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Analysis of Language Errors in Kompas.com Instagram Comments

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Abstract

The digital era has turned social media into a primary space for public interaction, marked by diverse language use and frequent linguistic deviations, especially in online news comment sections. This study examines language errors in user comments on the Kompas.com Instagram account, focusing on spelling, punctuation, capitalization, prepositions, diction, and non-standard words. Using a descriptive qualitative method with listening and recording techniques on political and social news posts, the findings reveal frequent violations of language rules, mainly due to informal digital communication habits and low linguistic awareness. The study highlights the need for improved language accuracy on social media to support effective communication and preserve proper Indonesian usage.

Keywords: Language errors, Instagram, comments, Kompas.com

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Abstrak

Era digital telah menjadikan media sosial sebagai ruang utama interaksi publik yang ditandai dengan keberagaman penggunaan bahasa dan seringnya penyimpangan kebahasaan, khususnya di kolom komentar berita daring. Penelitian ini mengkaji kesalahan berbahasa dalam komentar pengguna pada akun Instagram Kompas.com, dengan fokus pada aspek ejaan, tanda baca, huruf kapital, preposisi, diksi, dan penggunaan kata tidak baku. Metode yang digunakan adalah deskriptif kualitatif dengan teknik simak dan catat pada unggahan berita bertema politik dan sosial. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan pelanggaran kaidah bahasa yang cukup sering terjadi, terutama karena kebiasaan komunikasi digital yang informal dan rendahnya kesadaran berbahasa. Studi ini menekankan pentingnya peningkatan ketepatan berbahasa di media sosial untuk mendukung komunikasi yang efektif dan menjaga penggunaan bahasa Indonesia yang baik dan benar.

Kata kunci: *Kesalahan berbahasa, Instagram, komentar, Kompas.com*

Introduction

Social media has become an important means for people to interact, exchange opinions, and express views openly along with the rapid development of the digital world. Social media is an online platform that allows users to actively participate, share information, and build social networks easily (Mulyono, 2021). Instagram is one of the most popular platforms because its function is not only limited to sharing visual content, but also as a forum for public discussion, especially through the comments column of news accounts such as Kompas.com. Instagram is a mobile-based application that allows users to upload photos and videos accompanied by text captions. Other users can like, comment, and interact with each other through these uploads (Sari et al., 2023). Citizens' responses to various current issues displayed in the comments column are often spontaneous, but in practice they also show variations in language use that deviate from correct linguistic rules. In today's digital era, social media has become the main tool in communicating and interacting with others. However, on these platforms, many users tend to use informal or unofficial language (Khairani et al., 2023).

Language is a communication tool between humans that is unique and unique to humans themselves. Apart from being a tool to convey intentions and goals, language also plays an important role in maintaining clarity of communication. If the message conveyed is not clear, then communication becomes ineffective. Besides being used as a communication tool, Indonesian also has an important role as a national language. In its use, there are four interrelated language skills, namely: (1) listening, (2) speaking, (3) reading, and (4) writing. The four skills need to be applied harmoniously and integrated in practice (Monica et al., 2025). The importance of using language in the communication process, both orally and in writing. Through language, a person can easily capture the meaning and information conveyed, provided that the language used fulfills good and correct rules (Wiwik Susanti et al., 2022). Language develops over time, both in terms of word selection and the creation of new vocabulary that can affect changes in meaning. Moreover, in the current era, social media has become an important part of communication activities which indirectly changes the way language is used in writing. It is not uncommon for mistakes in writing on social media to cause problems in understanding the meaning of the sentences conveyed.

Language error analysis is a process of studying language use with the aim of understanding the true condition of the language under study. From this understanding, it can be concluded that the main purpose of this analysis is to identify and establish a basis for correcting

errors that occur in various aspects of language (Deasy Supartini et al., 2023). Language error is a technique used to identify, categorize, and interpret errors made by language users systematically when learning a foreign language using linguistic theories and steps. These errors can be seen from all aspects, starting from linguistic aspects, such as phonology, morphology, and syntax, as well as from nonlinguistic aspects, namely meaning and content (Bella et al., 2020). Various language errors that have been considered commonplace are often found in everyday language use, especially in the form of writing on social media. This condition can affect a person's way of thinking until they get used to writing words that are not in accordance with the correct rules (Iftinan & Sabardila, 2021). The use of language that is not in accordance with the rules often causes errors, especially in the context of speaking on social media. This language error refers to the use of language that does not follow good and correct language rules (Noviana & Atiqa Sabardila, 2023).

