

CHAPTER IV

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents about the findings and the research discussion of subject verb agreement error analysis. The data is about subject verb agreement error made by English Department. The findings will answer the statements of the problem written in Chapter I. Then, it compares to the literary review. Statements of the problem:

1. Are there any errors in the use of subject verb agreement by sixth semester of English Department of IAIN Banjarmasin?
2. What are the types of error that made by the students?
3. What are the dominant of their errors in using subject verb agreement?

A. Data Presentation and Analysis

This section will show the data from each test item, analysis of each test item and the error that made by the students. The data will be shown in the following table

Table 4.1 Test item part A

No	Test item	Answer key and analysis	Error Count	Percentage (%)
1	His dogs . . . every night a. Bark b. Barks c. Barked	A. Bark The sentence Is formed in present tense. In present tense, if the subject is	12	30%

	d. Are baring	singular then the verb use – s/-es/-ies. But if the subject is plural, there is no need to use -s/-es/-ies at on the verb		
2	My aunt and my sister Me every year a. Visited b. Visit c. Visits d. Is visiting	B. Visit My aunt and my sister need plural verb	12	30%
3	Swimming and hiking . . . my hobbies a. Are b. Is c. Was d. Were	A. Are Gerund is singular word. If there are two gerunds, they need plural verb.	5	12,5%
4	The people in my class who English do a lot of extra reading. a. Is studying	B. are studying The subject from the sentence is the people. When relative clause	21	52,5%

	<p>b. Are studying</p> <p>c. Was studying</p> <p>d. studies</p>	beginning with who, which, or that, the subject is the noun that come before it		
5	<p>The boy who won the two medals my friend.</p> <p>a. Were</p> <p>b. Is</p> <p>c. Are</p> <p>d. Were not</p>	<p>B. Is</p> <p>The subject is the boy, it requires singular verb</p>	7	17,5%
6	<p>The man whoright now is my uncle</p> <p>a. Are visiting</p> <p>b. Is visiting</p> <p>c. visit</p> <p>d. visited</p>	<p>B. Is visiting</p> <p>The subject is the man, and the adverb of time explain the event is happening. Because of that it needs singular verb in simple present continuous tense form.</p>	11	27,5%
7	<p>The letter which came yesterday from Maria.</p> <p>a. Were</p> <p>b. Was</p>	<p>C. Was</p> <p>The subject is the letter. The word "letter" is singular. It takes singular verb.</p>	15	37,5%

	<p>c. Is</p> <p>d. Are</p>	<p>The adverb of time is yesterday. It is for the past time</p>		
8	<p>Mathematics . . . my favorite subject</p> <p>a. is</p> <p>b. are</p> <p>c. were</p> <p>d. have become</p>	<p>A Is</p> <p>Even the subject has –s at the end, it is actually a singular word.</p>	4	10%
9	<p>Latoya isn't going to Daytona Beach for spring break because fourteen dollarsall that she has in her vacation fund.</p> <p>a. Is</p> <p>b. Are</p> <p>c. Was</p> <p>d. Were</p>	<p>A. Is</p> <p>Expression of times, money, distance, weight, and measurement usually takes singular verb.</p>	24	60%
10	<p>Not only the Smiths but also Tonya agreed to try one of the world-famous chocolate-</p>	<p>A. Has</p> <p>In not only...but also.... Sentence, the verb agree to</p>	27	67,5%

	broccoli muffins. a. Has b. Have c. Have been d. Has been	the closest subject.		
11	Neither the students nor their instructor ... happy with the long cafeteria line for squid eyeball stew. a. Is b. Are c. Was d. Were	A. Is In either ... or.... / neither .. nor ..., the verb agree to the closest subject to it.	24	60%
12	Not only the vitamin C from the broccoli but also the delicious taste of the chocolate this breakfast cereal a real crowd pleaser. a. Makes b. Make c. Made d. Will make	A. Makes In not only...but also.... Sentence, the verb agree to the closest subject.	14	60%

