

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of Study

Understanding grammar is a crucial aspect of language learning that holds significant importance. Without a firm grasp of grammar, students may struggle to comprehend and express themselves accurately in English. Grammar serves as a foundation for all four key language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. As emphasized by Cam et al. (2017), a deficiency in grammar comprehension can have a negative impact on these language abilities. Hence, it is imperative that students attain a strong command of English grammar in order to achieve fluency in the language.

Undoubtedly, Indonesian learners face a significant challenge in creating written work with impeccable grammar. This challenge can be attributed to the fact that they are more comfortable using the Indonesian language while communicating with family and friends in their daily lives. In light of the fact that Indonesian is more dominant and widely used in all aspects of life by this demographic, it seems reasonable to categorize English as a foreign language.

To improve the quality of education, it is essential to use technology as a means of transmitting knowledge. The integration of technology in education has been a significant milestone in enhancing the learning experience for students.

The utilization of technology has a profound impact on the teaching of English as a Second Language (ESL). Social media is described as a collection of web-based and mobile technologies that are commonly used for communication objectives.

As a well-known social media platform, Instagram may be seamlessly integrated into students' lives and society. Instagram is the social media platform that is used by most people. Instagram is a popular social media platform among students because it is simple to use, offers a variety of features, and prevents users from getting bored (Putri et al., 2021). Sharing personal information, such as uploading photos or videos and writing captions, through Instagram is a common practice among them. They have a desire to explore and participate in the virtual social community, leading them to utilize social networking sites for socializing. In light of the wide range of online resources available to students, it is reasonable to suggest that the learning process encompasses more than just accessing and comprehending content. The approach to learning and the process of assimilating information are equally important considerations.

Aloraini (2018) discovered that students who used Instagram for communication and active participation in the learning process, with an emphasis on improving their grammatical knowledge, demonstrated an improvement in their language production accuracy while using the platform for EFL learning. This finding highlights the potential of using Instagram as

an effective tool to enhance students' performance and output in language learning.

Students' understanding of grammar can be improved through the use of Instagram as a learning tool, which is relevant to the development of language skills. It is simple for users to provide feedback in the form of comments or advice, insults, or even criticism regarding the use of language, such as grammatical errors.

The term "Grammar Nazi" refers to individuals who, in public, intentionally point out and correct the linguistic errors of another person without first obtaining that person's permission. It is possible that some users are unfamiliar with the term "Grammar Nazis" due to the fact that it does not only correct grammatical errors but also orthographic errors. In addition, the presence of Grammar Nazis on social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram can be useful for the acquisition of grammatical knowledge, particularly with regard to the study of second languages or foreign languages. Implicitly can be helpful for learners who need correctives feedback from other people; however, it may be insulting or humiliating to someone's interest in learning a language if they do not like being corrected in public by strangers. It depends on the learners' perspectives or the goals they have in mind when they use social media (Fitriani & Iftanti, 2022).

Amin et al. (2016) discovered that the term Grammar Nazi might be hated by internet users. However, the existence of individuals who correct others' grammar in virtual communication via social media can play a

significant role in enhancing grammar learning, especially for second language learners (L2). "Grammar Nazi" refers to a situation where a person corrects someone's grammar without being asked to do so, due to dissatisfaction with their grammar.

One of the Instagram accounts that benefits from learning English, especially grammar, is @englishbusters. This account focuses on helping Indonesian influencers learn better English, particularly in terms of grammar. Unlike many other general Instagram accounts, @englishbusters is unique because it is anonymous and frequently provides constructive criticism on the English captions of various Instagram influencers in Indonesia. In their Instagram bio, @englishbusters states that they intend to make Indonesian influencers learn better English, one caption at a time. Essentially, @englishbusters is a type of Grammar Nazi because they are correcting the grammatical mistakes of others, even if the mistakes weren't necessarily solicited for correction.