There are still many language errors in Instagram mass media writing related to spelling, including improper use of punctuation marks, improper capitalization, improper placement of prepositions, and the use of standardized words that are not in accordance with the Big Indonesian Dictionary. This means that if spelling and word choice in a sentence or paragraph are used appropriately, it will prevent misunderstanding for the reader. As stated by Leksono (2019), to convey ideas or ideas in the form of writing well, harmony and wholeness are needed in the sentences and spelling used. Meanwhile, according to Winata (2019), by referring to the General Guidelines for Improved Indonesian Spelling, we can understand the correct use of punctuation in accordance with the applicable spelling system.

Ningrum et al.'s research (2021) examined language errors in Instagram posts and found various errors, such as incorrect spelling, improper use of particles, and the use of foreign languages that are not standardized. These errors are generally caused by the influence of everyday language and a lack of understanding of Indonesian language rules. These findings confirm the importance of language accuracy in social media for more effective communication and can be utilized in literacy learning. Monica et al.'s research (2025) found various Indonesian writing errors in Instagram posts, such as the use of non-standard spelling, mixing foreign languages, and inappropriate diction. These errors are caused by informal digital communication habits and a lack of understanding of language rules. The results of the study emphasize the importance of language accuracy in social media to make communication clearer and still support the preservation of good and correct Indonesian language.

Anjani and Saniro's (2024) research analyzing errors in the use of punctuation and capital letters in the comments of the Instagram account "Folkative" found that there were 5 comments that had writing errors. These errors include the non-use of capital letters at the beginning of sentences, improper selection of punctuation marks (such as a full stop that should be a question mark or comma), as well as errors in spacing and word writing. The results of this study show that social media users often ignore Indonesian language guidelines (PUEBI), so awareness is needed to improve writing in accordance with good and correct language rules. The findings also emphasize the importance of using good and correct language on social media to maintain the beauty and clarity of communication.

Research by Pandhya et al. (2024) found that although many social media users were initially unfamiliar with the Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (KBBI), academic demands and the need for clear digital communication encouraged them to start using it. KBBI proved to play a role in expanding vocabulary, understanding the meaning of words, and improving language skills, including in making posts or comments that are in accordance with language rules. Most

respondents tended to choose the online version of the KBBI because of its easy access through digital devices. This finding emphasizes the importance of introducing the KBBI early on, especially in the social media era, so that people are accustomed to using Indonesian according to the rules in online communication.

This study aims to identify and classify language errors contained in comments on Instagram Kompas.com, incorrect placement of prepositions, use of diction, and use of standardized words that are not in accordance with the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI). The focus of the analysis is directed at errors in the aspects of spelling, capitalization, punctuation, which are often a problem in writing comments on Instagram. In addition, this research also aims to provide practical suggestions that can be applied by writers to improve the quality of language in commenting. Thus, it is hoped that the results of this study can be a real contribution in an effort to improve the quality of language in social media in accordance with good and correct Indonesian language rules.

Method

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach to explore and analyze various language errors contained in user comments on the Kompas.com Instagram account. The focus of the analysis is directed at errors in the aspects of spelling, capitalization, punctuation, which are often a problem in writing comments on Instagram. The research data was obtained from netizen comments that appeared on political and social themed news uploads published by the official Kompas.com account within a certain period of time. Qualitative research is a type of research that produces descriptive data, which is carried out by observing the speech, writing, and behavior of the people who are the object of observation (Putri et al., 2023). This is in line with Sudayarto's explanation in Alika (2017) that descriptive method is a type of research that is based entirely on facts or symptoms that really occur and can be observed directly in the lives of the speakers. This is in accordance with the research that will be applied by researchers.

Data collection was carried out using listening and note-taking techniques, in which the researcher directly observed the comment column on the selected uploads, then recorded comments that showed indications of punctuation and spelling errors. The note technique is a method used to collect data by recording the information obtained. In this study, the note-taking technique was used to record words or sentences containing language and syntactic errors (Nisa, 2018). The data used is the general Indonesian spelling guidelines. This guideline includes the use of letters, the procedure for writing words, and the use of punctuation marks. In addition, these guidelines are also a reference in various Indonesian language practices, especially in the context of writing according to the rules, including when using social media such as Instagram.