13	<p>Either the teacher or the students in the canteen.</p> <p>a. Eat b. Eats c. Ate d. Is eating</p>	<p>A. Eat</p> <p>In either ... or.... / neither .. nor ..., the verb agree to the closest subject to it.</p>	19	47,5%
14	<p>Each of these women that she had read the care instructions before washing the delicate and expensive dresses.</p> <p>a. Wish b. Would Wish c. Wished d. Wishes</p>	<p>D . Wishes</p> <p>When each, every, or any is used as an adjectives in front of a subject. It takes a singular verb, This also includes indefinite pronouns like everyone or everything</p>	21	52,5%
15	<p>Each man, woman, and child to write General Foods a letter supporting the company's decision to produce a chocolate- broccoli breakfast cereal.</p> <p>a. Need b. Needs</p>	<p>B. Needs</p> <p>When each, every, or any is used as an adjectives in front of a subject. It takes a singular verb, This also includes indefinite pronouns like everyone or everything</p>	16	40%

	<p>c. Needed</p> <p>d. Will need</p>			
16	<p>Some students in cafeteria.</p> <p>a. Eats</p> <p>b. Is eating</p> <p>c. Has eaten</p> <p>d. Eat</p>	<p>D . Eat</p> <p>When all, almost all, most, or some is used in front of subject or as a subject, the subject takes the plural verb</p>	11	27,5%
17	<p>Several theories on this subject proposed.</p> <p>a. Has been</p> <p>b. Is being</p> <p>c. Have been</p> <p>d. Was being</p>	<p>c. Have been</p> <p>If the subject is prepositional phrase, the verb is depended to the word before of, in, on, or at.</p>	22	55%
18	<p>Laura, as well as jenny and penny tennis well.</p> <p>a. Plays</p> <p>b. Play</p> <p>c. Are playing</p> <p>d. Have played</p>	<p>A. Plays</p> <p>If there is phrase such as along with, accompanied, including, with, of, as well as, among, in addition, including, or from, the subject is the word comes before it.</p>	19	47,5%

19	Here..... Tonya and Robert, the two students who scored 100 percent on the subject-verb agreement quiz a. Stands b. Stand c. Is standing d. Stood	B. Stand The subjects <i>Tonya</i> and <i>Robert</i> require a <i>plural</i> verb.	31	77,5%
20	A large amount of construction to be done. a. Remain b. Remains c. Are remaining d. Have remained	B. Remains Construction is singular verb	17	42,5%

Table 4.2. Test item part B.

No	Test item	Answer key and analysis	Error count	Percentage
1	Thirty years (is/are) a long time.	Is	17	42,5%

		Expression of times, money, distance, weight, and measurement usually takes singular verb		
2	I enjoyed every (minute/minutes) of the program	Minute When each, every, or any is used as an adjectives in front of a subject. It takes a singular verb, This also includes indefinite pronouns like everyone or everything	9	22,5%
3	All Schools (is/are) closed in Saturday	Are Quantity words such as all, any, half, more, most, no, a lot of, and some have a singular verb when they refer to a plural an uncountable noun, and plural verb when the refer to countable noun	20	50%
4	Broccoli, in addition to squash and all other vegetables, (is/ are) good for you.	Is If there is phrase such as along with, accompanied,	6	15%

		including, with, of, as well as, among, in addition, including, or from, the subject is the word comes before it.		
5	Here (is/are) my favorite book.	Is When a sentence is begun with here or there, the verb may be singular or plural depending on the noun that follows. The noun is book, and it is singular	6	15%
6	Here (speak/speaks) the leader of the company.	Speaks When a sentence is begun with here or there, the verb may be singular or plural depending on the noun that follows. The noun is the leader, and it is singular	10	25%
7	A number of important people (is/are) here today..	Are If. the number + plural	24	60%

		noun, the verb is singular, and if a number + plural noun the verb is plural.		
8	The number of Students In our class (is/are) twenty.	Is If. the number + plural noun, the verb is singular, and if a number + plural noun the verb is plural.	20	50%
9	A lot of water (is/ are) wasted.	Is Quantity words such as all, any, half, more, most, no, a lot of, and some have a singular verb when they refer to a plural an uncountable noun, and plural verb when the refer to countable noun	12	30%
10	Some of the orange (is/are) still good.	Is When we use expressions of quantity such as some of, a lot of, and three-quarters of as the subject, the verb agrees with the pronoun or	19	47,5

		noun that follow of		
--	--	---------------------	--	--

Table 4.3. Test item part C.

