PREPOSITIONAL ERRORS IN @BARACKOBAMA'S INSTAGRAM CAPTIONS

Kesalahan Preposisi pada Takarir Instagram @BARACKOBAMA

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Abstrak: *Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengidentifikasi kesalahan preposisional dalam keterangan postingan akun Instagram @barackobama. Penelitian ini menggunakan metodologi penelitian deskriptif kualitatif. Data dalam penelitian ini adalah sebanyak 167 keterangan postingan dari akun Instagram @barackobama sepanjang tahun 2022. Setelah data dianalisis berdasarkan teori preposisional Azar (2006), penelitian ini menemukan 2 kesalahan preposisional, atau sebesar 1,2%, pada dua keterangan postingan yang berbeda. Kesalahan tersebut adalah preposisi waktu dan preposisi tempat. Hasil penelitian ini berbeda dengan hasil penelitian Dwiyanti (2017) dan Putri (2019). Mereka menemukan lebih banyak kesalahan daripada jumlah kesalahan dalam penelitian ini. Perbedaan jumlah kesalahan yang ditemukan bisa jadi karena subjek penelitiannya adalah mahasiswa Indonesia yang merupakan pemelajar bahasa Inggris sebagai bahasa asing. Sedangkan subjek penelitian ini adalah penutur asli bahasa Inggris. Keterangan postingan pada akun Instagram @barackobama sangat direkomendasikan bagi mahasiswa yang mempelajari bahasa Inggris.*

Kata Kunci: kesalahan preposisi, keterangan postingan, Instagram

Abstract: *The purpose of this study is to identify the prepositional errors that are made in the captions of @barackobama's Instagram posts. This study employed a qualitative descriptive research methodology. The data in this study is 167 post captions of @barackobama Instagram accounts during 2022. Based on Azar's (2006) prepositional theory, this study finds 2 prepositional errors, which is equal to 1,2%, in two different captions. The errors are preposition of time and preposition of place. The results of this study differ from those of Dwiyanti (2017) and*

Putri (2019). They found more errors than the number of errors in this study. The difference in the number of errors found can be because the subjects of their study are Indonesian students who are English foreign language learners. While the subject of this study is an English native speaker. The captions of the Instagram posts @barackobama are highly recommended for students to learn English.

Keywords: preposition error, post captions, Instagram

INTRODUCTION

Social media captions are a wonderful illustration of how to analyze errors. Because no one edits the captions that are posted on social media. One of the social media platforms that will be highlighted is Instagram. Currently, individuals from a variety of social groups use Instagram on a regular basis. They utilize Instagram as a platform for having fun and showcasing their social activities, ranging from ordinary people to even state officials. They are unfortunately unaware of whether or not the captions they upload have been written appropriately because there are no caption editors on social media. Problems can include prepositional, grammatical, punctuation, and spelling issues (Yuliah, 2020). This will give those Instagram social media users a very negative image.

The subject of the study material to be conducted, the researchers selected the Instagram user @*barackobama*, who is a public figure, English native speaker and a state official. A native speaker of a language acquires the language since they were born. However, not all native speakers are able to express themselves clearly or create sentences with the appropriate grammatical structure (James, 1998). This occurs because most native speakers frequently fail to employ proper grammar in their sentences, including the present perfect tense, prepositions, punctuation, and spelling.

One of those fails is in employing prepositions. Prepositions are used to make sentences clearer and to convey information effectively (Hidayat, 2018). Prepositions play a crucial role in the logical structure of good paragraph because a poor prepositional choice will sever the connection between the sentence's components. It is interesting to see how this preposition errors manifests itself in a text that typically serves to clarify or

provide specifics.

Based on the explanation above, there are two concerns to be solved in relation to a native speaker's prepositional errors in Instagram captions. The first is any prepositional errors that were found in the Instagram captions of the native speaker. Additionally, the frequency of incorrect prepositions the native speaker used in his Instagram captions. It should be highlighted that prepositional errors can be made by native speakers as well as those learning a foreign language. So consequently, this study purposes to analyze the prepositional errors found in the @*barackobama* Instagram captions and identify the most frequent prepositional errors.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

In this section, such theories related to this study as social media, @barackobama Instagram account, and prepositions are explained.

