

Thesis Title	An error analysis of free compositions written by the first year students of Mahamakut Buddhist University, Mahavajiralongkornrajawitthayalai Campus, Ayutthaya Province
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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to analyze types and frequency of errors, the number of errors per 100 words, sources of errors and mother tongue interference in free compositions written by the first year students of Mahamakut Buddhist University, Mahavajiralongkornrajawitthayalai campus in Ayutthaya province. The research sample was fifty - first year students of Mahamakut Buddhist University, Mahavajiralongkornrajawitthayalai campus in Ayutthaya province obtained by sample random technique from ninety students in two classes.

The research instruments consisted of 1) eleven writing topics 2) three picture stories 3) the scheme of forty - seven types of error classification.

The total of eighty - five copies of written compositions obtained were analyzed by means of percentage and an interview of written errors of ten samples drawn by simple random technique was conducted.

The results of the research were found as follows:

1) There were totally forty - seven types of errors of the sample which could be ordered in top ten frequencies from the most to the least : 1) Error in the use of tenses 2) Error in the use of determiners 3) Error in the use of prepositions 4) Error in the use of verb forms 5) Punctuation 6) Literal translation from L1 (Thai) to English (L2) 7) Error in the use of adverbs 8) Wrong choice of words 9) Error in the use of nouns and 10) Error in the use of agreement.

2) The rate of error frequency of the sample calculated was 15.66 words per 100 written words.

3) The sources of errors analyzed were 32.10 percent of mother tongue interference, 17.70 percent of carelessness, 15.63 percent of overgeneralization, 14.40 percent of

ignorance of rule restriction, 10.29 percent of false concept hypothesized and 9.88 percent of incomplete application of rules. Furthermore, two sources of errors; recognition and acquaintance were found.

4) Most of the sample used first language structures to write English compositions which mainly caused written errors.