

## GRAMMATICAL ERRORS IN THE ENGLISH VERSION OF INDONESIA'S OFFICIAL TOURISM WEBSITE

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### **INTISARI**

*Riset ini bertujuan mengidentifikasi kesalahan-kesalahan tata bahasa yang terjadi di situs resmi pariwisata Indonesia yang dikelola oleh Kementerian Pariwisata dan Ekonomi Kreatif Republik Indonesia. Riset ini bertujuan untuk mengklasifikasi kesalahan tata bahasa yang ada berdasarkan kategori linguistiknya. Data yang digunakan dalam riset ini diambil dari beberapa artikel yang mengandung kesalahan tata bahasa. Hasil riset ini menunjukkan bahwa dari 11037 kata, ditemukan 150 kesalahan (13.59 tiap 1000 kata). Kesalahan-kesalahan tersebut didistribusikan secara merata pada ketiga menu berdasarkan peninjauan, dengan jumlah angka pada menu News (15.46 kesalahan tiap 1000 kata) yang sedikit lebih banyak dari pada menu Discover Indonesia (12.97) dan Events (12.65). Selebihnya, dari 150 kesalahan, 131 (87.33%) termasuk ke dalam kategori sintaksis dan hanya 19 (12.67%) termasuk ke dalam kategori morfologi. Dari 19 kesalahan morfologi, kesalahan terbanyak terdapat pada kesalahan penggunaan nominal modifiers (9 atau 47.37%), diikuti dengan kesalahan penggunaan third person singular verbs (5 atau 26.32%). Sementara pada kesalahan sintaksis, kesalahan terbanyak (102 atau 77.87%) terjadi pada pemakaian noun phrase, diikuti oleh kesalahan pemakaian verb phrase (15 atau 11.45%). Dari 102 kesalahan pada penggunaan noun phrase, kesalahan terbanyak (65 atau 63.72%) terjadi karena adanya peniadaan article, terutama definite article. Hasil tersebut menggambarkan kemampuan para penulis yang tidak begitu memahami kapan definite article harus digunakan.*

**Kata kunci:** kesalahan tata bahasa, situs pariwisata, morfologi, sintaks, noun phrase, definite article, peniadaan.

### **ABSTRACT**

This research attempts to investigate the grammatical errors occurring in the official website of Indonesia's tourism managed by the Tourism and Creative Economy Ministry of the Republic of Indonesia. It classifies the grammatical errors based on their linguistic categories. The data used in this research were taken from the articles containing grammatical errors. The results show that from 11037 words, 150 errors (13.59 per 1000 words) were found. The errors were evenly distributed across the three menus under investigation, with those in the News menu (15.46 errors per 1000 words) being slightly greater than those in the Discover Indonesia menu (12.97) and the Events menu (12.65). Furthermore, of the 150 errors, 131 (87.33%) belong to the syntactic category and only 19 (12.67%) belong to the

morphological category. Out of the 19 morphological errors, the most frequent errors occurred in the incorrect use of nominal modifiers (9 or 47.37%), followed by the incorrect use of third person singular verb (5 or 26.32%). As for the syntactic errors, the most common (102 or 77.87%) occurred in the use of the noun phrase, followed by the incorrect use of the verb phrase (15 or 11.45%). Out of the 102 errors in the use of the noun phrase, most errors (65 or 63.72%) happened because of the omission of the articles, especially the definite article. The results seem to reflect the ability of the writers which do not clearly understand about the occasions when the definite article must be used.

*Key words: grammatical error, tourism website, morphology, syntax, noun phrase, definite article, omission.*

## INTRODUCTION

Republic Indonesia is well known for her natural riches. Because of that, the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy of the Republic of Indonesia publishes an official website on the internet to promote Indonesian tourism.

This website has an important role in building Indonesia's reputation, especially the reputation of the Tourism and Creative Economy Ministry of the Republic of Indonesia. Thus, proper English is required especially for the publication of the website.

This research attempts to identify grammatical errors found in the English version of the website and classify the errors based on their linguistic features. This paper focuses only on grammatical errors and it does not deal with other errors, such as errors in spelling, vocabulary and idioms.

This research was conducted on the official site of Indonesian tourism promotion ([www.indonesia.travel](http://www.indonesia.travel)). The data were taken from articles under three menus in the website: Discover Indonesia, Events, and News. The data were sentences containing grammatical errors. Then, they were classified based on the modified classification proposed by Politzer and Ramirez (1973).