Social Media

Social media is an online medium, with its users being able to easily participate, share, and create content including blogs, social networks, wikis, forums and virtual worlds (Cahyono, 2016). This research focuses on one social network which has a lot of users around the world. The social network is Instagram. Instagram is a photo and video sharing application that can display photos instantly like a polaroid in appearance. Instagram comes from the words 'insta' or 'instant' and 'gram'. The word 'insta' is a word from a polaroid camera that was very famous in ancient times. While the word 'gram' refers to the word 'telegram' which is a tool that works to send information to other people quickly. Instagram was created from a company called Burbn, Inc. on October 6, 2010. It is founded by the current CEOs of Instagram, Kevin Systrom and Mike Krieger.

@*barackobama* Instagram Account

This study chose the @*barackobama* account as the subject of the study. Account

@*barackobama* is an Instagram account owned by the former president of the United States, Barack Obama. Barack Hussein Obama II is an American politician who served as the 44th President of the United States. He was the first African American to occupy the position. After serving as president of America for two terms, Barack Obama finally had to retire from his leadership. After retiring as president, Obama returned to career as a Senator. He began teaching law courses at the University where he studied before. Occasionally also receive an offer to be a guest speaker or give a speech at a particular event. In fact, he and his wife founded a film production company called Higher Ground Production which makes various films, TV series, documentaries, and many more.

English serves as this former president of the United States' mother tongue and primary language. Due to the variety of sentences included in his Instagram captions, his account, i.e., @*barackobama*, can be a useful resource for English as a foreign language (EFL) learners. His captions may give insights to EFL learners in learning English structures, such as in applying prepositions.

Prepositions

Preposition is one of the 8 parts of speech in English. There are 8 parts of speech in English, namely nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, conjunctions, prepositions, and interjections. Prepositions are conjunctions that are usually used to describe a place, direction, time, position, and so on. Prepositions show the relationship of an object of preposition with other words in a sentence (Azar, 2006). The object of the preposition can be a noun, pronoun, gerund, or noun clause. Prepositions are prepositions, which aim to strengthen the words that follow. There are several kinds or types of prepositions, namely prepositions of time, prepositions of place, prepositions of movement, prepositions of manners, prepositions of purpose, and prepositions of quantity or measure. The explanation of the various prepositions is as follows:

Preposition of Time

Preposition of time is a preposition used to indicate time.

At	We sleep *at* night	**at** + a spesific time on the clock. **at** + night / 3:00 / one o'clock
In	I was born *in* 1898	**in** + a specific month / specific year / the morning / the evening
On	I have class *on* Monday	**on** + a spesific day of the week / a specific date
from ... to	We have class *from* 1:00 to 2:00	*from* (specific time) to (a specific time)

Preposition of Place

Preposition of place is a preposition or preposition used to indicate a place or position.

My book is *on* my desk.	*on* = a preposition *my desk* = object of the preposition *on my desk* = a prepositonal phrase
Tom lives *in the United States*. He lives *on Hill Street*. He lives *at 4472 Hill Street*.	A person lives: *in* a country and in a city *on* a street, avenue, road, etc. *at* a street address

Some Prepositons of Place: A List			
above	*between*	*in the middle of*	*outside*
around	*far (away) from*	*inside*	*under*
at	*in*	*near*	
behind	*in back of*	*next to*	
belove	*in front of*	*on*	
beside	*in the front of*	*on top of*	

Prepositions of Movement

Preposition of movement is a preposition or preposition used to indicate movement. Examples of prepositions of movement is: *around, down, inside, into, by, away from, onto, out of, over, to, toward, up, and so on*. Example sentences with prepositions of movement:

My cat always sleeping *inside* my room.

I run toward the finish line *to* win the competition.

Prepositions of Manners

The preposition of manner shows the "way" relationship between the object and other words in a sentence. Examples of prepositions of manners is: *by, with, without, like, on, and in*. Example sentence:

My best friend moved to other school *without* telling me.

