

## LANGUAGE ERRORS IN FOREIGN STUDENT WRITING: A CASE STUDY

Faizah Ahmad<sup>1</sup>; Haslinawati Hassan<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Universiti Utara Malaysia; <sup>2</sup>Insaniah University College

<sup>1</sup>a.faizah@uum.edu.my; <sup>2</sup>hasmizal7566@gmail.com

### ABSTRACT

Malaysia's aspiration to become a regional hub for higher education is becoming a reality with the number of international students growing from year to year. The presence of foreign students to some extent shows the world confidence towards Malaysian education system, whether at public or private universities. Mastery of Malay language among these students is very important in the communication process either oral or written form. With good command of Malay language, they will be able to interact more easily, especially in dealing with the administration and also in their on campus learning process. In order to improve the effectiveness of teaching Malay language to the foreign students, a study should be conducted to identify the problems they encounter in learning the language. Therefore, this study was undertaken to identify the types of language mistakes often made by the foreign students in their writing. In addition, the study also identified the problems and constraints they faced in learning the Malay language. Respondents of the study were fifteen foreign students from various countries who were taking MPW2023 National Language Course at Insaniah University College. Essays written by these students were analyzed to identify language errors in terms of morphology and syntax. The data were analyzed using frameworks established by Nik Safiah Karim, M. Farid Onn, Hashim Musa and Abdul Hamid Mahmood (2011). Based on the analysis, various language errors which include the use of affixes, code mixing, conjunctions, prepositions and sentences have been discovered.

**Keywords:** language errors, foreign students, higher education, writing, Malay/National language

### ABSTRAK

Hasrat Malaysia untuk menjadi hab pengajian tinggi serantau semakin menjadi kenyataan dengan bilangan pelajar antarabangsa yang semakin meningkat dari setahun ke setahun. Kehadiran pelajar asing ini sedikit sebanyak memperlihatkan kepercayaan dunia terhadap sistem pendidikan di Malaysia sama ada di universiti awam ataupun universiti swasta. Penguasaan bahasa Melayu dalam kalangan pelajar asing amat penting dalam proses komunikasi mereka sama ada secara lisan atau tulisan. Melalui penguasaan bahasa Melayu yang baik, mereka akan dapat berinteraksi dengan lebih mudah, khususnya dalam berurusan dengan pihak pentadbiran serta memudahkan proses pembelajaran mereka di kampus. Dalam usaha meningkatkan keberkesanan pengajaran untuk penutur asing, kajian-kajian perlulah dilakukan untuk mengenal pasti masalah-masalah pelajar asing dalam mempelajari bahasa Melayu. Justeru, kajian ini dijalankan untuk mengenal pasti jenis kesalahan bahasa yang sering dilakukan oleh pelajar asing dalam penulisan mereka. Selain itu, kajian ini juga akan cuba mengenal pasti permasalahan dan kekangan yang dihadapi dalam mempelajari bahasa Melayu. Sampel kajian terdiri daripada lima belas orang pelajar asing dari pelbagai negara yang sedang mengikuti kursus Bahasa Kebangsaan MPW2023 di Kolej Universiti Insaniah. Penulisan karangan pelajar dianalisis untuk mengenal pasti kesalahan bahasa dari aspek morfologi dan sintaksis. Data dianalisis menggunakan kerangka Nik Safiah Karim, Farid M. Onn, Hashim Musa dan Abdul Hamid Mahmood (2011). Berdasarkan analisis yang dijalankan pelbagai kesalahan bahasa telah ditemui merangkumi penggunaan imbuhan, percampuran kod, kata hubung, kata sendi nama dan ayat.

Kata kunci: kesalahan bahasa, pelajar asing, pengajian tinggi, penulisan, bahasa Melayu/ bahasa kebangsaan.