## ERRORS

According to Richards and Schmidt (2002: 184), error is "use of a linguistic item (e.g. a word, a grammatical item, a speech act, etc.) in a way which a fluent or native speaker of the language regards as showing faulty or incomplete learning".

Corder (1967 in Ellis, 1994: 51) differentiates between errors and mistakes: "An error takes place when the deviation arises as a result of lack of knowledge. It represents a lack of competence. A mistake occurs when learners fail to perform their competence. Mistakes arise as a result of competing plans, memory limitations and lack of automaticity". In addition, Chomsky (1965 in Garnham, 1985: 23) argues that linguistic competence refers to speaker-hearer's static knowledge stored in a language mental function, while, linguistic performance alludes to memory and attention in actual use of concrete situation.

## ERROR TYPES BASED ON SURFACE STRATEGIES

Dulay, Burt and Krashen (1982: 150) state that "a surface strategy taxonomy highlights the ways surface structures are altered: Learners may *omit* necessary or *add* unnecessary ones; they may *misform* items or *misorder* them". These are the points of what many learners do according to them:

- A. Omissions
- B. Additions

## C. Misformations

## D. Misorderings

In this classification, there is no specific classification of grammar. Furthermore, the occurrence of errors is only classified by these types, without understanding the incorrect forms of grammar.

### ERROR TYPES BASED ON LINGUISTIC CATEGORIES

Politzer and Ramirez (1973) propose their classification of the spoken English of Mexican-American pupils in a bilingual school and a monolingual school in the United States. Based on those results, Politzer and Ramirez categorize the errors into morphological and syntactic categories. These are the categories based on their study of Mexican-American pupils in the United States:

## A. Morphology

1. Indefinite Article Incorrect
2. Possessive Case Incorrect
3. Third person singular verb incorrect
4. Simple past tense incorrect
5. Past participle incorrect
6. Comparative adjective/adverb incorrect

Other types of morphological errors were found. Therefore, Politzer and Ramirez's classification was modified to include the following types of morphological errors :

7. Nominal Modifiers Incorrect
8. Infinitive Incorrect
9. Gerund Incorrect
10. Third Person Plural Incorrect

## B. Syntax

1. Noun Phrase
2. Verb Phrase
3. Verb-and-verb Construction
4. Word Orders
5. Some Transformations

In addition to these five categories of syntactic errors, two more errors were added:

6. Coordinating Conjunctions

## 7. Parallelism Incorrect

This research adopts the classification of errors based on the linguistic categories proposed by Politzer and Ramirez. Furthermore, this classification is supported by the classification proposed by Dulay, Burt, and Krashen.

### TYPES OF ERRORS IN THE ENGLISH VERSION OF INDONESIA'S OFFICIAL TOURISM WEBSITE

Table 1 below shows that from 11,037 words, 150 errors (13.59 per 1000 words) were found. Numerically, the number of errors might be small; however, they can be considered serious as they appear in the national website managed by the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy of the Republic of Indonesia. In short, the errors, some of which are very basic, indicate that the ministry does not seem to be serious enough with the importance of this website, particularly the English version, in spreading information about Indonesia.

Table 1. The frequency of errors in the official site of the Indonesia tourism

Menus	Total No. of Words	No.	/1000 words
Discover Indonesia	2,930	38	12.97
Events	4,744	60	12.65
News	3,363	52	15.46
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,037</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>13.59</b>

The table also shows that the number of errors in the three menus does not seem to be significantly different. The News menu has the most errors (15.46 errors per 1000 words), followed by the Discover Indonesia menu (12.97) and the Events menu (12.65). The results above indicate that the errors seem to be distributed evenly across the three menus even though the

number of errors found in the News menu is slightly greater than those in the Discover Indonesia and Events menus. However, this is as expected as the articles published under the News menu must have been written under time constraint and usually were not edited after their publication.

Furthermore, the errors were classified based on their linguistic categories following Politzer and Ramirez's classification of errors into morphological and syntactic errors. Table 2 below summarizes the results of the classification.

