

Analysis of spelling errors in student papers case studies on counseling education and guidance papers

Nur Fitriana¹, Nur Hana Nafisa¹, Hety Diana Septika¹

¹ Universitas Mulawarman

Correspondence: hetyum@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

Spelling errors are still often found in students' scientific papers and can affect the quality and clarity of the information conveyed. Therefore, this study was conducted to examine the forms of spelling errors contained in student papers based on the General Guidelines for Indonesian Spelling (PUEBI). This study aims to analyze spelling errors contained in PGSD student papers. In the PGSD student paper that has been presented, the mistake is that you will see the spelling element of writing in the paper. The method used is descriptive with language error analysis techniques. The purpose of this study is to analyze the mistakes students make when using EBI in their papers. The results of the analysis showed that spelling errors were more common in both papers, including: (1) errors in writing absorption words; (2) misuse of capital letters; (3) non-standard word writing errors; (4) question mark errors in question sentences; and (5) errors in the writing of remunerative/combined words; (6) period errors; (7) comma error; (8) incorrect date writing; (9) misspelling of terms; and (10) the use of ineffective sentences. These findings show that the understanding and application of PUEBI by students still needs to be improved so that the quality of writing scientific papers becomes better and in accordance with the rules of the Indonesian language.



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INTRODUCTION

Writing scientific papers is one of the academic competencies that must be mastered by students. Good scientific work is judged not only by the depth of the content, but also by the accuracy of the use of language rules, including spelling. Correct spelling reflects good language skills and shows the professionalism of the writer.

Proper spelling is very important in scientific writing because it can affect the meaning that the writer wants to convey (Hasanah & Utami, 2020; Marselina, 2022). Inaccuracies in the use of standard words, the writing of foreign words, or the use of punctuation marks can cause confusion for readers (Pratiwi, Elisan, & Sekar, 2023; Natasya, et al., 2024). For example, the use of non-standard words or the writing of foreign words that are not in accordance with the guidelines of the Enhanced Indonesian Language Spelling (EYD) can reduce the professionalism of a scientific work. Similarly, errors in the use of punctuation, such as misplaced commas or misused periods, can change the meaning of the sentence you want to convey.

Spelling mistakes are one of the most common types of language mistakes found in student writing. Based on the General Guidelines for Indonesian Spelling (PUEBI), there are standard rules related to the use of capital letters, writing absorbed words, using punctuation, and others. Violations of these rules can affect the clarity of meaning and reduce the quality of scientific work.

Indonesian has a very important position as a means of communication and also as a state language. However, even though Indonesian has been learned from elementary school, there are still many mistakes in the use of the language. Good and correct Indonesian language skills are very minimal both among the public and academics.

Language plays a very important role in daily life because without language we cannot communicate between people. Language is an ability that humans have in communicating with fellow

humans. Language is a system formed by a number of components that are patterned in a fixed and orderable manner. The language system is in the form of sound symbols, each language symbol symbolizes something called a meaning or concept. Language consists of words or a collection of words that contain meaning. Language uses symbols as objects that represent words or vocabulary. An agreement in using a language or language guideline is called grammar. If language guidelines are not used, there will be a language error. Language errors can affect the meaning of language.

Grammatical mastery and correct use of punctuation are crucial aspects of language skills, especially in academic contexts. Students, as prospective educators, are expected to have good and correct language skills, in accordance with the rules of Improved Spelling (EYD). However, the reality in the field shows that many students still make mistakes in the use of punctuation and the application of EYD in their written works, including papers. Errors in the use of punctuation and EYD not only reflect a lack of understanding of the standard Indonesian rules, but can also affect the quality of written communication and academic assessment.

