

An Analysis of Grammatical Errors in Kpop Tweets

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Abstract

KPop has fast developing into a global phenomenon almost all over the world. Kpop became a virus that spreads in the world of music and entertainment and even has to be able to compete with western music and rule the world charts. Among other social media, Twitter has received a lot of attention from Kpoppers. English plays an important role in communicating among Kpop communities on Twitter. Kpop tweets become effective learning tools to improve English skill of Kpoppers. Many of Kpoppers use Twitter platform to post their thoughts or comments as well as get information in English. In addition, they also often interact with fellow Kpop fans abroad using English. Based on this phenomenon, this study aims to analyze English language learning in Kpop's activities on Twitter, especially in the case of grammatical error in Kpop Tweet. The error analysis determines possible causes of the errors and the implication of the errors committed to language teaching and learning. Findings revealed that most errors were seen within the category of omission of helping verb, subject and punctuation or apostrophe. It was followed by tenses, subject-verb agreement and the use of part of speech and question order on the second until fifth ranks consecutively. The researcher focused more on taking data from Kpop who use English as EFL (English as a foreign language). It was taken from Kpop Tweets randomly with various topics by screenshots. Data analysis is carried out with a descriptive qualitative method, focused on finding the nature of the particular event on study.

Keywords: *Kpop, Twitter, English learning, grammar error*

Introduction

Korean Hallyu is a South Korean pop culture that developed into a very popular global culture. The biggest part of Hallyu is Korean pop music, usually called Kpop. Kpop rapidly develops into a global phenomenon. Kpop spreads very fast and makes people into K-pop fan, called Kpopper. Kpop became a virus that spreads in the world of music, drama and entertainment and has even been able to compete with western music and rule the world charts. The aspects that make Kpop able to take over the music tastes of the fans are very addictive music melodies, neat choreography and singers who are visually and character interesting (Green, 2018). Kpop songs always have iconic and trendy choreography that makes people want to follow it (Green, 2018). While Kdrama gives romance, perfect characters, actors and many solid stories to make people addicted. Korean wave's dominance can be seen clearly on social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Telegram and Whatsapp (Kim, 2019). Social media has an important role as the main platform in the spread of K-pop and Hallyu Wave.

Among other social media, Twitter has received a lot of attention from Kpoppers. Twitter is the best place to find out what is happening, the latest info and trends with Kpop. Twitter is a social

networking site that is used to communicate with other registered members through short 140-character posts called tweets. Twitter is also a place to interact and communicate with other Kpop fans around the world. Twitter has strengthened its position as the top conversation platform for the K-pop global community (Clement, 2020). Twitter has more than 300 million users where they can meet and talk with new people or friends, promote products, share information and many other interesting features (Jeffrey Gray, Quora). According to J. Clement on Statista, new global record has been written by Twitter with 5.3 billion Kpop Tweets last year. Most of these Kpop Tweets use English because users not only come from but also many countries from America and Europe. Global communication takes place massively through Twitter to share K-pop interest every day. As a global communication, English plays an important role to communicate among the Kpop community. English is needed because Kpop grows quickly. Kpopers who are mostly young people are required to learn English so that they can blend in with their Kpop community. The urge to learn English is growing quickly to meet K-pop addictions.

English on Twitter has become a language teaching and learning tool in the digital age. Teaching and learning English today is not just about class activities. The use of social media in learning English helps students to develop their language skills, especially for young people who have become technology addicts. Kpop tweets become effective learning tools to improve Kpopers' English skills. By posting comments or information about Kpop in English, Kpopers are unknowingly learning and improving their English skills. Posting fun things in English about their idols, music and favorite shows makes their interest and curiosity in English increase rather than learning English in the classroom with a book. Kpopers improve their reading skills by reading Kpop news, they enrich English vocabulary by watching drama or performances with English subtitles, they learn English grammar through song subtitles or Kshow & post tweets about their opinions or comments about Kpop idols.

