, 3.07%). The following section shows the examples of errors in mechanics.

1) Errors in the Use of Punctuations

As shown in Table 4.5, it was found that the use of punctuation was the highest error type in mechanical errors. The total number of errors was 93 (57.06%). It was found that omission of commas occurred most frequently (f=50, 30.67%), followed by misuse of commas (=26, 15.95%), and misuse of periods (f=11, 6.75%) respectively. Examples of errors in the use of punctuations are as follows:

1.1) Omission of commas

Example 29: a) Someone said it happened like that because the thieves wanted to steal the head of Buddha but they were caught by police. (S2)

Correct sentence

Someone said it happened like that because the thieves wanted to steal the head of Buddha, but they were caught by the police.

b) When I went to Pai the first...I went to Pai river. (S9)

Correct sentence

When I went to Pai the first, I went to Pai River.

1.2) Misuse of commas

Example 30: a) I will grow up and now I'm taking care of myself more than before, because of you. (S12)

Correct sentence

I will grow up and now I'm taking care of myself more than before ... because of you.

b) She made me feel good and happy all the time, we don't have

2.3) Capitalization of article

Example 35: a) In The past, everyone has ever loved someone. (S18)

Correct sentence

In the past, everyone has ever loved someone.

b) Seven months later, The mother went to Bangkok to work with her husband. (S11)

Correct sentence

Seven months later, the mother went to Bangkok to work with her husband.

2.4) Capitalization of pronouns

Example 36: a) Next time, We went to Buriram. (S5)

Correct sentence

Next time, we went to Buriram.

b) Before that, He was a great man for me because he makes me funny and happy when he talks to me. (S3)

Correct sentence

Before that, he was a great man for me because he makes me funny and happy when he talks to me.

2.5) Capitalization of the common noun

Example 37: a) I have been studying in University for 3 years. (S13)

Correct sentence

I have been studying in university for 3 years.

b) We stayed near River to wait for payanak. (S6)

Correct sentence

We stayed near river to wait for payanak.

2.6) Capitalization of conjunctions

Example 38: a) He is the good person and kind with the children Because they are Christian and every Sunday we had worship to the god, learned the bible and sang song together. (S1)

Correct sentence

He is the good person and kind with the children because they are Christians and every Sunday we had worship to the god, learned the bible and sang song together.

2.7) Capitalization of adverbs

Example 39: a) After finishing taking photo, I went to the hotel with my friends because I wanted to sleep and Then, I felt tired and hungry. (S5)

Correct sentence

After finishing taking photo, I went to the hotel with my friends because I wanted to sleep and then, I felt tired and hungry.

2.8) Capitalization of preposition

Example 40: a) The last year I went to Pai In Meahongson with my family. (S9)

Correct sentence

Last year, I went to Pai in Meahongson with my family.

2.9) Capitalization of possessive adjectives

Example 41: a) I used to love him, My first love. (S18)

Correct sentence

I used to love him, my first love.

b) I think My life make it the best. (S18)

Correct sentence

I think my life makes it the best.

3) Errors in the Use of Possessives

As shown in Table 4.5, it was found that errors in the use of possessives were the lowest type in errors in mechanics. The total number of errors was 5 (3.07%). The most frequently found errors were misuse of apostrophe s (f=3, 1.84%), while omission of possessive adjectives occurred less frequently (f=2, 1.23%). Examples of errors in the use of possessives are as follows:

3.1) Misuse of apostrophe s

Example 42: a) We are Thai people, should take care of our country by learn

Thai's history and enthusiasm to present Thailand to foreigners. (S1)

Correct sentence

We are Thai people, should take care of our country by learning Thai...history and enthusiasm to present Thailand to foreigners.

b) Oh!! I see mama dog and her puppies under a tree and one of puppies is at the opposite of dog's group. (S8)

Correct sentence

Oh! I saw the mama dog and her puppies under a tree and one of the puppies was at the opposite of a dog group.

3.2) Omission of possessive adjectives

Example 43: a) The event about mama dog and puppies. (S8)

Correct sentence

The event is about mama dog and her puppies.

b) He take his friends from England to help ... marriage too.

