



**A STUDY OF THE SENTENCE PROBLEMS FOUND IN THE TEXTS  
WRITTEN BY THE EIGHTH YEAR STUDENTS OF SMPN 3  
BANGSALSARI IN THE 2011/2012 ACADEMIC YEAR**

**THESIS**

By:

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**ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM  
LANGUAGE AND ARTS DEPARTMENT  
THE FACULTY OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION  
JEMBER UNIVERSITY**

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Composed to fulfill one of the requirements to obtain S1 Degree  
at the English Language Education Study Program  
Language and Arts Education Department  
The Faculty of Teacher Training and Education  
Jember University

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## **DEDICATION**

This thesis is honorably dedicated to:

1. My beloved father, Pujo Indriarto,
2. My beloved mother, Murtini, and
3. My little sister Adelia Martha Ramadhanti.

## **MOTTO**

"[Writing is] largely a matter of application and hard work, or writing and rewriting endlessly until you are satisfied that you have said what you want to say as clearly and simply as possible." \*)

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\*) Rachel Carson. Words of Wisdom. Available at: <http://garbl.home.comcast.net/~garbl/stylemanual/betwrit.htm#wisdom>. Retrieved on: April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**CONSULTANT'S APPROVAL**

**THESIS**

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Consultant 2 : Dra. Siti Sundari, M. A.

## APPROVAL OF THE EXAMINATION COMMITTEE

This thesis entitled “*A Study of the Sentence Problems Found in the Texts Written by the Eighth Year Students of SMPN 3 Bangsalsari in the 2011/2012 Academic Year*” was approved and received by the Examination Committee of the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education of Jember University.

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## SUMMARY

**A Study of the Sentence Problems Found in the Texts Written by the Eighth Year Students of SMPN 3 Bangsalsari in the 2011/2012 Academic Year;** Diah Puspita Sari, 070210401095; 2012: 95 pages; English Education Program of Language and Arts Education department, the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Jember University.

Writing is one of the important skills that should be mastered by the students, unfortunately most of the students still have problems in writing especially in writing good sentences. This research was intended to describe the eighth year students' sentence problems in writing descriptive text and recount text.

The research was conducted at SMPN3 Bangsalsari which was chosen by purposive method with the following consideration: (1) it was possible to get permission from the headmaster to do research in this school, (2) this school needed data about the students' sentence problems in their writings (a descriptive text and recount text). The subjects of the research were the eighth year students of SMPN 3 Bangsalsari in the 2011/2012 academic year. They were divided into four classes, VIII A, VIII B, VIII C, and VIII D. In this research, the researcher used purposive sampling method to determine the respondents. The researcher took six students from each class which consisted of two high achiever students in English, two moderate achiever students in English, and two low achiever students in English by using UAS score of English as the classification. Therefore, there were 24 students of eighth year as the subjects.

The main data were collected by using writing test. The students were given three topics for each text and they were asked to choose one topic to write a descriptive text and a recount text in the form of a short essay in 40 minutes for each text. Each text should consist of at least 2 paragraphs and each paragraph consists of 5-10 sentences. The students' writing text were analyzed by identifying and coding the sentence problems, classifying and listing the sentence

problems into four categories namely sentence fragments, comma splices, run-on sentences, and grammatical problems. Then, the sentence problems found were calculating to find out the percentage of each indicator.

Based on the results of the data analysis, it was found that among the four indicators, the highest percentage of sentences problems found in the students' writing was grammatical problems with 70 problems (41.6%) in descriptive text and 137 problems (60.6%) in the recount text. Then, it was followed by sentence fragments with 67 problems (39.9%) in descriptive text and 60 problems (26.6%) in the recount text and run-on sentences with 22 problems (13.1%) in descriptive text and 18 problems (7.9%) in the recount text, while comma splices as the least sentence problems found in the students' writing had 9 problems (5.4%) in descriptive text and 11 problems (4.9%) in the recount text. This might occur because the effect of the students' knowledge of their native language or interlingual transfer and the overgeneralization of the students' knowledge of English or intralingual transfer. Thus, it needed more practice for the students to become good writers.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All praise to Allah, the Almighty; may He sends peace and blessings on Muhammad, on his family, and on his companions. I thank Allah, for giving so I can finish my thesis entitled **“A Study of the Sentence Problems Found in Texts Written by the Eighth Year Students of SMPN 3 Bangsalsari in the 2011/2012 Academic Year”**.

I would like to express my deepest appreciation and sincerest thanks to the following people:

1. The Dean of the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Jember University,
2. The Chairperson of the Language and Arts Department,
3. The Chairperson of the English Education Program,
4. My first consultant, Dr. Budi Setyono, M.A., and my second consultant and my academic supervisor, Dra. Siti Sundari, M.A., for their guidance and valuable suggestions in accomplishing this thesis,
5. The examination committee,
6. The lecturers of the English Education Program who have taught and given me a lot of knowledge,
7. The Principal, the English Teacher, and the eighth grade students of SMPN 3 Bangsalsari who helped and participated willingly to involve in this research,
8. And all of my friends that helped me in composing this thesis.

I believe that this thesis still has some weaknesses. Therefore, I really hope that there will be criticism and suggestions from the readers to make this thesis better. I also hope that this thesis will be useful for the readers.

Jember, July 2012

Writer

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