No	Test item	Answer key	Error count	Percentage (%)
1	John is a smart student. He can finish the test in a short time. (true/false).	True John is a singular subject	1	2,5%
2	I have two sheeps. (true/false)	False Sheep is one of word that can be a singular or plural without -s	28	70%
3	Everyone wants something from us. (true/false)	True When each, every, or any is used as an adjectives in front of a subject. It takes a singular verb, This also includes indefinite pronouns like everyone or everything	9	22,5%
4	Most people in this village is farmer. (true/false)	False When we use all, almost all,	10	25%

		any, half, more, most, a lot of, or some in front of a subject or as a subject, the subject takes the plural verb. However, if the subject is uncountable noun, the verb is singular.		
5	A lot of time were wasted. (true/false)	False The word time is uncountable noun. When we use all, almost all, any, half, more, most, a lot of, or some in front of a subject or as a subject, the subject takes the plural verb. However, if the subject is uncountable noun, the verb is singular.	12	30%
6	The mayor as well as his brothers are going to prison. (true/false)	False If there is phrase such as along with, accompanied, including, with, of, as well	27	67,5

		as, among, in addition, including, or from, the subject is the word comes before it.		
7	There are some water in my room. (true/false)	False When we begin a sentence with here or there, the verb may be singular or plural depending on the noun that follows. Water is uncountable noun	10	25%
8	A number of students are absent today. (true/false)	True If. the number + plural noun, the verb is singular, and if a number + plural noun the verb is plural	14	35%
9	The number of his medals are five. (true/false)	False If. the number + plural noun, the verb is singular, and if a number + plural noun the verb is plural.	28	70%
10	None of my friends were here. (true/False)	False One of the + plural noun,	13	32,5%

		<p>each of the + plural noun, every one of the + plural noun, None of the + plural noun. Use singular object However, In informal speech, we often use a plural verb with none of the.</p>		
--	--	--	--	--

The writer used the statistical calculation to calculate the percentage of error as follows:

$$R = \frac{\sum x}{y} \times 100$$

R = The error percentage of each test item

x = Student who did error in the test item

y = Total of all the subjects

This data will help the writer to know the type and the dominant error that made by the student.

B. Frequent and Dominant Errors

Here, will be shown the types of the error analysis that has been explained in chapter II

Table 4.4. Type of subject verb agreement

Type of the subject verb agreement	Part and the number of test	Code type	Frequency (<i>f</i>)	Percentage (%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The use of -s on a simple present tense - The use of auxiliary verb - Gerund as the subject - Compound subject 	A. 1, 2, 3 C. 1	A	4	18.75
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relative clause beginning with who, which, or that. 	A. 4, 5, 6, 7	B	4	33.75
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some irregularities of subject verb agreement 	A. 8, 9 B. 1 C. 2	C	4	45.6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Subject joined by or - either/or, neither/nor - not only/but also 	A. 10, 11, 12, 13	D	4	58.75
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Each, every, or any as an adjective in the front of subject 	A. 14, 15 B. 2 C. 3	E	4	34.4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The use of all, almost all, any, half, more, most, a lot of, and some 	A. 16 B. 3 C. 4, 5	F	4	33.12

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Phrases such as along with, accompanied, including, with, of, as well as, among, in addition, including, or from - Prepositional phrase as the subject 	<p>A. 17, 18 B. 4 C. 6</p>	G	4	46.25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A sentence with here or there 	<p>A. 19 B. 5, 6 C. 7</p>	H	4	35.6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The number and a number 	<p>B. 7, 8 C. 8, 9</p>	I	4	53.75
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expressions of quantity as some of, a lot of, and three-quarter of as the subject - Expressions of quantity as one of the + plural noun, each of the + plural noun, every one of the + plural noun, one of the + plural noun, and none of the + plural noun 	<p>A. 20 B. 9, 10 C. 10</p>	J	4	38.1
Total			40	

To measure the averaging error percentage of each type of subject verb agreement, the writer used statistical calculation like below

$$\bar{X} = \frac{\sum R \text{ in the same type}}{f}$$

\bar{X} = Mean of error percentage in each type of subject verb agreement

f = Frequency from type of subject verb agreement appears in the test

On the table above we can see the fourth most common errors based on the numbers and percentage. The frequent of error were happened in type D (58,75 % from all subjects make error), type I (53.75 %), type G (46.25%), and type C(45.6%). The next error percentages were; Type J (38.1%), type H (35.6%), type E (34.4%), type B (33.75%), type F (33.12%), and type A (18.75%).