Many of Kpopers use Twitter platform to write comments or find information in English. In addition, they also often interact with fellow Kpop fans abroad by using English. Through these Kpop Tweets posts, grammar errors often occur in their English. According to Mackey (1989), errors are basically committed because the learner has had experiences with another language. Hence, a person who has been using a certain language since early childhood already had experience with his language and when he learns a new language, he would be faced with the problem of different sound, words and sentences, with varied groupings of things, persons and actions, and with different time, space and manner. Further, Corder (1974) stated, when errors occur, it is the role of the language teacher to deal with these errors by devising some strategies after the conduct of error analysis. From being looked at as a problem that should be eradicated, errors are now considered as a device that learners use and from which they can learn.

Language learning occurs outside and informally. Nowadays informal learning experiences in social media. Social media is an online platform or medium used to establish social relations among individuals who share interests and activities. Most social media services allow users to share their opinions, interests, activities and events within their individual networks. Kpop becomes one of interest and activity which get massive users in social media, especially on Twitter. Based on these phenomenons, researcher aimed to analyze the grammar errors that arise in Kpop Tweets on Twitter. This study aims to determine the form of grammar errors that often occur in the interaction and activities of Kpopers tweets on Twitter. Researcher focused more on taking data from Kpopers who use English as EFL (English as a foreign language). The data collection was taken from tweets

or posts about Kpop on Twitter. This study aims to determine the form of grammar errors that often occur in the interaction and posting of Kpopers tweets on Twitter.

Method

In this study, researcher obtains research data by taking from Kpop Tweets in several sample of screenshot. Then the researcher also analyzes the data during the observation and analyzes some articles about English learning through social media and grammatical errors. This process greatly assists the process of data collection and data processing.

Unit of Analysis

The unit of analysis in this study is Kpop related posts on Twitter, uploaded by Kpopers. According to Lindlof and Taylor (2002), researcher is required to examine who will be the unit of analysis based on place, circumstances, people, activities, events, and time. Most studies design several combinations of these units which are then used to find a sampling strategy. The researcher took the activity of English learning in Kpop tweets as the study of grammar anylisis.

Data Sampling Technique

The primary sources of data for this study were 50 Kpop tweets from various accounts. The accounts were chosen randomly by means of purposive sampling for they belong to the identified the grammar errors in their Kpop tweets. According to Dukes and Riemen (in Creswell, 1998), the amount of research suggested is 3 to 50 people who have experience in a phenomenon.

Data Collection Technique

This research uses descriptive qualitative method to analyze. According to Bogdan and Taylor (in Moleong, 2006: 4), qualitative methods are research procedures that produce descriptive data both written and oral from someone or attitudes that can be examined. Gay (1987) stated that descriptive methods involve collecting data to test hypotheses or to answer questions about the correct status of research subjects.

In this research, data collection was done by taking Kpop tweets by screenshooting in the form of comments, information, news or interactions from various Twitter users who are Kpopers. The type of tweets is chosen randomly but it was about Kpop topic. The researcher searched Kpop tweet-related posts to find out the data. After identifying the errors and their frequency of occurrence, the data was taken by screenshooting. After the data collection procedure was complete, the data was analyzed to answer the research. To analyze data, researcher has several data analysis techniques such as:

1. Read all the tweets
2. Sorting data
3. Organize and analyze data to reveal grammar errors in Kpop tweets.
4. Describe data analysis to get findings.

Results

The data was taken by screenshots of Kpop Tweets and also described with the use of appropriate chart and tables which were sequentially arranged to answer the problems that were

sought by the study. Based on data taken from some Twitter users, who posted Kpop tweets, there is a result presented in the chart and table.

There were 50 Kpop tweets for the primary data sources. From those 50 Kpop tweets, it was about various tweet types like comments, questions or information which were related to Kpop. In the result of Kpop tweets they shared, it obtained grammar errors which are presented on the chart.

