

Error - Analysis to Identify Writing Errors in English of Grade Ten Students of North Central Province in Sri Lanka

SMC Bandara, AAM Nizam, BGDS Nandarathna, and Ishari Maduwanthi

Department of English Language Teaching, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

<chandarusl@gmail.com>

Abstract - Error-Analysis is a branch of Applied Linguistics concerned with the compilation, study and analysis of errors made by the second language learners. This qualitative study was undertaken with the purpose of identifying the writing errors in English committed by the Grade Ten students of the North Central Province in Sri Lanka, looking for the reasons for those errors and putting recommendations forward that would help them minimize their errors. This study is vital because, to the date, little research has been done to identify the learner-errors in writing English and, as a result, teaching materials have been compiled with less attention to the language difficulties encountered by the local students. The study was carried out by using a research sample of 50 students of Grade Ten from different schools in the North Central Province. All the participants of the research come from non-English speaking environments and hardly communicate in English outside the English classes. The instruments used in the study were the participants' written compositions and the data obtained were analyzed based on Clinical Elicitation (CE) Research. All the errors committed by the students were marked and put into different categories. Then, they were analyzed qualitatively and the findings of the study revealed that the students had committed several errors such as: spelling, word order and subject-verb agreement frequently. Based on the findings of the study, recommendations were made and they would help syllabus designers design syllabi that should cater to the learners' needs and thereby help ESL learners to avoid the common errors they make in writing.

Keywords: Error-Analysis, Clinical Elicitation Research, Second Language Learning