Result and Discussion

A. Spelling and Punctuation Errors

Spelling is a set of rules that regulates how to represent speech sounds and how to separate and unite these symbols in a language (Nurhamidah, 2018). Meanwhile, punctuation plays a role in clarifying sentence structure, intonation, and relationships between elements in written text.

Data (1) Spelling Errors

“ya ngapain kek lu nyari kegiatan keluarga. family trip family time atau apa kek”

Translate: “Why don't you look for family activities. family trip family time or something?”

In data (1) there is a spelling error in the word "yes" which should be capitalized if it is at the beginning of a sentence → it becomes "Yes". In addition, the words "Family trip" and "family

time" are absorbed phrases that should be given an initial capital letter if they are considered the title of the activity → they can become "Family Trip" and "Family Time" if they refer to the name of the activity.

Correct writing: "Yes, why don't you look for family activities, such as Family Trip, Family Time, or something else?"

Data (2) Spelling Errors

“Ya kalau khawatir ibunya hrs fokus dong nemenin anaknya, kgn sibuk dgn kerjaan aja, udh cukup bpk nya yg krja atau klo si ibu krja bisa pintar atur waktu biar ank trjaga”

Translate: “Yes, if you are worried, the mother must focus on accompanying her child, don't be busy with work, it's enough the father works or if the mother works, she can be smart in managing time so that the child is taken care of”

In data (2) there are spelling mistakes in the words "hrs" → must, "kgn" → don't, "with" → with, "udh" → already, "bpk" → father, "yg" → yang, "krja" → work, "klo" → if, "ank" → child, "trjaga" → awake.

Correct writing: "Yes, if you are worried, the mother should focus on accompanying the child. Don't be too busy with work. It's enough that the father works, or if the mother also works, then she must be clever in managing her time so that the child stays awake."

Data (3) Comma Punctuation Error [,]

“ya ngapain kek lu nyari kegiatan keluarga. family trip family time atau apa kek”

Translate: “Why don't you look for family activities. family trip family time or something?”

In data (3) there is a punctuation error after the word "family", a comma (,) should be used, not a period (.), because the sentence is still continuing. A full stop (.) indicates the end of a sentence, but is not followed by a capital letter at the beginning of the next sentence.

Correct writing: "Yes, why don't you look for family activities, such as Family Trip, Family Time, or something else?"

These errors reflect the lack of attention of social media users to the application of good and correct Indonesian language rules, as a result of the relaxed and informal style of digital communication. This phenomenon is in line with the results of research by Monica et al. (2025) who found various errors in Instagram posts, such as the use of non-standard spelling, mixing foreign languages, and inappropriate word choice.

B. Capitalization Errors

Capital letters, often referred to as uppercase letters, do not actually refer to their physical size, but to their distinctive form and function. These letters are usually used at the beginning of writing and have an important role in clarifying the meaning of a writing. Proper use of capital letters helps readers more easily understand the content of the text (Purnamasari et al., 2024).

Data (4) “Tanpa SANKSI, tanpa DENDA, tanpa PERMINTAAN MAAF KE PUBLIK, udah bisa dibuka kembali. Konoha emang badabest! Bahkan IG widuran masih nonaktifkan kolom komentar wkwkwk.” Translate: "No SANKSI, no DENIAL, no APOLOGIZATION TO THE PUBLIC, it can already be reopened. Konoha is the badest! Even IG widuran still disables the comment column wkwkwk."

In data (4) there are capitalization errors in the words "SANKSI", "DENDA", "APOLOGIZE TO THE PUBLIC." The use of all capital letters for these words does not comply

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with the rules of formal writing. According to the General Guidelines for Indonesian Spelling (PUEBI), capital letters are used for: The beginning of a sentence, names of people, places, institutions, abbreviations of titles or official names. In addition, the word "widuran" when referring to an account name or proper name, should be capitalized, becoming "Widuran".

Correct writing: "No sanctions, no fines, no public apologies, it can be reopened. Konoha is amazing! Even IG Widuran still disables the comment section."