The dominant errors can be described from the table above. The writer found that the subjects joined by or, neither/nor, either/or, and not only/but also (type D) and the use of the number and a number (type I) were the dominant error.

First, error in type D form happens mostly, Students did not know the grammatical rule, when one of the subject is plural, students decide to give plural verb. The rules are when two subjects or more joined by **or**, the verb is singular, and when one of the subjects is plural, the verb agrees to the subject closest to it. However, when students identified there are more than one object or one of the subjects is plural, most of the decide the verb is plural too. This rule is applied in not only/but also pattern. For example, *Not only the Smiths but also Tonya agreed to try one of the world-famous*

chocolate-broccoli muffins. When they identified there were two subjects, they immediately chose *have* as the answer. Other example, *Neither the students nor their instructor ... happy with the long cafeteria line for squid eyeball stew*. When the students realized that word *students* is plural and there were more than two subjects they chose *are* as the answer.

The second dominant errors were happened in The number and a number pattern (type I). The reasons are not much different with type D. The students immediately used plural verb when they found plural noun. In addition, they forgot the rule. The rules are; a number + plural noun, the verb is plural and the number + plural noun, the verb is singular. Because they found that the noun is plural they use plural verb. Some of them who forgot the rules use singular verb for both or plural verb for both of pattern.

C. **The Recommendation for Teachers to Reduce the Common Errors**

As people know that grammatical construction is very important for them, who have to compose graduating paper or thesis in written English, this research is done. Teachers have obligation to explain the materials clearly so, the students will understand and less in making errors. Teachers are recommended to minimize it, some recommendations are:

1. Teachers should focused and emphasized on the English grammar or structures while explaining the materials.

2. Giving motivation for students that grammar can be learnt without teachers. Themselves are their best sources of information about grammar.
3. Introducing and learning some new grammatical concepts that identified to be most difficult for the students.
4. Be familiar with formal English and equip students with practical strategies for checking their own writing.
5. Teachers should choose the appropriate methods to teach and give clear instructions for the students. They have to feel that they have already prepared everything on their lesson to cope the errors although, it may cling or appear in the students writing.
6. There should be flexible and effective techniques of error correction for the teachers.
7. Teachers should pay much attention to their students' errors.
8. Gives the students more practices to make them accustomed in using the grammar rules.

D. Discussion of Finding

The result of the study that was explained previously show information related to the subject-verb agreement error that were committed by students. From the analysis above, the writer can take some conclusion in order to answer the statement of problem. The findings were appropriate with the statements of problem. The researcher revealed that

the students commit errors which belong to three types of error: wrong option, misinformation, and lack of motivation.

According to the findings, there were 40 students who joined as subject of the research, and all of them committed errors in their answer sheet at least 10 errors. Meanwhile, the wrong option has become the most frequent.

This research success to answer all the statements of problem, they are;

1. Are there any errors in the use of subject verb agreement by sixth semester of English Department of IAIN Banjarmasin?
2. What are the types of error that made by the students?
3. What are the dominant of their errors in using subject verb agreement?

As the researcher find out, There are some errors that committed by sixth semester of English Department of IAIN Banjarmasin in using subject verb agreement. From ten types of subject verb agreement, the errors are found out from all types, at least 18.75% from the subjects made error from each type (type A). Then, the dominant errors are found in type D (58.75% from all subjects) and type I (53.75 %).

Well, actually there were several factors why the students committed grammatical errors of relative clause in their writing performance. In fact, the dominant factor was the students' motivation were low, so they did not finish the assignment well and seriously. It means, the dominant factor had become the factor that influences many students in committing the grammatical errors. Moreover, it is expected to the English

teacher to give more attention and motivation in matter of the dominant factor that influences the students in committing errors. The problem could be solved and it is possible to achieve learning's goal in the learning process.

To do to minimize the errors, writer also found some suggestion both for teachers and students. Here, the writer gave 8 recommendations. Based on the study or analysis of grammatical errors, may everybody take advantages and improve their knowledge in grammar rules to be better.