

**GRAMMATICAL ANALYSIS ON THE USE OF SUBJECT VERBS  
AGREEMENTS BY SACHA STEVENSON'S THREE-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER IN  
HER YOUTUBE VIDEO**



**A PROJECT**

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for  
the Sarjana Degree Majoring Linguistics in English Department  
Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University**

**Submitted by:**

**Wahid Sito Nugroho**

**13020116130068**

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
DIPONEGORO UNIVERSITY  
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## **PRONOUNCEMENT**

The writer honestly confirms that he composes this thesis by himself and without taking any results from other researchers in S-1, S-2, S-3 and in diploma degree of any university. The writer ascertains also that he does not quote any material from other publications or someone's paper except from the references mentioned.

Semarang, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021

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Wahid Sito Nugroho

## **MOTTO AND DEDICATION**

*Self-discipline is the center of all material succes. You cannot win the war against the world if you cannot win the war against your own mind.*

**Will Smith**

*I dedicated this paper to*

*My beloved parents and*

*To everyone who has support and help me to accomplish this paper.*

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Written by:

Wahid Sito Nugroho

NIM : 13020116130068

Is approved by the project advisor

On 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2020

Thesis Advisor



Dr. Mualimin, M.Hum.

NIP. 196111101987101001

The Head of English Department



Dr. Oktiva Herry Chandra, M.Hum.

NIP. 196710041993031003

## VALIDATION

Approved by

Strata I Project Examination Committee  
Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University

Chair Person



Dra. Wiwiek Sundari, M.Hum.

Nip. 195906071990032001

First Member



Dr. Oktiva Herry Chandra, M.Hum.

Nip. 196710041993031003

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I realize this project is still far from perfection. Therefore, I will be glad to receive any constructive criticism and recommendation to make this project better.

Finally, I expect this project will be useful to the reader who wishes to learn or do a research related to the topic have been discussed in this project.

Semarang, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wahid Sito Nugroho', written in a cursive style.

Wahid Sito Nugroho

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## **ABSTRACT**

For every human being, language is an important tool to do communication. Furthermore, people use language to share information or something with others. This research focused on the use of subject verb agreement of a three year-old girl as the object. Subject verb agreement is a component of grammar. More specifically, it is a subject that must agree with the verb in a sentence. This research is aimed to know the error related on the use of subject verb agreement based on the object sentences and the types of subject verb agreement that appears the most. Based on research, there are found 10 sentences error related on the use of subject verb agreement and 15 sentences related the error of subject verb agreement of person from 53 sentences. I can conclude that a three year-old girl with English native speaker's mother has already known the grammar rule.

**Keywords :** *Language, Three year-old girl, Grammar, Subject verb agreement.*



## **I. Background of The Study**

Language is an important tool to communicate, especially for the people, since communication is an important medium to express their feelings, ideas, knowledge, and thought in their daily life. People use language to share information or something they already know with others, so they will understand the purpose. Furthermore, people can also use language in many different ways to express their feelings, ideas, knowledge, and thoughts, for example: speech, storytelling, poetry, and song lyric.

The process in learning English either for native or non-native English speakers are the common things in grammatical error. The errors mostly turn up while the learners try to produce English in writing and speaking. Based on the form, grammatical errors that produced by the learner can be divided into five, subject-verb agreement, singular or plural, tenses, and aspect. This happened because the different structure in the language against the mother language.

The object of this research is a three-year-old girl. She lives in Bali, her mother is Canadian and her father is Indonesian. Since her mother is youtuber, i take the data while watching her mother's video and write down the sentences when the object doing conversation with her mother or her father.

Youtube is a video sharing that allows the users to watching videos have been posted and uploaded by others or their own. The service was started in 2005 and acquired by Google in 2006.

## **II. Research Question**

According to the background, here is the problem to discuss.

1. What are the error types of subject verb agreement that appears the most?

### **III. Purpose of The Study**

To conduct this research, I have two purposes of the study.

1. To know the error related on the use of subject verb agreement in the sentences that are produced by the three-year-old girl.
2. To know what are the errors of types subject verb agreement that appears the most by the sentences of the three-year-old girl.

### **IV. Previous Studies**

There have been numerous studies regarding the analysis of grammatical whether it is focusing on verbs, noun, and etc. In this part, the author has collected some previous studies related the topic to present the contrast in each study and the author's own research.