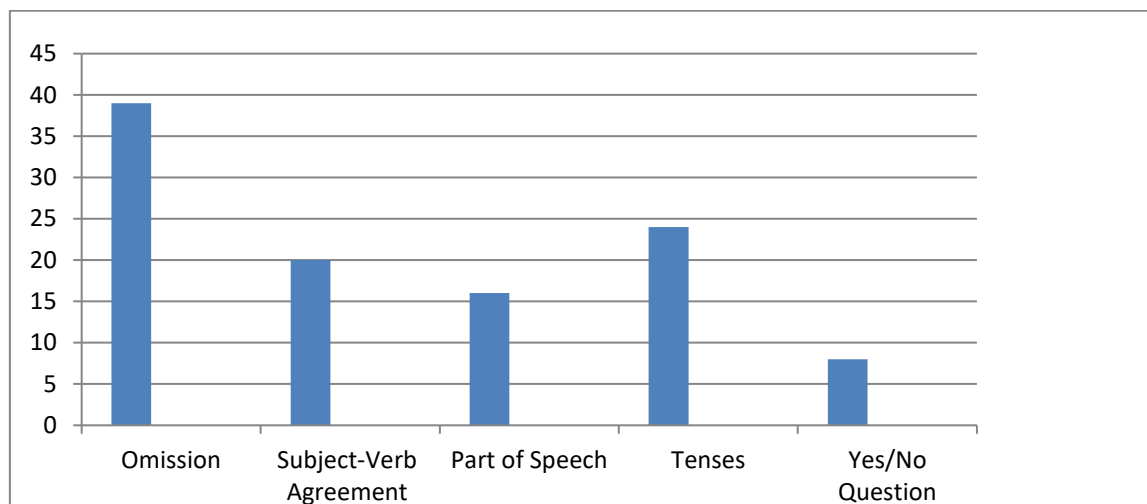


Figure 1. Grammar Errors on Kpop Tweets

Based on the chart, the highest error rates in this study showed the categories of omission with 78% respectively. The lowest error rate is error of Yes/No and WH Question with 16%. For detail number of grammar errors gained, there is a table presented.

On the Table 1, it presents the grammar errors committed by Kpopper accounts. It is reflected in the table that the highest error rates in this study occurred within the category of omission including omission of subject, helping verb and apostrophe with 39 errors, and an error rate of 78 %. Second in rank as the category where Kpopers committed most errors is on tenses. It was reflected on the table that out of 50 users, 24 or 48% displayed errors in the category. The subject-verb agreement was third in rank where in 20 or 40% of the Kpop tweets showed errors. Other errors in rank were use of part of speech with 16 or 32% of the Kpop tweets with errors, use of Yes/No and WH question with 8 or 16% Kpop tweets having errors.

Table 1. Grammar Errors committed by selected Kpop Tweets

Categories	Number of Participants	Rank	Percentage
Omission	39	1	78
Tenses	24	2	48
Subject-Verb Agreement	20	3	40
Part of Speech	16	4	32
Yes/No Questions	8	5	16

The results imply that although learners have been mostly learnt about grammar of target language repeatedly, they are still lack of mastery in the use of grammar. Writing in good grammar is considered the hard skill to master. The reason probably is that because writing requires good mastery of tenses, verb choices, subject-verb agreement, part of speech, word and question orders and many more aspects.

Corder (1994) stated that error analysis is a natural norm that occurs in the process of second language learning. It indicates the strategies and attempts that learners use in order to acquire a language. On the other side, grammar errors could be categorized as interlingual errors or intralingual errors. Sanal (2008) describes interlanguage errors as the mistakes committed by learners in the TL because of the influence of their mother tongues. The second is intralingual/developmental errors, which refer to the TL that is being learned. Sanal (2008) describes intralanguage errors as the mistakes committed by learners in the TL due to a lack of knowledge of that TL's rules. This type of error can further be subdivided into four types which are: over-generalization, ignorance of rule restrictions, false theory hypothesized and incomplete application of rules.