Table 2. The frequency and distribution of errors in the articles

Type of Errors	Discover Indonesia		Events		News		Total	/1000 words
	No.	/1000 words	No.	/1000 words	No.	/1000 words		
Morphology	3	1.02	8	1.69	8	2.38	19	1.72
Syntax	35	11.95	52	10.96	44	13.08	131	11.87
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>12.97</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>12.65</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>15.46</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>13.59</b>

The table shows the occurrence of errors per 1000 words in each linguistic category. The table shows that out of 150 errors, 131 (11.87 per 1000 words) belong to the syntactic category and only 19 (1.72 per 1000 words) belong to the morphological category. In particular, the most common errors in syntax were found in the News menu with 13.08 errors per 1000 words, followed by the Discover Indonesia menu with 11.95 occurrences per 1000 words and the Events menu with 10.96 errors per 1000 words. Similarly, the most common errors in morphology were also found in the News menu with 2.38 errors per 1000 words, followed by the Events menu with 1.69 errors per 1000 words and the Discover Indonesia menu with 1.02

errors per 1000 words. The table above seems to suggest that the writers had great syntactic difficulties in writing in English. On the other hand, they did not seem to have much morphological difficulties.

The sections below discuss in detail both the morphological and syntactic errors and their subcategories.

#### 4.1 Morphological Errors

Table 3 below shows the frequency and distribution of morphological errors found in the articles.

The table shows that most morphological errors (9 or 47.37%) occurred in the incorrect use of nominal modifiers and the second most common errors in morphology (5 or 26.32%) occurred in the incorrect use of third person singular verbs. Other types of errors do not seem to be very significant. The results seem to suggest that the writers have the greatest difficulties in the use of nominal modifiers in writing in English. This may be because they tend to use plural nouns as modifiers instead of singular nouns.

Each of the categories in which errors were found is discussed below.

##### 4.1.1 Possessive Case Incorrect

The possessive, also known as genitive, is used to indicate possession or ownership or some such meaning (Leech, 2006: 47). The genitive is formed by putting /'s/ after a noun, but for nouns ending in /-s/, an apostrophe is used. (Quirk and Greenbaum, 1973: 93).

Table 3. The frequency and distribution of morphological errors in the articles

Type of Errors		No.	%
1	Indefinite article incorrect	0	0
2	Possessive case incorrect	1	5.26
3	Third person singular verb incorrect	5	26.32
4	Simple past tense incorrect	0	0
5	Past participle incorrect	0	0
6	Comparative adjective/adverb incorrect	0	0
7	Nominal modifiers incorrect	9	47.37
8	Infinitive incorrect	1	5.26
9	Gerund incorrect	1	5.26
10	Third person plural verb incorrect	2	10.53
<b>Total</b>		<b>19</b>	<b>100</b>

One error was found in the use of the possessive case, as shown below:

- (1) This route enjoys a 77% load factor, said Garuda GM in Beijing, Asa Perkasa. (N2.M2)

In the example above, the word *Garuda* is incorrectly used. Since *Garuda* refers to an institutional name, so it must be in the possessive case, as stated by Quirk and Greenbaum (1973: 97), there are three kinds of the use of genitive for inanimate nouns: "(a) geographical and institutional names, (b) temporal nouns, and (c) nouns of special interest to human activity". Therefore, the sentence should read *This route enjoys a 77% load factor, said Garuda's GM in Beijing, Asa Perkasa.*

#### 4.1.2 Third Person Singular Verb Incorrect

In the articles, five errors were found in this case. Below is an example:

- (2) The Minister's visit to China will be followed immediately by a Roadshow undertaken by Industry Partners from November through December 2013, that include promotions in Shanghai from 16 - 17 November,... (N3.M3)

From the example given above, the use of *include* is incorrect since it must agree with the singular noun *roadshow*. Thus it should use the suffix */-s/* as *includes* instead of *include* as Leech and Svartvik (1975: 244) argue that the suffix */-s/* or */-es/* in both regular and irregular verbs is used for the third person singular present tense. Hence, the sentence should read *The Minister's visit to China will be followed immediately by a Roadshow undertaken by Industry Partners from November through December 2013, that includes promotions in Shanghai from 16 - 17 November,...*

#### 4.1.3 Nominal Modifiers Incorrect

There are nine errors found in this type in which the suffix */-es/* or */-s/* is used for plural forms. An example of the errors is shown below:

