Common mistakes in nouns among form one students in secondary schools in Malaysia

Chew, Fong Peng,
University of Malaya

Norhida Yahti binti Adri
University of Malaya

Abstract
This research was conducted to explore students’ mistakes in noun components. Students need to master these in order to gain more understanding in their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. The data was collected through grammar tests and questionnaires among 300 students in the rural area in Hulu Selangor, Malaysia. Based on the findings, most of them failed to answer correctly 70% of the grammar test and tended to make mistakes in singular and plural nouns, collective nouns and possessive nouns. It was found that students’ performance in grammar components has a close relationship with family income. Most students who come from families with low incomes tend to make more mistakes in grammar and vice versa. Fun activities in learning grammar, watching films with English subtitles and learning English songs were among the suggestions to improve students’ understanding of noun components. This finding showed that students’ understanding of grammar could be developed through various student-centred activities and teachers’ strategies in teaching grammar.

Keywords: mistake, noun, secondary school, English, Malaysia

Introduction
Grammar is the basic component in English language. English grammar enables students to gain deep understanding in all four domains; reading, writing, speaking and listening in English. Grammar is taught