

Analysis of syntax errors in the form of ineffective sentences, inaccuracies in phrases, and absence of sentence elements in student papers

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Article Information

Article History:

Received Jun 12th, 2026

Revised Aug 16th, 2026

Accepted Aug 26th, 2026

Keywords:

Analysis of syntactic errors;
Sentences are ineffective;
Phrases; Sentence Elements ;
Student papers

ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze syntactic errors contained in student papers. The focus of the research includes errors in the form of ineffective sentences, inaccuracies in the arrangement of phrases, and the absence of sentence elements. This study uses a qualitative descriptive method with document analysis techniques. The research data was obtained from two student papers that were analyzed based on the syntactic rules of the Indonesian language. Data collection techniques are carried out through reading, identifying, classifying, and analyzing the forms of errors found. The results showed that the most dominant syntactic errors were the use of ineffective sentences, which were characterized by excessive use of words, long-winded sentences, and inappropriate use of conjunctions. In addition, it was found that there was an inaccuracy in the arrangement of phrases that caused the meaning of sentences to be unclear and the absence of sentence elements, such as subjects or predicates, which resulted in incomplete sentences. The findings of this study show that students' ability to apply syntactic rules still needs to be improved in order to produce more effective, systematic, and in accordance with the rules of the Indonesian language that are good and correct.



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INTRODUCTION

Language is an important means of communication in conveying ideas and information, especially in writing scientific papers. One of the linguistic aspects that needs attention is syntax, which is a branch of linguistics that studies the relationships between words in forming phrases, clauses, and sentences that are in accordance with the rules of language (Chaer, 2015). Language has a very important role in human life as a means of communication, information delivery, scientific development, and media to express ideas and thoughts. In the world of higher education, good and correct language skills are one of the competencies that students must have, especially in producing scientific papers. Scientific papers are a form of academic communication that is used to convey the results of thoughts, studies, and research in a systematic and accountable manner. Therefore, the use of Indonesian language in accordance with linguistic rules is the main requirement in the preparation of scientific papers so that the message conveyed can be understood appropriately by readers.

One form of scientific work that is often compiled by students is papers. Papers not only function as a means of learning evaluation, but also as a medium to train critical, analytical, and systematic thinking skills. In the process of compiling, students are required to be able to organize ideas logically and present them in the form of effective and communicative sentences. However, in reality, there are still many language errors found in student papers, both in terms of spelling, morphology, semantics, and syntax. These errors can reduce the quality of scientific work and hinder the delivery of information to readers. Research on the variety of standard languages in students' scientific papers shows that syntactic errors are still one of the forms of errors that are often found in student academic writing.

Syntax is a branch of linguistics that studies the relationships between words in forming larger units, such as phrases, clauses, and sentences. In the context of scientific writing, mastery of syntax is essential because the right sentence structure will result in effective, logical, and easy-to-understand writing. On the other hand, syntactic errors can lead to ambiguity of meaning, unclear information, and ineffectiveness of written communication. Syntactic errors that are often found in student writing include the use of improper conjunctions, sentences without a subject or predicate, duplication of subjects, the use of incomplete sentence elements, misalignment of forms, and illogical sentences. These various forms of errors show that students still have difficulties in applying the principles of Indonesian syntax correctly in academic writing.

The problem of syntactic errors in students' scientific work is not a new phenomenon. Various previous studies have shown that errors at the syntax level still dominate student writing, even in students of study programs who specifically study languages. Research on student scientific journal articles found that syntactic errors occur a lot in the application of effective sentence principles, thereby reducing the quality of the scientific writing produced. Similarly, research on student thesis shows errors in the structure of phrases and sentences that indicate that students have not mastered the rules of syntax optimally. These findings show that students' syntax abilities still require attention and continuous coaching.

Syntax errors in paper writing can be influenced by a variety of factors. One of the factors that is often found is the lack of students' understanding of the good and correct sentence structure of the Indonesian language. In addition, the influence of regional languages, the habit of using informal language in daily communication, the lack of culture of reading scientific papers, and the lack of experience in academic writing also contribute to the emergence of syntactic errors. Recent research shows that the dominant errors in students' academic writing are incomplete sentence construction, incorrect use of conjunctions, inaccurate phrasing formation, and subject-predicate-object structure errors. This condition reflects the weak mastery of students' mastery of the syntactic rules of the Indonesian language.

