

## ABSTRACT

Students of SMA often commit errors in the English Grammar, particularly on the grammatical aspect of Subject-Verb Concord of Number and Person. These errors cannot be neglected by teachers of SMA ; these errors certainly need remedial work especially when we know that Subject-Verb Concord of Number and Person is a basic grammatical aspect which has to be mastered by the students. Based on this fact, the writer chose to focus the study on Subject-Verb Concord of Number and Person.

The first purpose of the thesis is to uncover the difficulties private SMA students in general face in learning Subject-Verb Concord of Number and Person. The second purpose is to uncover the underlying reasons for having the difficulties. After both purposes of study are fulfilled, the writer will suggest a way of teaching Subject-Verb Concord of Number and Person to SMA students in general based on the theory of Communicative Approach.

In writing this thesis, the writer conducted a sample survey on the private SMA students' mastery of Subject-Verb Concord of Number and Person. The method of obtaining the data was through giving two types of test (two-choice and completion items) on Subject-Verb Concord of Number and Person to the students of SMA Institut Indonesia I, SMA Keluarga Kudus, SMA Muhammadiyah KOKAP; semester four ; A1, A2, and A3 programs in the academic year of 1989-1990. The data obtained was then analyzed based on the theory of error analysis.

The results of the findings show that the students' individual achievement on the test is less than 75%. Only a few students can achieve equal to or more than ( $\geq$ ) 75% correct items in the test. The data on the group achievement shows that no group is able to achieve

>= 75% correct items in the test. Thus, the students in general are considered to have difficulties in Subject-Verb Concord of Number and Person. The difficulties are shown in the errors made by the students in the test. The writer identified three major classifications of errors on Subject-Verb Concord of Number and Person made by the students: overgeneralization, ignorance of rule restrictions, and false concepts hypothesized.

The writer also found out that there are three major factors causing the difficulties faced by the students in general on the mastery of Subject-Verb Concord of Number and Person. They are the nature of the mother tongue (Indonesian), the nature of the target language (English), and the nature of the language teaching at present.

In the final part of this thesis, the writer tries to suggest a way of teaching based on the communicative approach. The communicative approach is chosen, in this case, because this approach is adopted as a better approach than those that put too much stress on structure in English teaching in Indonesia nowadays.

It is hoped that the suggested way of teaching Subject-Verb Concord of Number and Person will be helpful for teachers of English in private SMAs in general.