

Common Grammar Errors Made by Learners in Business Writing (A Study Based on a Group of Diploma Students Learning English)

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Abstract – Grammar is an important component in language learning. In programs designed for English language teaching, grammar is considered difficult to master. Thus, this research study was conducted to identify the frequent grammar errors made by learners of English in writing. When conducting this study a group of 20 students following the Advance Diploma in Business Management at National Institute of Business Management, Kurunegala was selected. Moreover, different types of writings such as essays, letters and emails written by the selected group of students were taken into consideration. This study answers the research questions: what are the common grammar errors made by students and what could be the reasons for these errors. Furthermore, the objectives of this research are to identify the common grammar errors made by the learners, their nature and the reasons for these errors. A qualitative approach was utilized when conducting the research and the data collection was done by analyzing the selected writings. Further, group discussions were conducted to identify the reasons for these errors. According to the findings the most common grammar errors made by students are incorrect use of auxiliary verbs and prepositions, inappropriate use of passive and active voice, usage of the incorrect and inappropriate form of words, and incorrect word order in sentences. When analyzing these errors further, it was identified that the impact of first language interference is one of the main reasons for these errors. Further, these errors are associated with some elements and structures which are nonexistent or less common in their first language. Accordingly, it was identified that more practical and authentic material and interactive teaching methods should be incorporated to make the learners familiar with the correct usage of grammar.

Keywords: Grammar, errors, business writing