- (3) The event will consists of 2 days Training the Trainers as Pre Event, the Welcome Dinner, The Summit; 2 days Plenary Session and 1 day Concurrent Tracks, Exhibition, Cultural Night and World Toilet Carnival. (EV2.M7)

In the noun phrase *2 days training*, there is an addition of the suffix */-s/* to the word *day*. According to Frank (1972: 111), *2 days* is a compound expressing measurement. "In

particular, the unit of the measurement is always singular in such compound that precedes the noun". Therefore, the sentence should read *The event will consist of two-day Training the Trainers as Pre Event, the Welcome Dinner, The Summit; two-day Plenary Session and one-day Concurrent Tracks, Exhibition, Cultural Night and World Toilet Carnival.*

#### 4.1.4 Infinitive Incorrect

In this case, an error was found in the articles in which the future form *will* is not followed by the infinitive form. Below is an example:

- (4) The event will consists of 2 days Training the Trainers as Pre Event, the Welcome Dinner, The Summit; 2 days Plenary Session and 1 day Concurrent Tracks, Exhibition, Cultural Night and World Toilet Carnival. (EV2.M8)

The verb *consists* is erroneous since according to Leech (2006: 54), a verb has to be an infinitive when it follows a modal auxiliary. Therefore, the verb *consists* should be changed into *consist* since it follows the modal auxiliary *will*. Then, the sentence should read *The event will consist of 2 days Training the Trainers as Pre Event, the Welcome Dinner, The Summit; 2 days Plenary Session and 1 day Concurrent Tracks, Exhibition, Cultural Night and World Toilet Carnival.*

#### 4.1.5 Gerund Incorrect

"Gerunds are verbal nouns, meaning that they are nouns derived from verbs. They have the same form as present participle, being composed of a verb stem and a suffix *-ing/*. However, gerunds are nouns, while participles are adjectives" (Kaplan, 1995: 141).

There is only one error found in the articles. The error occurs when a preposition is not followed by a gerund form. The error is shown below:

- (5) During a one week visit to China, from 11 - 14 November 2013, Indonesia's Minister for Tourism and Creative Economy, Mari Elka Pangestu, will meet the press and travel operators in Beijing, Jinan (Shandong province), Shanghai and Guangzhou (Guandong province), where she will publicize the recently signed MoU between China and Indonesia for increased tourism cooperation between the two countries. (N3.M9)

In the example, the word *increased* is incorrect since it follows the preposition *for*, so the gerund should be used rather than the past participle. Thus, the word *increased* should be changed into *increasing* since Frank (1972: 317) states that gerund commonly appears after certain verbs or prepositions. Therefore, the sentence should be ..., *where she will publicize the recently signed MoU between China and Indonesia for increasing tourism cooperation between the two countries.*

#### 4.1.6 Third Person Plural Verb Incorrect

The use of the suffix */-s/* or */-es/* for a third person subject is incorrect, since the suffix is only used for a third person singular subject.

There are two errors found in the articles. One example is as follows:

- (6) China visitors to Indonesia grows rapidly. (N3.M10)

Huddleston and Pullum (2005: 31) argue that the use of either a plain present tense form, i.e. *eat* or the addition of the suffix */-s/* or */-es/* depends on the subject of the clause. In other words, the verb agrees with the subject. From the example above, the verb *grows* is incorrect since subject the *China visitors* is a third person plural subject. Additionally, Huddleston and Pullum (2005: 31) state that the plain form is used for plural. Therefore, the word *grows* should be changed into *grow*. The sentence should read *China visitors to Indonesia grow rapidly*.

## 4.2 Syntactic Errors

Table 4 below shows the frequency and distribution of syntactic errors found in the articles.

Table 4. The frequency and distribution of syntactic errors in the articles.

Type of Errors		No.	%
1	Noun phrase	102	77.87
2	Verb phrase	15	11.45
3	Verb-and-verb constructions	0	0.00
4	Word orders	0	0.00
5	Some transformations	0	0.00
6	Coordinating conjunctions	10	7.63
7	Parallelism incorrect	4	3.05
<b>Total</b>		<b>131</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The table shows that the most common syntactic errors (102 or 77.87%) occurred in the use of the noun phrase,

followed by the use of the verb phrase (15 or 11.45%), the use of the coordinating conjunctions (10 or 7.63%), and the use of parallelism (4 or 3.05%).