Based on these problems, this study was conducted to analyze spelling errors contained in two PGSD student papers, namely the paper with the theme of Civic Education (PKN) and the paper with the theme of Guidance and Counseling (BK). Both papers were chosen as data sources because they represent academic papers. The analysis was carried out by referring to the General Guidelines for Indonesian Spelling (PUEBI) to identify various forms of spelling errors that appear, such as the use of capital letters, the writing of standard words and absorption words, the use of punctuation, the writing of terms, and the use of effective sentences. Through this research, it is hoped that it can help improve the quality of paper writing, so that the results of the research can be used as evaluation material and input in improving the ability to write scientific papers in accordance with the rules of good and correct Indonesian language.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses a qualitative descriptive method with a language error analysis approach. Data was collected from two student papers by carefully reading each part of the writing, starting from the introduction, problem formulation, objectives, to the content of the discussion. Error identification is carried out by referring to the latest edition of the Indonesian Spelling General Guidelines (PUEBI) as a normative reference.

This approach was chosen because the main data of the research was in the form of student written texts that were analyzed based on the applicable spelling rules. In accordance with the view (Sugiyono, 2014, in (Sucipta, 2024) p. 1094) qualitative research focuses on the meaning of phenomena and provides a comprehensive picture of the reality being studied. Therefore, the qualitative descriptive method is very relevant to be used to identify various writing errors that often occur in student writing.

The subject of this research is students who produce papers as course assignments, while the object of research is the writing errors in the paper. The types of errors analyzed included the use of capitalization, italics, punctuation, preposition writing, affixion writing, and word combination. Research data was obtained from a number of student papers selected through the purposive sampling method, which is the selection of documents that are deliberately based on their suitability with research needs. The papers analyzed are original works of students so that they provide an authentic representation of the use of spelling in the context of scientific writing in higher education. Furthermore, each error is classified according to its type and given the appropriate form of correction.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study analyzes two student papers, namely a paper with the theme of Civic Education (PKN) and a paper with the theme of Guidance and Counseling (BK). The analysis was carried out based on the rules listed in the General Guidelines for Indonesian Spelling (PUEBI). The results of this study show that both papers still contain various forms of spelling errors, both in terms of word writing, the use of capital letters, the writing of terms, and the use of punctuation. Meanwhile, the results of the research are as follows:

A. Paper 1 (Theme: Civic Education)

In Paper 1, as many as eight spelling errors were found. The most dominant errors are in writing non-standard words, using capital letters, writing absorbed words, and writing combinations of words. These errors were found in the preface, the content of the paper, and the writing of the date.

Table 1. Spelling Mistakes on Paper 1

Yes	Incorrect writing	Correct writing	Description / analysis
1	<i>The Presence of Allah SWT</i>	to the presence of Allah Swt. / the presence of Allah Swt.	The writing of God's name and the abbreviation of religious titles must use capital letters according to PUEBI. 'Allah' is capitalized, 'Swt.' is an abbreviation of subhanahu wa ta'ala which is written with a capital letter at the beginning.
2	<i>His mercy</i>	His grace	There is an improper repetition of the form of ownership. The suffixes 'his' and 'his' cannot be used together. The true form is 'His grace' (referring to God, capital letter).
3	<i>Thank you</i>	Thank you	According to PUEBI and KBBI, 'thank you' is written as two separate words, not assembled into one word.
4	<i>maritime</i>	Maritime	The word absorption from the English 'maritime' in standard Indonesian becomes 'maritim' (without the -e at the end). Adjustments to the spelling of absorption words must follow the rules of PUEBI.
5	<i>Negative</i>	Negative	The word absorption from English 'negative' in standard Indonesian becomes 'negative'. The suffix -ive in English is absorbed into -if in Indonesian. The suffix -ive in English is absorbed into -if in Indonesian.
6	<i>Inconsistency of capital letters (title, subtitle, Allah SWT)</i>	Consistent writing according to PUEBI	The use of capital letters should be consistent: 'Allah SWT' should be 'Allah Swt.', titles and subheadings use capital letters at the beginning of each word (except the verb), not all capital letters or all lowercase letters.
7	<i>Inter-regional</i>	Inter-regional	The prefix 'between-' in the root word is written in a series so that the correct form is 'inter-region'.
8	<i>05 May 2026</i>	May 5, 2026	Writing dates in scientific papers does not need to use the number zero in front of the date.