In the university environment, the analysis of syntactic errors in student papers is important because it can provide a real picture of the level of mastery of the Indonesian language of students in academic activities. The results of the analysis are not only useful for identifying the forms of errors that appear, but can also be used as a basis for designing more effective learning strategies in improving students' scientific writing skills. In addition, this research can contribute to the development of linguistic studies, especially in the field of analysis of language errors in syntactic order.

The research on the analysis of syntactic errors in the papers of Elementary School Teacher Education students is expected to be able to identify the forms of syntactic errors that appear, determine the most dominant error tendencies, and provide the most dominant improvement recommendations, as well as provide improvement recommendations that can be used to improve the quality of student scientific paper writing. Thus, the results of this research can contribute to efforts to improve students' academic competence and the development of good and correct use of the Indonesian language in the university environment.

RESEARCH METHODS

Syntax talks about the relationships between words in speech that form grammatical units in the form of phrases, clauses, and sentences (Chaer, 2015). According to Henry Guntur Tarigan, language error analysis is the process of identifying, classifying, explaining, and evaluating mistakes made by language users.

This research uses a qualitative descriptive approach because it aims to describe the forms of syntactic errors found in student academic documents. This approach is also used in the research of Nurwicaksono and Amelia (2018) and Hamdani et al. (2024) who analyzed language errors in students' scientific papers through language data identification, classification, and interpretation techniques.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the results of the analysis of the paper Islamic Law Sources and Citations and Reference Systems, several sentence structure errors were found which included ineffective sentences, inaccuracy in phrase arrangement, absence of subjects, and errors in writing systematics. These errors

show that the author still does not pay attention to linguistic rules in the preparation of scientific papers so that some of the information conveyed becomes less clear and less effective.

In the paper Sources of Islamic Law, sentences are found that do not have a complete structure, such as the absence of a clear predicate in the sentence explaining the purpose of writing the paper. The incompleteness of the sentence elements causes the relationship between the subject and the predicate to be unclear so that the reader must interpret the intention to be conveyed himself. In addition, it was also found that the use of phrases that were not in accordance with the topic of discussion, namely the existence of phrases that discuss humans and nature in the purpose of writing, even though the content of the paper discusses the sources of Islamic law. This inconsistency results in a lack of connection between the purpose of the writing and the content of the discussion. Another error is also found in the use of conjunctions while those that are inappropriate because they do not show any comparative relationship or contradiction with the previous sentence. The use of inappropriate conjunctions can reduce the effectiveness of sentences and hinder the reader's understanding of the information conveyed.

In addition, there are sentences that do not have a subject so that the subject matter in the sentence becomes unclear. In scientific works, the existence of the subject is very important because it serves as the main element that explains who or what is being discussed. The absence of a subject can lead to ambiguity and give rise to various interpretations. Other errors are in the form of inaccuracies in the arrangement of phrases, such as the use of words derived without being followed by the preposition of, and the use of inappropriate wording in discussions about *ijtihad*. This error shows that the author still does not pay attention to grammatical rules in composing sentences. Therefore, improvements are needed so that sentences become more effective, clear, and in accordance with the rules of good and correct Indonesian language.

Meanwhile, in the paper Citation and Reference System, errors were found in the writing systematics, namely the repetition of numbered letters in several subchapter headings. Although this error does not directly affect the content of the discussion, it shows a lack of precision in the preparation of the format of the scientific paper. Correct systematic writing is very important because it reflects the neatness and quality of a scientific work. In addition, some sentences were found to be too long and contain many ideas at once, causing the sentences to be less effective. Sentences that are too long tend to be difficult to understand because the reader has to capture a lot of information at once. Therefore, this kind of sentence should be broken down into several shorter sentences so that the ideas conveyed become clearer and more structured.

Another error is found in the use of foreign terms in explanations of indirect quotations. The use of words or repetitive ones causes sentence arrangements to be less effective and inefficient. In addition, there are sentences that combine two equivalent clauses using only commas. The use of punctuation is inappropriate because the two clauses have the same position and should be separated into two sentences or connected with appropriate conjunctions. This error can cause the relationship between the two to be less clear so that the information to be conveyed is not optimally received by the reader. In the discussion section about the bibliography and APA style, there are also sentences that are too long and contain several ideas at once, so it needs to be simplified to make it easier to understand.