(S17)

Correct sentence

He took his friends from England to help his marriage too.

4.1.2.4 Miscellaneous Errors

In grammatical errors, miscellaneous were the fourth highest found errors.

The number, percent, and example sentences are presented below.

Table 4.6

Number and Percent of the Sub-types of Miscellaneous Errors

Error Types	Number	Percent
1. The use of agreement		
1.1 Subject-verb agreement	45	47.87
1.2 Agreement in number	3	3.19
Total	48	51.06
2. The use of determiners		
2.1 Omission of definite articles	15	15.96

Table 4.6 (Continued)

Error Types	Number	Percent
2.2 Misuse of definite articles	6	6.38
2.3 The use of definite articles instead of indefinite articles	2	2.13
2.4 Omission of indefinite articles	9	9.57
2.5 The use of indefinite articles instead of definite Articles	2	2.13
Total	34	36.17
3. The use of contraction forms	12	12.77
Grand Total	94	100.00

As shown in Table 4.6, it reveals that there were three sub-types of miscellaneous errors found in English compositions with the total number was 94. The most frequently occurred errors were the use of agreement (f=48, 51.06%), followed by the use of determiners (f=34, 36.17%), and the use of contraction forms (f=12, 12.77%). The following section shows the examples of miscellaneous errors.

1) Errors in the Use of Agreement

As shown in Table 4.6, it was found that errors in the use of agreement were the highest type in miscellaneous errors. The total number of errors was 48 (51.06%).

There were two types of errors in the use of agreement: (1) subject-verb agreement and (2) agreement in number. The former was the most frequently found (f=45, 47.87%), while the latter had fewer errors (f=3, 3.19%). Examples of errors in the use of agreement are as follows:

1.1) Subject-verb agreement

Example 44: a) It's incident about my brother that it make me very sad so much. (S7)

Correct sentence

It is the incident about my brother that makes me very sad.

b) When I go to anywhere I always think that my mother said "you must take care yourself" It remind me all the time. (S14)

Correct sentence

Wherever I go, I always think that my mother said "you must take care of yourself". It reminds me all the time.

1.2) Agreement in number

Example 45: a) In people lifes have more event that can make us remember. (S17)

Correct sentence

In people life, there are many events that can make us remember.

b) it have very foreigners and the place to relax in holiday. (S9)

Correct sentence

There are many foreigners and the places to relax on holiday.

2) Errors in the Use of Determiners

As shown in Table 4.6, it was found that errors in the use of determiners were ranked in the second type of miscellaneous errors. The number of errors was 34 (36.17%). The most frequently found errors were omission of definite articles (f=15, 15.96%), followed by omission of indefinite articles (f=9, 9.57%) and misuse of

definite articles ($f=6$, 6.38%), respectively. Examples of errors in the use of determiners are as follows:

2.1) Omission of definite articles

Example 46: a) I can't ... memorable incident in my liff. (S7)

Correct sentence

I can't forget the memorable incident in my life.

b) It's ... incident about my brother that it make me very sad so much.(S7)

Correct sentence

It is the incident about my brother that makes me very sad so much.

2.2) Misuse of definite articles

Example 47: a) This trip, we are both a funny and sad. (S5)

Correct sentence

This trip, we are both ... funny and sad.

b) I went to the walking Street with my friends. (S5)

Correct sentence

I went to ... Walking Street with my friends.

2.3) The use of definite articles instead of indefinite articles

Example 48: a) When I was the child. I was 9 years old. (S10)

Correct sentences

When I was a child, I was 9 years old.

b) During I wait the bus, I saw the old man. (S14)

Correct sentence

While I was waiting for the bus, I saw an old man.

2.4) Omission of indefinite articles

Example 49: a) it is ... beautiful place (S9)

Correct sentence

It is a beautiful place.

b) it is ... old and beautiful bridge. (S9)

Correct sentence

It is an old and beautiful bridge.

2.5) The use of indefinite articles instead of definite articles

Example 50: a) I love my sister and a book. (S11)

Correct sentence

I love my sister and the book.

b) In the early morning, a father prepared the bag to Bangkok.

(S11)

Correct sentence

In the early morning, the father prepared the bag to Bangkok.