B. Paper 2 (Theme: Guidance and Counseling-Based Learning)

In the BK paper, seven spelling errors were found. Errors found include typographical errors, punctuation, term writing, and less effective use of sentences. These errors are found on the title page, the problem formulation, the purpose of the nullification, and the discussion content section.

Table 2. Spelling Mistakes on Paper 2

Yes	Incorrect writing	Correct writing	Description / analysis
1	<i>Inhabit (title page)</i>	Meet	There was a typographical error on the title page. The letter 'e' replaces the 'u' thus changing the shape and meaning of the word.
2	<i>What is the role of teachers in the implementation of nuanced learning of guidance and counseling [without?]</i>	What is the role of teachers in the implementation of learning with nuances of guidance and counseling?	The question sentence must end with a question mark (?). The absence of question marks violates the rules for the use of punctuation according to PUEBI.
3	<i>Learning Implementation</i>	Learning Implementation	There is a dissipation of the syllable '-na-' so that it forms a non-standard word. The correct form is 'implementation' (from the root word 'laksana' + the prefix pe- + the suffix -an).
4	<i>Counseling Guidance (BK)</i>	Guidance and Counseling (BK)	The name of the field of science and course is officially written Guidance and Counseling. The omission of the connecting word and causes the term to become incompatible with the form that is applied academically and administratively.
5	<i>his life</i>	life.	The news sentence must end with a period as a marker for the end of the statement. The absence of periods causes sentences to not meet the rules for using punctuation marks in Indonesian.
6	<i>1) Slameto (2010:2), states</i>	Slameto (2010:2) states	Commas are not used to separate subjects and predicates. In this sentence, the phrase Slameto (2010:2) functions as a subject, while stating functions as a predicate. Therefore, the use of commas becomes inappropriate and should be eliminated.
7	<i>To learn better</i>	To learn better	A better phrase contains a waste of words because the meaning of improvement is already expressed by the word better. The use of the word again becomes ineffective and makes the sentence less concise. In scientific works, the

principle of word saving needs to be considered so that sentences are more effective.

C. Comparison of Spelling Errors Between Two Papers

The results of the comparison show that the two papers have different error characteristics. Paper 1 contains more errors related to the use of standard forms of language, such as writing absorbed words, capital letters, and compound words. Meanwhile, Paper 2 contains more technical errors in the form of typing errors and the use of punctuation.

Table 3. Spelling Error Recapitulation

Yes	Error types	Paper 1 (PKN)	Paper 2 (BK)
1	Non-standard word writing	✓ (maritime, negative, thank you)	✓ (Occupying, enforcement)
2	Capital errors	✓ (Allah SWT, title, subtitle)	–
3	Absence of punctuation	–	✓ (question mark)
4	Recurrence of ownership	✓ (His Grace)	–
5	Capitalization/combination errors	✓ (inter-region)	–
6	Period error	-	✓ (his life)
7	Comma errors	-	✓ (Slameto (2010:2), states)
8	Date typing error	✓ (05 May 2026)	-
9	Term misspellings	-	✓ (Counseling Guidance → Guidance and Counseling)
10	Ineffective sentences	-	✓ (to learn better)
Total findings		8 Errors	7 Mistakes

DISCUSSION

The results of the analysis of the two student papers found various spelling errors which included non-standard word writing, capital letter errors, absence of punctuation, repetition of ownership forms, errors in the writing of affix/combined words, period errors, comma errors, date writing errors. These errors show that students' understanding of the General Guidelines for Indonesian Spelling (PUEBI) still needs to be improved.

1. Non-standard word writing

The results of the study showed that in both papers several words were found that were not in accordance with the standard form of the Indonesian language, such as thank you, maritime, negative, Occupying, and exercising. According to the General Guidelines for Indonesian Spelling (PUEBI) and the Great Dictionary of Indonesian Language (KBBI), the correct forms are gratitude, maritime,

negative, fulfillment, and implementation. The use of standard words is very important in scientific papers because it reflects the accuracy of language and improves the quality of academic writing. This finding is in line with the research of Podding et al. (2024) who stated that standard word writing errors are still often found in student papers due to a lack of understanding of the rules of the Indonesian language.