Overall, the most dominant mistake in both papers was the ineffective use of sentences. These errors are characterized by sentences that are too long, inappropriate use of words, and incompleteness of sentence elements. In addition, it was also found to be inaccurate in the arrangement of phrases, the use of inappropriate conjunctions, the absence of a subject, and errors in the systematics of writing. These errors can reduce the quality of scientific work because it causes the information conveyed to be less clear and less easy to understand. Therefore, the author needs to pay more attention to the completeness of sentence elements, the accuracy of word selection, and the effective use of sentence structure so that the scientific work produced becomes better, systematic, and in accordance with the applicable Indonesian language rules.

A. Paper 1 – Islamic Religious Education Paper (Theme: Sources of Islamic Law)

In the first paper, syntax errors are triggered by ineffective sentences and phrase inaccuracies.

Table 1. Syntax Errors in Paper 1

No	Error types	Data (Error)	Repairs	Remarks
1.	Ineffective Sentences	The purpose of writing this paper is to fulfill one of the duties of Mr. Makmun.	The purpose of writing this paper is to fulfill one of the duties of Mr. Makmun.	This sentence does not have a clear predicate. After the subject "the purpose of writing this paper" should be the predicate "is".
2.	Inaccuracy of phrase arrangement	In addition, the purpose of making this paper is to increase knowledge about humans and nature.	In addition, the purpose of making this paper is to increase knowledge about the sources of Islamic law.	The phrase "man and nature" is not in accordance with the topic of a paper that discusses the sources of Islamic law, thus causing a mismatch in meaning.
3.	Ineffective sentences	While the meaning according to the terms (terminology) of the Qur'an is.	According to the terminology, the Qur'an is.	The word "whereas" is used to express a contradiction or comparison, but in this sentence there are no elements to be compared.
4.	Absence of subject	Mutawatir, written in the mishaf, begins with surah Al-Fatihah and ends with surah An-Nas.	The Qur'an is conveyed in a metawatir, written in mushaf, starting with surah Al-Fatihah, and ending with surah An-Nas.	The sentence does not have a clear subject so the reader does not know what it means.
5.	Inaccuracy of phrase arrangement	The word ijtihaad comes from the Arabic word ijtahadah-yajtahiduh-ijtihaadan.	The word ijtihaad comes from the Arabic word ijtahadah-yajtahiduh-ijtihaadan.	The phrase is incomplete because it does not use the preposition "from".
6.	Ineffective sentences	Ijtihaad should not be done carelessly, but should be done by a	Ijtihaad should not be done carelessly, but can only be done by people	The phrase "must be by people" is not appropriate and does not fit

person who has knowledge.	who have knowledge.	into the standard structure of the Indonesian language.
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Based on the results of the analysis in Table 1, several sentence structure errors were found in the analyzed paper. These errors include ineffective sentences, inaccurate phrase arrangements, and absence of sentence elements.

Data 1: There is an ineffective sentence error in the sentence "The purpose of writing this paper is to fulfill one of the tasks...". This error occurs because the sentence does not have a clear predicate, so the relationship between the subject and the predicate becomes incomplete. As a result, the information conveyed becomes less effective and less easy for readers to understand.

Data 2: There is an inaccuracy in the arrangement of phrases in the sentence "In addition, the purpose of making this paper is to increase knowledge about humans and nature...". This error occurs because the phrase used does not match the topic of discussion contained in the paper. As a result, there is a discrepancy between the purpose of the writing and the content of the discussion.

Data 3: There is an ineffective sentence error in the sentence "While the meaning according to terms that is not in accordance with the context of the sentence. The word should be used to indicate a comparison or opposition, whereas in the sentence no such relationship is found.

Data 4: There is an error in the form of the absence of a subject in the sentence "Mutawatir, written in the mushaf, starting with surah Al-Fatihah and ending with surah An-Nas.". This error causes the subject matter in the sentence to become unclear because the reader does not know the object being described.

Data 5: There is an inaccuracy in the order of phrases in the sentence "The word *ijtihad* comes from Arabic...". This error occurs due to the absence of the preposition "from" after the word "originated". In fact, the sentence structure is not in accordance with the standard Indonesian rules.

Data 6: There is an ineffective sentence error in the sentence "Ijtihad should not be done carelessly, but must be done by a person who has knowledge...". This error is caused by the use of imprecise phrase arrangement so that the sentence becomes less effective and less clear in conveying the author's intention.

B. Paper 2 – Indonesian Language Paper (Theme: Citations and Reference System)

In the second paper, syntax errors are triggered by ineffective sentences and writing structure errors.