3) Errors in the Use of Contraction Forms

As shown in Table 4.6, it was found that errors in the use of contraction form were the lowest type in miscellaneous errors. The total number of errors was 12 (f=12, 12.77%). Examples of errors in the use of contraction forms are as follows:

Example 51: a) I don't forget it. (S8)

Correct sentence

I do not forget it.

b) I'm very angry with him and I don't want to start with him.

(S18)

Correct sentence

I am very angry with him and I do not want to start with him.

4.1.3 Lexical Errors Found in English Compositions

In this study, lexical errors refer to the errors which the students made because they incorrectly used the vocabulary of the language. In addition, this kind of errors is the second frequently found errors among the three categories. The lexical errors in English compositions consist of three error types as shown in Table 4.7.

Table 4.7

Number and Percent of Lexical Errors Found in English Compositions

Error Types	Number	Percent
1. Errors in spelling	112	71.79
2. Errors in literal translation from Thai (L1) to English (L2)	25	16.03
3. Error in word choice	19	12.18
Total	156	100.00

As shown in Table 4.7, it depicts that there were three sub-types of lexical errors with the total number of 156. The most frequently occurred errors were spelling (f=112, 71.79%), followed by literal translation from Thai (L1) to English (L2) (f=25, 16.03%), while the error in word choice occurred least frequently (f=19, 12.18%).

The following section shows the examples of lexical errors.

1) Errors in Spelling

As shown in Table 4.7, it was found that the number of error in spelling was 112 which were the highest error of lexical errors. Examples of errors in the use of spelling are as follows:

Example 52: a) At the time, I think my heat did not beat. (S12)

Correct sentence

At the time, I think my heart did not beat.

b) the wather is clear and cold (S9)

Correct sentence

The water is clear and cold.

2) Errors in Literal Translation from Thai (L1) to English (L2)

As shown in Table 4.7, it was found that the number of errors in literal translation from Thai (L1) to English (L2) was 25 which were the second highest error of lexical errors. Examples of errors in literal translation from Thai (L1) to English (L2) are as follows:

Example 53: a) There have a lot of students about 70 people and there have the teacher about 20 people. (S15)

Correct sentence

There were a lot of students about 70 students and 20 teachers.

b) In my birthday they send message for me and have gife for me. (S17)

Correct sentence

On my birthday, they send message and gift to me.

3) Error in Word Choices

As shown in Table 4.7, it was found that the number of errors in word choice was 19 which were the least frequently occurred errors in lexical errors.

Examples of errors in word choices are as follows:

Example 54: a) I'm very excited and glad because they bought Liverpool shirt and scan number 8 Gerrard. (S17)

Correct sentence

I was very excited and glad because they bought Liverpool shirt and screened number 8 Gerrard.

b) The evening ... We're to go dinner at North-eastern food restaurant. (S6)

Correct sentence

In the evening, we went to have dinner at North-eastern food restaurant.

4.1.4 Syntactic Errors Found in English Compositions

In this study, syntactic errors refer to the errors that the students made because of ignorance of the rules in arranging words into phrases and phrases into sentences.

Table 4.8 illustrates the numbers and types of syntactic errors made by the students. In addition, this kind of errors is the least frequently found among the three categories. However, syntactic errors are classified into 9 types as shown in Table 4.8.

Table 4.8
Number and Percent of Syntactic Errors Found in English Compositions

Error Types	Number	Percent
1. The use of incomplete sentence structures		
1.1 Omission of verbs	26	17.45
1.2 The use of fragment	22	14.77
1.3 Omission of objects or complements	8	5.37
1.4 Omission of subjects	6	4.03
Total	62	41.61
2. Redundancy	23	15.44
3. Errors in word order		
3.1 Inappropriate word order	12	8.05
3.2 Misplaced adverb	3	2.01
3.3 Misplaced adjectives	3	2.01
Total	18	12.08
4. Errors in the use of 'there' structure	16	10.74
5. Errors in the use of voices		
5.1 Misuse of the passive and active voice	6	4.03
5.2 Incorrect form of the passive voice	4	2.68
Total	10	6.71
6. Errors in run on sentences		
6.1 Two main clauses with no punctuation mark between them	9	6.04

