

ABSTRACT

Contrastive study between two languages is expected to reveal the similarities and differences between them. The differences may cause interference because there are no structures^{al} equivalence of L1 and L2, and the similarities may cause positive transfer since there are equivalent structures of L1 and L2. The differences may hamper the learning process, while the similarities will facilitate the learning process. This study aimed at identifying Tetun Dili and English pronoun system and comparing them in order to find out their differences and similarities. By knowing the differences one will be able to predict Tetun Dili speakers' difficulties in learning English pronouns. The objective of this study was to help foreign language teachers prepare and teach English pronoun systems to Tetun speaking students so that they can learn better.

The method which was taken for conducting this study was a contrastive analysis or contrastive study. This study was done through contrasting English and Tetun-Dili pronouns which were taken from grammar books of the two languages. This method was conducted under the following procedures : the list of pronouns of L1 and L2, their classification, description, comparison, and identification.

The result found in this study was, among others, characteristics of English and Tetun-Dili pronoun systems. I discovered several characteristics of English pronouns that do not exist in Tetun-Dili pronouns. The differences are the absence of case-contrast and gender forms in Tetun Dili pronouns systems. One of the examples is the use of the masculine pronoun for a female.

Example:

* Maria is a student. He is clever and beautiful.

This error may occur because there is no gender in Tetun Dili pronouns systems. Tetun-Dili speakers, therefore, find them quite difficult in learning the target language and transfer may possibly occur. One cannot assume, however, that the mistakes made by the students are only caused by the different characteristics of L1 and L2 or their interference on L1.