Discussion

Taylor (2007:3) states that error analysis is the study and evaluation of uncertainty in measurement. It implies that error has a positive role in language learning since it is the sign that language learners do not learn the rules of the target language effectively. Error analysis is an activity to reveal the learning outcomes achieved by learners in developing interlanguage system in writing and speaking which is consist of comparison between the errors made in target language. Error analysis deals with the learners's performance in terms of the cognitive processes to target language. In this section, it presented grammar errors committed by selected Kpop tweets. Not all datas are presented. It took some data sample for this analysis section. The researcher classified those grammar errors in four classifications on this study. They are as follows:

Omission

There are some types of tenses error found in the data. First one is *omission*. An omission is a type of error which is "characterized by the absence of an item that must appear in a well-formed utterance". As we know that morphemes or words can be distinguished into two classes: content words and grammatical words. Content words are those that carry the bulk of referential meaning of a sentence such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, etc. Grammatical or function words are those little words that play a minor role in carrying the meaning of a sentence. They include noun and verb inflection (-s, ed, ing): the article (a, the, an): verb auxiliaries (is, will, can, may, etc); and preposition (in, on, or, etc).

In Data 1, 5, 6 and 10, omission was found. There is missing auxiliary "*is*" in the sentence "Heechul *giving* a whole new generation second hand embarrassment". Missing auxiliary "*is*" also found in sentences "Yoona *wearing* different luxurious brands..." and "Yoona *hugging* Son Ye Jin."

In Data 3 and 7, it showed an omission of apostrophe (') in sentence "...*its* her first time lol (she must've forgot the last time she used it). "*its*..." here means "*it is*" not as possessive so it needs to use an apostrophe. In data 7, the sentence should be "*Yoona's total lines from 7 title songs....*"

Figure 2. Data 1



Figure 3. Data 3

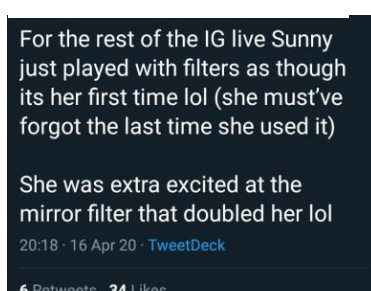


Figure 4. Data 5



Figure 5. Data 6



Figure 6. Data 7

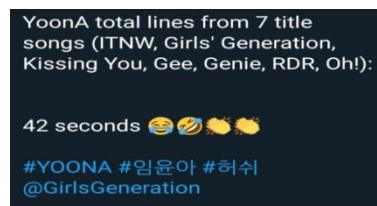


Figure 7. Data 10



While omission of subject also found in many Kpop tweets. Those omitting subject are presented in Data 17, 18, 19, and 20. The omission of subject is often seen on Twitter because many users do not bother to make complete and proper sentence. They just deliver what they think casually and quickly. The most important thing is the messages delivered.

Figure 8. Data 19



Figure 9. Data 18



Figure 10. Data 20



Figure 11. Data 17



Part of Speech

Data 2 showed there is inappropriate part of speech. The word “*innocent*” should be adverb, not adjective. It should be added “ly” in the end. The word “*innocently*” will be correct.

In Data 14 and 15, the users expressed the amuse feeling by using adjective “amaze” but the way she/he wrote adjective “amaze” is incorrect “... the more Im *amaze*”. It should be “....the more Im *amazed*”.

Figure 12. Data 4



Figure 13. Data 15



Figure 14. Data 14



Subject-Verb Agreement

The data below presents the frequency of errors' occurrence in Subject - Verb Agreement. In this case, it is about plural and singular. The users had a difficult time determining the subjects of sentences whether they are considered singular or plural. This was found even more difficult especially if the subjects are special nouns and indefinite pronouns. It can be seen the participants committed errors as shown in Data 2. The user is not aware that “*liner*” there is singular because it

does not have “s” so it should be “The 90s *liner* is coming.” This error could also be associated with “false theory hypothesized” under intralanguage. Learners build their own concept as they try to produce and use the language.