Table 4.8 (Continued)

Error Types	Number	Percent
7. Error in the use of parallel structures	6	4.03
8. Errors in the use of comparison	3	2.01
9. Errors in compound sentences		
9.1 Omission of 'and'	2	1.34
Grand Total	149	100.00

As shown in Table 4.8, it reveals that there were nine sub-types of syntactic errors with the total number of 149. The three most frequently occurred syntactic errors were the use of incomplete sentence structures ($f=62$, 41.61%), followed by redundancy ($f=23$, 15.44%) and errors in word order ($f=18$, 12.08%), respectively. The following section presents the examples of syntactic errors.

1) The Use of Incomplete Sentence Structures

As shown in Table 4.8, it was found that the number of errors in the use of incomplete sentence structure was 62 (41.61%) which was the highest types of syntactic errors. The most frequently found errors were omission of verbs ($f=26$, 17.45%), followed by the use of fragment ($f=22$, 14.77%) and omission of objects or complements ($f=8$, 5.37%) respectively. Examples of errors in the use of incomplete sentence structures are as follows:

1.1) Omission of verbs

Example 55: a) I and my brother ... up to the river and put the dress. (S9)

Correct sentence

My brother and I went up to the river and get the dress.

b) It ... very good trip. (S9)

Correct sentence

It is a very good trip.

1.2) The use of fragment

Example 56: a) Next time, My friend is to be dead. Because she to hit a car crash. (S5)

Correct sentence

Next time, my friend was dead because she had a car crash.

b) Then, we went to the hospital. Because we don't believe. (S5)

Correct sentence

Then, we went to the hospital because we did not believe.

1.3) Omission of objects or complements

Example 57: a) The best friend is ... who that will stand by my side when I'm alone, worry, sad, funny, and happy. (S12)

Correct sentence

The best friend is the one who will stand by my side when I'm alone, worry, sad, funny, and happy.

b) I don't believe ... (S12)

Correct sentence

I did not believe that.

3) Errors in Word Order

As shown in Table 4.8, it was found that the number of errors in the word order was 18 (12.08%) which was the third highest types of syntactic errors. The most frequently found errors were inappropriate word order (f=12, 8.05%), followed by misplaced adverb (f=3, 2.01%) which was equal with misplaced adjectives (f=3, 2.01%). Examples of errors in word order are as follows:

3.1) Inappropriate word order

Example 60: a) Me and my friends to be happy and exciting in travel around Thailand. (S4)

Correct sentence

My friends and I were happy and excited in traveling around Thailand.

b) I and my friend exciting when he speak and he laughing and smile. (S16)

Correct sentence

My friend and I were excited when he spoke, laughed and smiled.

3.2) Misplaced adverb

Example 61: a) After that we have talk on phone always and then made us know eachother much more and got chances to travel together.

Correct sentence

After that, we have always talked on the phone and then it made us know each other much more and got chances to travel

together. (S16)

- b) I'm sad for love that him gave for me, He is the person very
think slowly. (S18)

Correct sentence

I am sad with love that he gave me. He is the person who think
very slowly.

3.3) Misplaced adjectives

Example 62: a) I learn program English. (S5)

Correct sentence

I learn in English program.

- b) It's has food a lot of such as Lab, Somtam, barbecued chicken,
Hor mok catfish curry and sticke rice. (S6)

Correct sentence

It's has a lot of food such as Lab, Somtam, barbecued chicken,
Hor mok, catfish curry and sticky rice.

4) Errors in the Use of 'there' Structure

As shown in Table 4.8, it was found that the number of errors in the use of
'there' structure was 16 (10.74%) which was the fourth highest syntactic errors. This
kind of error resulted from confusion of anticipatory "there + be" with "verb to have".

Examples of errors in word order are as follows:

Example 63: a) No have the event or accident on the road. (S8)

Correct sentence

There was not any event or accident on the road.

- b) In this here have many place of interest. (S12)

Correct sentence

There are many places of interest here.