In particular, out of the 102 errors in the use of the noun phrase, most (65 or 63.72%) occurred in the use of determiners, i.e., the omission of definite and indefinite articles and the misuse of demonstratives, followed by the use of prepositions (21 or 20.59%), and the use of numbers (16 or 15.69%).

The discussion below focuses on the syntactic categories in which errors were found.

### 4.2.1 Noun Phrase

#### a. Determiners

65 errors were found in this type. They are divided into two groups, i.e., the misuse of the demonstratives and the omission of the articles. The highest number of error was in the omission of the definite and indefinite articles. There are many nouns without any article. According to Leech and Svartvik (1975: 52-53) the definite article is used when the hearer knows what is being talked about. There are four circumstances in which definite meaning arises: (a) when the identity has been established by an earlier mention, (b) when the identity is established by the postmodification that follows the noun, (c) when the object or group of objects is the only one that exists or has existed, and (d) when the reference is made to an institution shared by the community.

There are 64 errors in the omission of either the definite article or indefinite article. One example of the omission of the definite article is as follows:

- (7) The main feature of the festival is obviously the signature wood carving art of the Asmat.... Aside from  $\emptyset$

wood carving exhibitions and auctions, the festival will also present hundreds of artisans and performers who will showcase their exceptional skill in weavings, boating, and various dances and traditional musical performances. (EV6.S1)

The noun phrase *wood carving exhibitions and auctions* needs a definite article in front of it as Leech and Svartvik (1975: 52-53) state on the circumstances above that the identity of *wood carving* has been established by an earlier mention. Thus, the sentence should read *Aside from the wood carving exhibitions and auctions, ....*

The second group of errors found in the use of determiners is the misuse of the demonstratives *this, that, these, and those*.

Only one error was found in the demonstrative use, as shown below:

- (8) There will be 600 participants projected in these 3 days summit (EV2.S1).

The demonstrative *these* in the noun phrase *these 3 days summit* should be substituted with *this* since the noun phrase *3 days summit* is a singular count noun, so according to Leech and Svartvik (1975: 225), a singular count noun should use *this* rather than *these*. Hence, the whole sentence should read *There will be 600 participants projected in this 3 days summit*.

## b. Number

16 errors were found in this type. They are the substitutions of singular for plural, the substitution of plural for singular and the omission of the measurement in quantitative nouns. Below is an example of the substitution of singular for plural:

- (9) Aside from wood carving exhibitions and auctions, the festival will also present hundreds of artisans and performers who will showcase their exceptional skill in weavings, boating, and various dances and traditional musical performances. (EV6.S1)

The substitution of singular for plural in the noun phrase *their exceptional skill in weaving, boating, and various dances and traditional musical performances* occurs here. The skill mentioned here is more than one (weaving, boating, and etc). According to Brinton (2000: 104), the noun with 'more than one' concept is considered as plural count noun. Thus the noun *skill* here requires the suffix */-s/* as the regular plural form (Leech and Svartvik, 1975: 252). Therefore, the sentence should read *Aside from wood carving exhibitions and auctions, the festival will also present hundreds of artisans and performers who will showcase their exceptional skills in weavings, boating, and various dances and traditional musical performances*.

Besides, the error of the omission of measurement expressions is shown below:

- (10) Jakarta's Soekarno-Hatta international airport handled 14.83 million passengers, followed by Surabaya's Juanda Airport at 5.35 million, Bali's Ngurah Rai handled 3.1 million and the Sultana Hasanuddin Airport in Makassar handled 2.46 Ø passengers during January- September. (N1.S1)

The error above deals with the absence of the measurement *million* after the number 2.46 since it is required to express the number of passengers. Thus, the sentences should read *Jakarta's Soekarno-Hatta international airport handled 14.83 million passengers, followed by Surabaya's Juanda Airport at 5.35 million, Bali's Ngurah Rai*



*handled 3.1 million and the Sultan Hasanuddin Airport in Makassar handled 2.46 million passengers during January-September.*

### c. Use of Preposition

Frank (1972: 171) states that “the preposition has the function of connecting a noun or a pronoun to another word, usually a noun, verb or adjective”. 21 errors were found in the articles in the omission, addition and misuse of the preposition. One example of errors in the omission of preposition is shown below:

- (11) As the airline has been absent  $\emptyset$  10 years from London, Garuda came full force to WTM to announce its return presence to British skies. (N2.S1)