Kpop tweet on Data 15 showed that there is incorrect plural use. The word “bunch” should be followed by plural word so the word “*work*” here, has to be changed into “*works*.”

Figure 15. Data 2

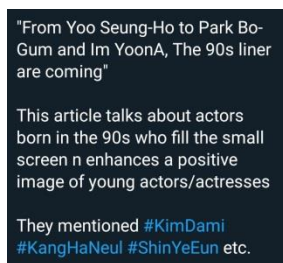


Figure 16. Data 15



Tenses

Grammar error is always related to tenses because the most complicated thing in learning grammar is Tenses. Many learners know about the rule but it is hard to apply them in the sentence. It is hard to analyze and use proper grammar in writing or speaking. Many kind of tenses also become one of the obstacle to remember and apply in practice. In Data 9 and Data 12 below, there are some tenses errors shown. The sentence “Can imagine Ye Jin unnie *laugh* and *talking* about her close friends” does not have same tenses though it is compound clauses with “*and*” conjunction. It should be “Can imagine Yejin unnie *is laughing* and *talking* about her close friend. Tenses error also happened in Data 12 and 13 where present continuous tense was presented incorrectly by not putting v-ing and to be “....but I’m still *miss* them even more” and “My baby *feeding* the starved fandom with content.”

Data 15 has tenses errors and mistyping “....*mod exam start next week*.” The present tense was not written properly because there is no “s” addition though the subject is single. The word “*mod*” here is a typo from “*mood*”. The correct one should be “...*mood exam starts next week*.”

Data 16 presented some errors included past future tense. The sentence “...he thought SYJ *will* be shouting this line at him, but then she *whispered* it with full of agony.” Actually this Kpop tweet is talking about past, especially past future tense. The proper sentence has to be “...he thought SYJ *would* be shouting this line at him, but then she *whispered* it with full of agony.”

Figure 17. Data 9



Figure 18. Data 12



Figure 19. Data 13



Figure 20. Data 15



Figure 21. Data 16



Yes/No and WH Question

Yes-no questions are question forms that begin with a helping verb such as auxiliary, to be and modals. To make yes/no question, there is question word order by switching the subject and the helping verb (*helping verb + S + verb*). Data 11 presented an error without switching helping verb with subject. It should be "*Is it cute?*" not "*Its cute??*"

Data 13 presented an error of WH Question. The question word order has to be *WH question + helping verb + S + main verb* but it was written "*So, who got caught?*" without helping verb and subject. The correct one has to be "*So, who did the one get caught.?*"

Figure 22. Data 11



Figure 23. Data 13



Conclusion

Most commonly mistakes of grammatical error in Kpop Tweets are omission and tenses. Omission category is included omitting subject, helping verb, punctuation like apostrophe. In syntactical, it is found that Twitter users usually forget to add helping verb like auxiliary, to be or modals. They also often omit apostrophes. While in lexical usually Kpopers users often use inappropriate tenses, word as well as incorrect form of yes/no question and part of speech form. The second following error is tenses because many Kpop tweets did not use correct tenses rule. Some Kpop tweets ignored the difference of present and past tense. They did generalization of tenses use. For other error types, it followed subject-verb agreement, part of speech and Yes/No WH questions.

Based on the result, the research suggests that the use of social media can be an effective learning tool for English learners. Furthermore, Kpop is able to be a booster to attract an interest of language learning. Kpop can be used as a motivation and attraction to learn English because many information and interaction of Kpop have been global phenomenon to massive interaction around the world. English surely takes a big part to be a bridge of communication. Thus, teachers actually can use this as an alternative of teaching, to attract their students to learn more and make the class alive and active.

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