5) Errors in the Use of Voices

As shown in Table 4.8, it was found that the number of errors in the use of voices was 10 (6.71%). The most frequently found errors was misuse of the passive and active voice (f=6, 4.03%); whereas, incorrect form of the passive voice occurred less frequently (f=4, 2.68%). Examples of errors in the use of voices are as follows:

5.1) Misuse of the passive and active voice

Example 64: a) We're eaten North-eastern food or Isaan food very happily and deliciously. (S6)

Correct sentence

We ate North-eastern food or Isaan food very happily and deliciously.

b) We're stayed near the river to wait for payanak. (S6)

Correct sentence

We stayed near the river to wait for payanak.

5.2) Incorrect form of the passive voice

Example 65: a) I lived with my family for 12 years and after that, my life was change. (S1)

Correct sentence

I lived with my family for 12 years and after that, my life was changed.

b) I have grad D and my friends have grad E because it is difficult for us and when testing, I am borred and my friend are very borred. (S4)

Correct sentence

I get grade D and my friends get grade E because it is difficult for us and when testing, I am bored and my friend are very bored.

6) Errors in Run on Sentences

As shown in Table 4.8, it was found that the number of errors in run on sentences was 9 (f=9, 6.04%), which was the sixth highest syntactic errors. This kind of error resulted from writing by using two main clauses with no punctuation marks between them. Examples of errors in run on sentences are as follows:

6.1) Two main clauses with no punctuation mark between them

Example 66: a) He had more jokes to say and he liked talk to about the realist life So I know that a weak human will be a poor person for other people (S3)

Correct sentence

He had more jokes to say and he liked to talk about the realist life so, I know that a weak human will be a poor person for other people

b) He had more jokes to say and he liked talk to about the realist life So I know that a weak human will be a poor person for other people And I won't be this, I'm really sure with him. (S16)

Correct sentence

He had more jokes to say and he liked talk to about the realist life so, I know that a weak human will be a poor person for

other people; and I won't be this, I'm really sure with him.

7) Errors in the Use of Parallel Structures

As shown in Table 4.8, it was found that the number of errors in the use of parallel structures was 6 (f=6, 4.03%) which was the seventh highest syntactic errors.

Examples of errors in parallel structures are as follows:

Example 67: a) I still love and missing you, you are stuck in my heart forever my best friend. (S12)

Correct sentence

I still love and miss you. You are stuck in my heart forever my best friend.

b) I would like you going to the heaven and feel happy forever. (S12)

Correct sentence

I would like you going to the heaven and feeling happy forever.

8) Errors in the Use of Comparison

As shown in Table 4.8, it was found that the number of errors in the use of comparison was 3 (2.01%) which was the eighth highest syntactic errors. Examples of errors in the use comparison are as follows:

Example 68: a) In my life, I have ever seen both good and bad events, but I will choose to memorize only a special memory that I don't forget and it make me feel good better when I was tired and want to relax in my life. (S3)

Correct sentence

In my life, I have ever seen both good and bad events, but I will choose to memorize only a special memory that I don't forget and it make me feel better when I was tired and want to relax in my life.

b) Finally, I think that having people love bester than people hate.

(S19)

Correct sentence

Finally, I think that having people love better than people hate.

9) Errors in Compound Sentences

As shown in Table 4.8, it was found that the number of errors in compound sentences was 2 (1.34%), which resulted from omission of 'and' when writing compound sentences. Examples of errors in the compound sentences are as follows:

9.1) Omission of 'and'

Example 69: a) After one year he called me that he have been in Korat ...

want me to be a guide for him, so I said ok. (S16)

Correct sentence

After one year, he called me that he had been in Korat and wanted me to be a guide for him. So, I said ok.

b) I can stay by myself, ... don't want love from the man. (S18)

Correct sentence

I can stay by myself and do not want love from the man.

4.2 The Causes of Errors Found in English Compositions

The causes of errors in this study are based on the schemes of causes of errors developed by Richards (1971; cited in Ellis 1995 : 59) and Norrish (1983). To understand the overall view about causes of errors in writing, the researcher studied the errors thoroughly by considering each error and analyzed the causes. All causes of errors in writing are presented in Table 4.9.