In fact, it is crucial to analyze everything that exists in this world, no matter how small, such as minor errors in written English. In the Islamic faith, it is highly recommend to thoroughly examine and analyze something before putting it into practice. Surah Al-An'am is one of the chapters of the Holy Qur'an that emphasizes the importance of critical thinking and analysis. Verse 50 of Surah Al-An'am states:

قُلْ لَا أَقُولُ لَكُمْ عِنْدِي خَزَائِنُ اللَّهِ وَلَا أَعْلَمُ الْغَيْبَ وَلَا أَقُولُ لَكُمْ  
 إِنِّي مَلَكٌ إِنِ اتَّبَعُوا إِلَّا مَا يُوْحَىٰ إِلَيَّ قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الْأَعْمَىٰ وَالْبَصِيرُ  
 أَفَلَا تَتَفَكَّرُونَ ﴿٥٠﴾

In this verse, Allah encourages people to use their intellect and analyze the world around them. The verse implies that there is a difference between those who can see and those who are blind, and therefore, we should not be like the blind who cannot observe and analyze the world around them. We should use our senses and intellect to understand the reality of things.

Furthermore, the verse also emphasizes the importance of seeking knowledge and not making assumptions. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) did not claim to have knowledge of the unseen, but instead, he relied on the revelation from Allah. This teaches us that we should seek knowledge from reliable sources and not rely on hearsay or assumptions.

Overall, this verse encourages critical thinking, seeking knowledge, and analysis of the world around us. It highlights the importance of using our senses and intellect to understand the world and not making assumptions based on limited information or hearsay.

The researcher chose the account @englishbusters on Instagram to be analyzed in learning grammar because it has the potential to be a tool for learning English grammar and it provides detailed explanations for correcting grammatical errors. This account points up the errors that Indonesian

influencers make when writing captions in English. The account captures influencers' captions, fixes their grammar, and provides a detailed explanation. In addition, the emergence of the second research question in this study can be attributed to the fact that the researcher observed certain errors that have not been rectified yet.

There are also some good testimonials from the followers about this account. One of them is @englishbusters provides real examples of grammatical mistakes as well as correction. Then, the researcher concluded that this account can benefit both teachers and learners who want to increase their English knowledge.

## **B. Definition of Key Terms**

Some essential terms were needed to define to avoid misunderstanding. The definition of the key terms to be used in the study is presented as the following:

1. Grammar Nazi is a term for a person who has the habit of correcting another's grammatical. This term has been widely used in online media and has spread to many language environments around the world.
2. Error analysis is focused on Dulay, Burt and Krashen (1982)'s Communicative Effect Taxonomy which includes global error and local error.
3. Influencers, or self-made celebrities, are the individuals who have established themselves as popular personalities and have a significant influence on their audience.

4. A caption is a statement that provides additional information or complements the content uploaded, even though at times the content might have an implicit meaning.

### **C. Research Questions**

Based on the background above, the problem question of the study can be formulated as the following:

1. What types of grammatical errors does the Grammar Nazi correct on the @englishbusters Instagram account?
2. What types of grammatical errors are present in Indonesian influencers' captions that remain uncorrected by @englishbusters Instagram account?

### **D. Objectives of Study**

According to the research problem above, the following objective was addressed in this study:

1. To analyze the types of grammatical errors that the Grammar Nazi corrects on the @englishbusters Instagram account.
2. To identify any types of errors that are left uncorrected.

### **E. Significance of Study**

1. Theoretical
  - a. This research will provide good information about using Instagram as a tool to improve grammar knowledge through the Grammar Nazi Instagram account.

- b. The finding of this research freely transfers a profitable description to any further researchers who have a desire to possess the same case study. Therefore, this study becomes a piece of constructive information and benevolent reference for the subsequent research.

## 2. Practical

- a. For the students

The result of the study is expected to give benefit students, especially English learners, to use social media wisely by using it as a tool to learn English more and expand their grammar knowledge.

- b. For teachers

The outcome may be utilized as a reference for English learners since it will give information about using Instagram as a platform to enhance their students' grammatical understanding.