Preposition of Purpose

Preposition of purpose is a preposition that shows the relationship of purpose between its object and other words in a sentence. Example preposition of purpose is *for*. Example sentence:

Do you want apple *for* breakfast?

Preposition of Quantity or Measure

Preposition of quantity or measure is a preposition in English that shows the relationship "quantity" or "size" between the object and other words in a sentence. Usually this preposition is used to answer questions like *How much?* or *How Long?*. Examples preposition of quantity or measure is: *for and by*. Example sentences:

We sell fabric *by* the yard.

Previous Studies

There are some previous studies related to the topic of this current study. They are Dwiyanti (2017) and Putri (2019). Dwiyanti (2017) analyzed prepositional errors in students' narrative texts. According to the Surface Taxonomy strategy, the research's goals are to indentify the errors students make when using prepositions, how fequently they do so, and what factors contribute to those errors. These findings will be used to inform future teaching and learning. She conducted qualitative research for her study. Which data analysis, including data collection, analysis of student errors, classification of student errors, description of errors based on kinds, and classification of interview findings, is based on descriptive analysis. In the third semester of the 2015/2016 academic year at Muhammadiyah Metro University, she performed research on English majors with 32 participants. She used written tests and interview tests to gather the research's data. And four percentages represent the research findings. She demonstrated how the first percentage had the biggest error (48%) among addition errors. Then the second percentages is misinformation type (29%). The third form of omission is the (21%). The stucking prayer makes up the last presentation (2%) as well. Thus, it can be concluded that addition errors are the ones that students make the most frequently. She displayed the findings, showing that when students created narrative texts, they frequently utilized prepositions incorrectly because they were unsure of how to use them or tell them apart.

98

Another study is written by Putri (2019). In student-written descriptive texts, she discovered prepositional errors. She conducted studies to identify common prepositional errors students make. She employed qualitative research methodologies to find out what kinds of prepositional errors students were making based on Dullay's theory and the Surface strategy Taxonomy. Students in class X at Serirama YLPI Pekanbaru High School for the academic year 2018/2019 served as the subjects of her study. She collected samples using a purposive sampling strategy from a single class, XIPA2, which had a total of 25 students. She employed student assignments as learning tools when gathering data. She accepted a challenge to identify the students' prepositional usage errors using Dullay's Taxonomy of Surface tactics. Based on the Surface strategy Taxonomy, she may infer that students made 51 errors. Each sort of error-omission, addition, misformation, and misordering was made by the students. The frequency and percentages for each sort of error were then calculated, with 10 omission error items having a (19%) proportion. The last 8 items have addition errors with a (15%) percentage. Then, 33 misordered items, or (64%) of the total, and 1 misordered item, or (12%) of the total, were found. Thus, she discovered the highest misformation errors in this study.

RESEARCH METHOD

The researchers employed a qualitative descriptive research methodology for this study. The prepositional errors in the @*barackobama* account captions were described and categorized by the researchers using a qualitative descriptive research method. The @*barackobama* Instagram captions, which was created by none other than Barack Obama, is the focus of this study. Researchers gathered screenshots of the @*barackobama* Instagram captions during 2022 and then used them to assess the research data.

Technique of Data Collection

Screenshots of captions from the @*barackobama* Instagram account during 2022

were used as the data source. The captions are displayed with a variety of topics, including meetings with government representatives, humanitarian initiatives, interviews, and others. Researchers' ability to analyze prepositional errors made using these accounts is considerably aided by the collection of data via screenshot captions. There are 167 posts during 2022.

Technique of Data Analysis

The researchers initially detects and examines the prepositional errors for each captions as part of the analysis of the data used in this study. If a preposition error is discovered in the @*barackobama* Instagram posts, the researchers then classifies and categorizes the preposition errors that are present in each captions. Third, the researchers identified numerous errors in @*barackobama's* Instagram captions. The sum for each kind of prepositional errors was then determined by the researchers. The findings of prepositional errors were then sorted from those that happen frequently to those that don't happen frequently.