Table 4.9

Number and Percent of the Causes of Errors in the English Compositions

Causes of Errors	Number	Percent
1. False concepts hypothesized	453	38.04
2. Ignorance of rules restrictions	214	17.97
3. Incomplete application of rules	213	17.88
4. Mother tongue interference	145	12.17
5. Carelessness	141	11.84
6. Overgeneralization	25	2.10
Total	1,191	100.00

As shown in Table 4.9, it depicts that there were six types of causes of errors with the total number of 1,191. It was found that the most frequently found causes of errors was false concepts hypothesized (f=453, 38.04%), followed by ignorance of rules restrictions (f=214, 17.97%), and incomplete application of rules (f=213, 17.88%), respectively. In contrast, the least frequently found causes of errors were overgeneralization (f=25, 2.10%). The following part presents the examples of all six causes of errors.

1) False concepts hypothesized

As shown in Table 4.9, it was found that the false concept hypothesized was the most frequently found cause with the number of 453 (38.04%). The examples of errors caused by this cause are as follows:

Example 70: The use of plural noun instead of singular noun

- a) Third years is the most study hard and spend a lot of my money. (S4)

Correct sentence

Third year is the most study hard and spend a lot of my money.

Modal/ Auxiliary

- b) But my family aren't eat group worms because it's a fried.

(S6)

Correct sentence

But my family did not eat group worms because it is a fried.

- c) The last I must to stop my car for mama dog.

Correct sentence

At last, I must stop my car for the mama dog.

2) Ignorance of rules restrictions

As shown in Table 4.9, it was found that the ignorance of rule restriction was the second highest frequently found cause with the total number of 214 (17.97%).

The examples of errors caused by this cause are as follows:

Example 71: Misuse of plural endings

a) They taught me everythings for to be a good person. (S1)

Correct sentence

They taught me everything to be a good person.

The incorrect form of tenses

b) We went to saw Bangfipayanat at Mackhong River. (S6)

Correct sentence

We went to see Bangfipayanat at Mekong River.

3) Incomplete application of rules

As shown in Table 4.9, it was found that the incomplete application of rules was the third highest frequently found cause with the total number of 213 (17.88%).

The examples of errors caused by this cause are as follows:

Example 72: Omission of verbs

a) The love... not beautiful and the people can change mind every time. (S18)

Correct sentence

The love is not beautiful and the people can change mind every time.

b) Her husband ... from England. (S17)

Correct sentence

Her husband is from England.

4) Mother tongue interference

As shown in Table 4.9, it was found that mother tongue interference was the fourth highest frequently found cause with the total number of 145 (12.17%).

The examples of errors caused by this cause are as follows:

Example 73: Errors in literal translation from Thai (L1) to English (L2)

- a) Second year, Very very study hard especially writing communication. (S4)

Correct sentence

Second year, I studied very hard especially writing communication.

Repetition of pronoun or insertion of an unnecessary pronoun

- b) Some event it can be so sad but some event it can be impressive. (S8)

Correct sentence

Some events ... can be so sad but some events ... can be impressive.

5) Carelessness

As shown in Table 4.9, it was found that carelessness was the fifth highest frequently found cause with the total number of 141 (11.84%). The examples of errors caused by this cause are as follows:

Example 74: Errors in spelling

- a) One day, I go to aunt's marrige. (S17)

Correct sentence

One day, I go to aunt's marriage.

b) On my birthday, they send messages and gife for me. (S17)

Correct sentence

On my birthday, they send message and gift to me.

6) Overgeneralization

As shown in Table 4.9, it was found that overgeneralization was the least frequently found cause with the total number of 25 (2.10%). The examples of errors caused by this cause are as follows:

Example 75: Misuse of conjunction

a) Although I met and knew him in a short time but He is a special memory person for me. I want to meet him again. (S3)

Correct sentence

Although I met and knew him in a short time, he is a special memory person for me. I want to meet him again.

The incorrect form of tense

b) All children didn't had parents.

Correct sentence

All children didn't have parents.

4.3 Summary of the Chapter

In summary, this chapter presents the results of the study which are comprised of summary of three main categories and number of errors, the results of the analysis of errors, and the causes of errors in English compositions. The discussion of the research and implications are presented in the next chapter.