

ABSTRACT

Most second language learners make errors in the process of mastering the language. In English, there are many complex parts of grammar which often give students difficulties in learning them. One of them is the pluralization of English nouns.

A human being is unique. Everybody has no exactly the same competence. One has different competence from another. The difference may be caused by many factors. Based on the difference in the development of education between Yogyakarta and Pontianak, many people believe the students' competence in Yogyakarta is better than that in Pontianak.

The objective of this research, firstly, was to prove that the competence of students in Yogyakarta is higher than that of students in Pontianak. Secondly, it was to find out difficulties that have caused students to have problems in pluralizing the English nouns.

In writing this thesis, a sample survey was conducted. The sample was taken from the second year students of both cities, Yogyakarta and Pontianak. The data were obtained through giving a test on pluralization to the second year students of SMA Stella Duce II Diakui Yogyakarta, SMA Binatama Sinduadi Disamakan Yogyakarta,

SMA Soegijapranata Diakui Pontianak, SMA Panca Bakti Disamakan Pontianak. The data collected were then analyzed based on the theory of error analysis and the scores obtained were computed in order to know the competence of the students from both cities.

The result showed that most of the students' achievement was much lower than 75 %. It proved that the students still found difficulties in pluralizing English nouns. The students' difficulties were then analyzed based on the sources of errors, and after that, the students' scores were computed by using the t-test. It was found that the scores of the students in Yogyakarta were higher than those of the students in Pontianak. This reflected that the students in Yogyakarta had higher competence in pluralizing the English nouns. Some possible factors causing the different competence were then stated in this report.

Finally, a way of teaching pluralization was suggested. Hopefully, the way suggested would be helpful for English teachers in general.