FINDING

The results of this study of prepositonal errors are presented in this section. A total of 167 screenshots of posting captions to the Instagram account @*barackobama* during 2022 have been investigated. The researchers found prepositional errors that occurred in 2 post captions on the @*barackobama* Instagram account based on Azar's (2006) preposition theory which discusses the structure of prepositions of place, preposition of time, preposition of manners, preposition of movement, and preposition of quantity. The preposition errors that occur in the 2 post captions are time preposition errors and place preposition errors. The first preposition error is a time preposition error that occurs in the post on July 19, 2022 with the caption:

*Ø **This Mandela Day**, I'm reflecting on the trip Imade to Johannesburg in 2018*

> *to celebrate the remarkable life and legacy of Nelson Mandela.*

In this caption, there is a prepositional error in the sentence *Ø This Mandela Day*. Before the phrase *this Mandela Day*, there should be preposition *on* as a preposition that indicates a day. Because the word *Mandela Day* shows information about day.

The second prepositional error appears in the Instagram caption on October 15, 2022 with caption:

> *"If we want our democracy to function, **we have to show up Ø this election for the Governors,** Secretaries of State and the candidates down ballot who are going to peotect voting rights and our electoral process."*

In the caption, there is a prepositional error in the sentence *we have to show up this election for the Governors*. After the word *show up*, there should be added preposition *at* as a preposition that indicates a place. Because the sentence *this election of the Governors,* means a place for people who want their democracy to function.

There are 2 or (1,2%) prepositional errors that have been found in the Instagram post caption *@barackobama* during 2022 with different errors. The prepositional errors are the prepositional errors of time and the prepositional errors of place.

Prepositional errors are known to happen not only to speakers of foreign languages but also to native speakers, despite the fact that they are uncommon. The prepositional errors done by the account's owner *@barackobama* in these two posts are traced by the researchers. First, it is possible that the inaccuracies are brought on by equating speaking in using the words given in the captions. Second, since English has always been the owner's native or first language, it is conceivable that he is not very cautions with grammar. The error makes two predictions, each of which may or may not come true.

DISCUSSION

This section discusses the findings of prepositional errors found in 2 post captions out of

167 post captions on the @*barackobama* Instagram account during 2022. The researchers discuss the significant findings based on the prepositional structure theory used and relate them to previous studies.

The owner of the Instagram account @*barackobama* made a prepositional error in his post on July 19 and October 15, 2022. The prepositional error that occurs in the caption of the post is a time preposition error and a place preposition error. The discovery of this prepositional error is based on Azar's (2006) prepositional structure theory which states that in a sentence there is a specific adverb of time, it must be given the preposition *on* as an indication of the presence of a specific day adverb. And in the second prepositional error, there is a word that states a specific place or position, it must be given the preposition *at* as an indication of the existence of a certain place or position in the written sentence.

The results of this study differ from those of Dwiyanti (2017) and Putri (2019). They found more errors than the number of errors in this study. The difference in the number of errors found can be because the subjects of their study are Indonesian students who consider English as a foreign language. While the subject of this study is an English native speaker who must have made a few errors.

At last, the findings of this current study may affect EFL students in their writings, especially in applying appropriate prepositions. By knowing that @barackobama Instagram captions are highly correct in using prepositions, EFL learners then can also learn how to use prepositions in correct ways. Furthermore, they can apply appropriate prepositions not only in the captions of their social media, but also in their academic writings.

CONCLUSION

After finishing the study entitled "Preposition Errors in @*barackobama's* Caption of Instagram Posts", the researchers can draw several conclusions. This conclusion is based

on the findings that have been found. A total of 167 screenshots of post captions on the Instagram account @*barackobama* during 2022 have been analyzed. Based on the findings of the findings of the analysis, only 2 or (1,2%) in 167 captions for @*barackobama's* Instagram posts during 2022 contained prepositional errors. And the prepositional errors that occur in the caption are time preposition errors and place preposition errors. The results of this study differ from those of Dwiyanti (2017) and Putri (2019). They found more errors than the number of errors in this study. The difference in the number of errors found can be because the subjects of their study are Indonesian students who consider English as a foreign language. While the subject of this study is an English native speaker who must have made a few errors. The caption of the Instagram post @*barackobama* is highly recommended for students who make English as a foreign language. Because in the post caption @*barackobama* there are very few grammatical errors including preposition errors.

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