Table 2. Syntax Errors in Paper 2

No	Error Types	Data (Error)	Repairs	Remarks
1.	Writing structure errors	A.A. Background	A. Background	There is a repetition of numbering so that it is not in accordance with the systematics of scientific work.
2.	Structural Errors Writing	B.B. Problem Formulation	B. Problem Formulation	There is a repetition of numbering letters.

3.	Writing structure errors	C. C. Purpose of Writing	C. Purpose of Writing	There is a repetition of numbering letters.
4.	Ineffective sentences	Citations are an integral part of writing scientific papers that serve to support ideas, strengthen arguments, and show that an idea has a basis that can be verified.	Sentences should be broken down into shorter, clearer sentences.	The sentence is too long and contains a lot of information at the same time so that it is difficult for the reader to understand.
5.	Ineffective sentences	Citations have several important functions in scientific writing, including the following: first, citations are used.	Citations have several important functions in scientific writing. First, quotes are used.	The sentence is too long and long-winded. The presentation will be clearer kila made in the form of points.
6.	Inaccuracies in the composition of phrases	Meanwhile, indirect quotations or paraphrases are.	Meanwhile, indirect quotation or paraphrase is	The repeated use of the word "or" makes the sentence less effective.
7.	Ineffective sentences	References play an important role in building the credibility of a scientific work, so compiling a bibliography is an inseparable part.	References play an important role in building the credibility of a scientific work. Therefore, the bibliography is an integral part.	Two equivalent clauses are combined with commas so that they cause sentence structure errors.
8.	Ineffective sentences	In general, bibliography writing uses APA style.	The sentence is broken down into several sentences that are more concise and clear.	Sentences contain too much information in one sentence so that they are effective.

Based on the results of the analysis in Table 2, several errors were found related to the writing structure and sentence structure. These errors include systematic errors in writing, ineffective sentences, and inaccurate phrase arrangements.

Data 1: There is a writing structure error in the title of the subchapter "A. A. Background". This error occurs due to the repetition of numbering letters that are not in accordance with the systematics of writing scientific papers.

Data 2: There is a writing structure error in the section heading of the subchapter "B. B. Problem Formulation". This error indicates an inconsistency in the use of numbering formats so it needs to be corrected to conform to scientific writing guidelines.

Data 3: There is an error in the writing structure in the title of the subchapter "C. C. Purpose of Writing". The error is caused by the repetition of unnecessary numbering letters thus reducing the neatness of writing.

Data 4: There is an ineffective sentence error in the sentence explaining the meaning and function of the citation. This error occurs because the sentence is too long and contains several ideas at once, so the information conveyed becomes unclear and difficult to understand.

Data 5: There is an ineffective sentence error in sentences that explain the function of citations in scientific writing. This error is caused by the use of long-winded sentences so that the delivery of information becomes less efficient and less systematic.

Data 6: There is an inaccuracy in the order of phrases in the sentence "Meanwhile, indirect quotation or paraphrase is...". This error occurs due to the repeated use of the word "or" so that the sentence structure becomes less effective.

Data 7: There is an ineffective sentence error in the sentence "References play an important role in building the credibility of a scientific work, then...". This error occurs because two clauses that have an equal position are only separated by a comma so that the sentence structure becomes less precise.

Data 8: There is an ineffective sentence error in the discussion section about APA style and bibliography. This error is caused by the use of sentences that are too long and contain a lot of information in one sentence, thus reducing the clarity of the information conveyed to the reader.

CONCLUSION

This study aims to analyze syntactic errors contained in student papers. The results of the analysis show that the paper still contains various forms of syntactic errors that can affect the clarity and effectiveness of information delivery in scientific papers. The errors found include ineffective sentences, inaccuracies in the arrangement of phrases, absence of sentence elements such as subject and predicate, incorrect use of conjunctions, and errors in writing structure.

Of the overall data, the most dominant mistake was the use of ineffective sentences. This error appears in the form of sentences that are too long, long-winded, contain more than one idea in one sentence, and use inappropriate words. In addition, errors were also found in the structure of phrases and sentence elements that caused the meaning to be less clear, and even potentially causing ambiguity.

The findings of this study show that students' ability to apply the rules of Indonesian syntax still needs to be improved. Low mastery of good and correct sentence structure can affect the quality of the scientific work produced, both in terms of language and the delivery of ideas. Therefore, more intensive coaching and training are needed on effective sentence writing, the use of appropriate syntactic structures, and the application of standard Indonesian rules in academic writing. Thus, students are expected to be able to produce scientific works that are more systematic, communicative, and in accordance with scientific writing standards.

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