The clause *as the airline has been absent 10 years from London* misses the preposition *for* since according to Quirk and Greenbaum (1973:154) the preposition *for* is used to express a duration of an event. Therefore, the sentence should read *As the airline has been absent for 10 years from London, Garuda came full force to WTM to announce its return presence to British skies.*

#### 4.2.2 Verb Phrase

##### a. Omission of Verbs

One error was found in the articles. The error deals with the omission of the auxiliary as shown below:

- (12) Qi Huan Yinni, Indonesia's Mandarin Website  $\emptyset$  launched at cn.indonesia.travel. (N3.S2)

The auxiliary *is* is omitted from the sentence. Leech and Svartvik (1975: 257) state that the construction of the passive voice is *be +*

past participle. Hence, the auxiliary *is* is required to complete the sentence. The sentence should read *Qi Huan Yinni, Indonesia's Mandarin Website is launched at cn.indonesia.travel.*

##### b. Use of Progressive Tense

The error in this type deals with the substitution of the progressive with past tense. There is one error in this type as shown below:

- (13) Renowned cloth maker/fashion designer and owner of Bin House, Josephine "Obin" Komara, on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2013 launched the first ever textile museum on the fabled island of Bali. (N7.S2)

In the example, the use of the simple past tense is incorrect since this article is posted on the day of the launch, on 21 November 2013 meaning that when it got published, the event was still in progress. Additionally, Huddleston and Pullum (2005: 52) state that the past form is used to indicate a complete event, whereas the progressive aspect is to indicate a situation in progress. Thus, the use of the past form *launched* should be changed into *is launching*. The sentence should read *Renowned cloth maker/fashion designer and owner of Bin House, Josephine "Obin" Komara, on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2013 is launching the first ever textile museum on the fabled island of Bali.*

##### c. Agreement of Subject and Verb

According to Leech and Svartvik (1975: 220), agreement, also called concord, means that “certain grammatical items agree with each other in number or person.”

The most common error of concord occurring here is in the disagreement in

terms of number. There are eight errors found in the articles. One example of the errors is shown here:

- (14) This year, the number of buyers are expected to increase to 83 from 28 countries; while the transaction value is projected to reach over US\$ 19 million. (EV8.S2)

The subject *the number* is considered as a singular form; therefore, the auxiliary *are* is erroneous. The subject *the number* should be followed by *is* instead of *are*. Thus, the sentence has to read *This year, the number of buyers is expected to increase to 83 from 28 countries; while the transaction value is projected to reach over US\$ 19 million.*

#### d. Use of Adverb

There is only one error in the use of adverb. The error is shown below:

- (15) Impatient, Michael swam to shore never to be seen or heard of again. (EV6.S2)

In the example, the word *impatient* is incorrect since it functions as an adverb of manner (Leech and Svartvik, 1975: 197). In this case it functions to show the manner in which Michael swam to the shore. Therefore, it should be *impatiently*. The sentence should read *Impatiently, Michael swam to shore never to be seen or heard of again.*

#### e. Use of Present Perfect Tense

Crowell (1987: 388) mentions three occasions when present perfect tense is used: “(a) to express an action or state begun in the past which has continued up to and into the present, (b) to express an action or state which was repeated in the past and

which will possibly be repeated in the future and (c) to express an action that occurred at an unspecified time in the past.

There are two errors found in the articles. The error deals with the substitution of the present tense for the present perfect tense and the past perfect tense for the present perfect aspect. Below is one example of errors in the use of present perfect tense:

- (16) Since May 2013, passengers from Shanghai are assisted with Immigration on Board facility that will expedite clearance at the airport. (N2.S2)

From the example, the use of the verb *are* is incorrect. The sentence talks about an action which starts on May 2013 and still continues until this present time, the time when this news was published, on 7 November 2013. Additionally, according to Frank (1972: 79) the preposition *since*, used in the sentence above, also indicates a duration of a past-to-present event. Thus, the word *are* should be changed into *has* as the present perfect form. The sentence should read *Since May 2013, passengers from Shanghai have been assisted with Immigration on Board facility that will expedite clearance at the airport.*

#### f. Use of Simple Past Tense

Crowell (1987: 389-390) states the occasions when a simple past tense is used; “(a) to express a completed action which occurred as a specified time in the past, (b) to express a series of past actions, all of which are viewed in relation to the present time, (c) to convert a simple present in past direct speech into indirect speech, and (d) to express an unreal present condition.”