2. Capital errors

The error in the use of capital letters is found in the writing of Allah SWT and the inconsistency of the writing of Allah SWT. According to PUEBI, capital letters are used as the first letter of God's name and an abbreviation of religious titles, so the correct form is Allah SWT. This mistake shows that students still do not understand the rules for using capital letters in writing scientific papers. The results of this study are in line with Nurhamidah (2018) who stated that capital errors are one of the most common spelling errors found in student writing.

3. Absence of punctuation

In the BK paper, there is a question sentence that does not end with a question mark, namely in the sentence What is the role of teachers in the implementation of learning with guidance and counseling nuances. According to PUEBI, each question sentence must end with a question mark (?). The proper use of punctuation is essential because it helps the reader understand the intent of a sentence.

4. Repeating the Form of Ownership

The error of repetition of the form of possession is found in the writing of His grace. This form is not in accordance with the rules of the Indonesian language because there is a repetition of the ownership marker. According to PUEBI, the right form is His grace. This mistake shows a lack of understanding of students regarding the use of belonging pronouns that refer to God in Indonesian.

5. Errors in Writing Remuneration/Word Combinations

Errors were found in inter-regional writing that should have been written inter-regionally. Based on PUEBI, the inter- element followed by the root word is written in series. This mistake shows that students have not fully understood the rules for writing affixed words and combinations of words in Indonesian. Similar findings were also found in the research of Yusuf et al. (2024) which stated that errors in the writing of combined words are still found in many scientific papers of students.

6. Period Error

The mistake in using the period is found in sentences that do not end with a period, i.e. their life. According to PUEBI, news sentences must end with a period (.). The absence of periods can cause sentences to be incomplete in terms of writing structure.

7. Comma Errors

A comma error was found in the sentence Slameto (2010:2), stated. According to PUEBI, commas are not used to separate subjects and predicates. Therefore, the correct form is as Slameto (2010:2) states. This mistake shows that students do not understand the exact function of commas in scientific sentences.

8. Date Writing Errors

An error was found at the time of writing on May 05, 2026. Based on the rules of Indonesian writing, the number zero in front of the date does not need to be used, so the correct form is May 5, 2026. This mistake shows that students still do not understand the format of writing dates in scientific papers.

9. Term Writing Errors

A misspelling of the term was found in the use of Counseling Guidance (BK). According to the prevailing academic term, the correct form is Guidance and Counseling (BK). The use of the right term is very important in scientific works so that the meaning conveyed is in accordance with the field of science being discussed.

10. Ineffective Sentences

An ineffective sentence error is found in the phrase to learn better. According to effective sentence theory, a sentence must meet the principle of frugality, which is to avoid excessive use of words. Another word in the sentence is not necessary because the meaning of improvement is already contained in the phrase better. Therefore, a more effective form is to learn better. This finding shows that students still need to improve their ability to compose sentences that are effective and in accordance with the rules of scientific writing.

CONCLUSION

Analysis of the two student papers found that the two papers still contained various spelling errors that were not in accordance with the General Guidelines for Indonesian Spelling (PUEBI). These errors include non-standard word writing, capital letter errors, absence of punctuation, repetition of ownership forms, errors in writing remuneration/combination words, period errors, comma errors, date writing errors. Citizenship Education (PKN) papers show more errors in the writing of absorption words, capital letters, and forms of ownership, while Guidance and Counseling (BK) papers are dominated by typing errors and the use of punctuation.

The conclusion in this study is that students make mistakes in the use of spelling due to their lack of knowledge about the content of the Indonesian spelling guidelines (PUEBI) and also the lack of knowledge about Indonesian vocabulary. This will result in the use of good and correct language in the rich writing of student papers. The impact of this misspelling is significant on the credibility of scientific papers, because it interferes with the clarity of meaning, readability, and professionalism of student writing. In the academic context, this can reduce the value of assignments, hinder the delivery of critical arguments, and affect readers' perception of the quality of research. More broadly, this condition hinders the development of writing skills as a language skill.

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