Data (5) "MAKANYA , MAPEL PMP KN DAN P4 DI HIDUPKAN KEMBALI."

Translate: "THAT'S WHY, PMP KN AND P4 SUBJECTS ARE REVIVED."

In data (5) there are errors in the capital letters "EATING", "MAPEL", "AND", "HIDUPKAN KEMBALI" The use of ALL CAPS should not be used except for very special emphasis (and not the whole sentence).

Correct writing: "Hence, PMP and P4 subjects were revived."

This error is in accordance with the findings of Anjani and Saniro (2024), which revealed that punctuation and capitalization errors in Instagram comments reflect the low language awareness of social media users. This finding emphasizes the importance of applying PUEBI rules to maintain the clarity and beauty of online communication.

C. Preposition Placement Errors

Preposition is a language element that connects a noun, pronoun, or phrase with another part of the sentence to show a relation of meaning, such as place, direction, time, purpose, instrument, cause, or manner.

Data (6) "Disaat negara lain sudah memikirkan ngebangun rumah melayang, jaringan internet 10 G, dll, negara konoha masih di seputaran halal dan non halal."

Translate; "While other countries are already thinking about building floating houses, 10 G internet networks, etc., the country of Konoha is still around halal and non-halal."

In data (6), the preposition "di" in the phrase is used incorrectly because it is combined with the word "around", which already contains the meaning of location/area or topic coverage.

Correct writing: "While other countries are already thinking about building floating houses, 10 G internet networks, and so on, the country of Konoha is still around halal and non-halal."

As the findings of Ningrum et al. (2021) show that language errors on Instagram, such as incorrect spelling, preposition placement, and the use of non-standard foreign languages, are caused by the influence of spoken language and low understanding of the rules. This emphasizes the importance of language accuracy for effective communication.

D. Diction Errors

Diction is one of the methods used by writers in composing comments so that they are easily understood by readers. The right choice of words will affect the reader's understanding of the meaning of the comment (Damayanti, 2018).

Data (7) "Di pemerintahan semua cashless, lah di central nya pusat ngatur uu masi manual"

Translate: "In the government, everything is cashless, but in the central government, it is still manual" In data (7) there is a diction error in the word central" → It is more appropriate to use "center", "masi" → It should be "still" (not standard).

Correct writing: "In the government, everything is cashless, but in the center, the center regulates the law still manually"

This phenomenon is in line with the results of research by Monica et al. (2025), who found

various errors in Instagram posts, such as the use of non-standard spelling, and the use of inappropriate diction.

E. Errors in the Use of Non-Regular Words

PUEBI is the use of words that are in accordance with the rules of good and correct Indonesian grammar, the aim is to make it easier for Indonesian language users to find and determine whether or not various word equivalents used by Indonesian people are correct.

Data (8) "Yaaaa kaliiii bener Bapak2 kerja bakti RT aja ngarep ada kopi ama gorengan. Mosok penasehat urisan doweet dapet senyuman doang?"

Translate: "Yaaaa kaliiii it's true that the fathers of the RT community service are just hoping for coffee and fried foods. How come the urisan doweet advisor gets just a smile?"

In data (8) there are errors in the word bapak2" → "bapak-bapak", the word "penasihat" → "penasihat", the word "urisan" → "urusan", the word "doweet" → "duit", the word "doang" → "saja". This comment is clearly not in accordance with the standard Indonesian language rules according to the KBBI.

Correct writing: "Yes, it's true... Neighborhood community service fathers just expect coffee and fried food, how come money advisors are only given a smile?"

Language errors that are rampant on social media reflect the low utilization of valid language reference sources, such as the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), among digital users. This phenomenon is in line with the findings of Pandhya et al. (2024), which showed that many people are new to the KBBI.

Conclusion

The results of this study show that there are still many language errors found in the Kompas.com Instagram comment column, especially in the aspects of spelling, punctuation, capital letters, prepositions, diction, and the use of standardized words that are not in accordance with the KBBI. These errors reflect the low awareness of good and correct language among social media users and the lack of utilization of language reference sources such as the KBBI. This phenomenon is in line with previous research which states that the informal style of digital communication and lack of understanding of language rules are the main factors for errors. Therefore, improving language literacy through continuous education and integrating language rules in the use of social media is needed so that the quality of community communication becomes clearer, more effective and cultured.

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