There are two errors found in the use of the simple past tense. One example of the errors is shown below:

- (17) Indonesia's participation in the ongoing Marathon de Paris 2013 is intended to observe how a successful marathon should be organized and managed with respect to design, mechanism, methods, and management structure. (EV12.S2)

In the example above, the sentence talks about the Indonesia's participation which happened in the past, before the Jakarta Marathon. Therefore, the word *is* should be changed into *was* as a form of past tense instead of *is*. The sentence should read *Indonesia's participation in the ongoing Marathon de Paris 2013 was intended to observe how a successful marathon should be organized and managed with respect to design, mechanism, methods, and management structure.*

#### 4.2.3 Coordinating Conjunctions

Leech (2006: 27) argues that coordinators "are used to coordinate, or link, two or more units of the same status". There are ten errors found in the articles. The errors deal with the substitution of the preposition for the conjunction, the omission of the conjunction and the misuse of the conjunction. An example of the omission of the conjunction is as follows:

- (18) The Semarang-Bali flights will be undertaken once daily, leaving Semarang at 12.45 hrs.  $\emptyset$  arriving at Denpasar, Bali, at 15.00 Local time. (N6.S6)

The omission of the coordinator *and* before the word *arriving* occurs in the example above since Huddleston and Pullum (2005:

225) state that a coordination is needed to link two or more elements of equal status, in this case to link between the departure of the flight from Semarang and the arrival. Thus, the sentence should read *The Semarang-Bali flights will be undertaken once daily, leaving Semarang at 12.45 hrs. and arriving at Denpasar, Bali, at 15.00 Local time.*

#### 4.2.4 Parallelism Incorrect

There are four errors found in this type. An example of the errors in the parallelism incorrect are given below:

- (19) The Youth Pledge of 1928, therefore, vowed to build one Indonesian country, one nation, speaking one language: bahasa Indonesia. (DI3.S7)

The word *speaking* is incorrect since it is unparallel with the previous verb *build* with an infinitive form. Besides, there is also an omission of a conjunction *and* before the word *speaking*. Therefore, the word *speaking* should be changed into *speak* to make it parallel with the word *build* since it is also coordinated with *and*. The sentence should read *The Youth Pledge of 1928, therefore, vowed to build one Indonesian country, one nation, and speak one language: bahasa Indonesia.*

## CONCLUSION

Some conclusions can be drawn from the previous discussion. The number of grammatical errors found in the three menus do not seem to show a significant difference. The number of errors found in the News menu (15.46 per 1000 words) is greater than those in the Discover Indonesia menu (12.97) and the Events menu (12.65). Furthermore, out the 150 errors, most (87.33%) belong to the syntactic category and only 12.67% belong to the morphological category.

As for the morphological errors, most occurred in the incorrect use of nominal modifiers (9 or 47.37%) and the second most common errors (5 or 26.32%) occurred in the incorrect use of third person singular verbs. As for the syntactic errors, the most common (102 or 77.87%) occurred in the use of the noun phrase, followed by the use of the verb phrase (15 or 11.45%).

In particular, out of the 102 errors in the use of the noun phrase, most errors (65 or 63.72%) occurred in the use of determiners, i.e., the omission of both definite and indefinite articles and the misuse of demonstratives.

The results of this research are comparable to the studies by Simbolon (2013) and Atibrata (2011). Simbolon investigates grammatical errors found in the websites of three Indonesian public universities, whereas Atibrata examines students' errors in the use of determiners. Simbolon found that most (25%) occurred in the use of determiners, particularly, the omission of the definite article. Similarly, Atibrata found that the most common errors happened in the omission of the articles (72.44%), particularly, the omission of the definite articles.

The results of this research show that most of the errors in the website happened in the omission of the articles, particularly the definite article. The results also suggest that they do not clearly understand the occasions when the articles must be used correctly in the noun phrase.

The errors indicate that the ministry is not serious enough in viewing the importance of this website in spreading information about Indonesia. More importantly, the errors indicate that the ministry do not seem to invest enough in competent English writers to manage the English version of the website. In other words, the results suggest that the ministry should be more serious in managing the

website, especially the English version by investing more proficient writers to manage the English version, so that errors can be reduced to a minimum.

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