First, *An Analysis of Common Grammatical Errors Made by Saudi University Students in Writing* written by Muhammed Adam, A. Uthman, and Abdalla Yasin Abdalla (2015). Based on the research, the researcher analyzed about the cause of grammatical errors. At last, the researcher has found that the infirm of students capability in knowing and using the syntactical rules and the negative transfer based their first language are the cause of grammatical error.

Second, Ibrahim Abushihab (2014) in this study entitled *An Analysis of Grammatical Errors in Writing Made by Turkish Learners of English as a Foreign Language*, the author research that concern in grammatical errors in writing by students at Department of English Language learning in English as a foreign language in Gazi University of Turkey. The result shows there were 179 grammatical errors consist of several aspect. They are, 50 errors in the use of preposition, 52 errors in using of article, 27 errors in tenses, 17 errors in both of passive and active voice, and 33 in morphological errors.

Third, *An Analysis of the Written Grammatical Errors* produced by Freshman Students, Hamzah (2012). The researcher has identified twenty English texts written by English Department students, Faculty of Language and Art, Padang State University. Based on his study, the researcher has found the errors that categorize into 15 groups ranging from severe and average error. For the first one, they were article, spelling, preposition, plurality, and word choice. For the second, also the average errors were relative clause, subject-verb agreement, copula omission, pronoun agreement, dropping, possessive, and mechanic. The researcher suggested English teachers to improve the awareness of the students on these errors and offer sufficient remedies to avoid internalizing the errors by the students.

Fourth, *Grammatical Errors on Academic Writing Essays*, Amelia (2013). The researcher analyzed the grammatical errors and the factors causing the errors by English Department students at Diponegoro University based on academic writing essays. In this case, the researcher has found 238 grammatical errors, with the use of verb being the most error that occurred and the rest being the use of adverb. For the factors causing the errors, they were first language interference, carelessness, and translation.

Fifth and also the last, a journal entitled *A Case Study of Grammatical Errors Made by Malaysian Students* by Andrew Yau Hau Tse (2014). In this study, the researcher got 60 paragraphs written by Department of Languages and Linguistics students from a university in Malaysia. Based on the research, the researcher found out 797 errors related to prepositions, adjectives, nouns, subject-verb agreement, singular or plural, articles, and tenses. To help the learner avoid making errors, the researcher suggests to English teachers to explain about process writing and peer correction.

The aspect would be analyzed, the object of the study, and the theories used in this study are the different between this study and the previous study. This study analyzed the grammatical error sentence by a three-year-old girl who is Sacha Stevenson's daughter as the object of the study. In addition, the author only focusing on analyzing the errors related on the use of subject-verb agreement. Furthermore, the

author used the typology of verb categories to look into the error and grammatical error to explain the error itself.

## **V. Scope of The Study**

This research focused on analyzing the errors related to the use of subject-verb agreement. The theories used on this study are typology of verb categories and grammatical error. In addition, this study investigates the sentences by a three-year-old girl as the object while having a conversation with her mother.

The data of this research are taken by videos of the object on her mother's YouTube channel. Based on the stages of development English process, the object of the study can be assumed on the Speech Emergence stage. There are four stages of development English process, which are Pre-production, Early Production, Speech Emergence, and Fluency.

## **VI. Theoretical Framework**

In this study, the author used Typology of verb categories used to look into the errors related to subject-verb agreements, verb's complements, and tense and aspect, but this study only focused on subject verb agreement. Furthermore, about grammatical error is to knowing or to tell inappropriate on the use of grammar rules.

### **1. Typology of Verb Categories**

According to Newson (2006:12), verb has been fellowship as the thematic categories that has a lexical meaning. The categorical structure of verb is [-F, -N, +V]. That shows verb is one of thematic categories [-F], does not exist as noun [-N] and stands for the verb [+V].

### **Verb Forms**

Verb has different number of inflectional form permitted and requires in several grammatical contexts (Huddleston and Pullum, 2005:29). That means the verb inflects for tense in different forms to represent tense distinctions. Based on his book entitled *Basic English Syntax*, Newson (2006: 18-21) stated

that there are five form of the verbs. They will be explain below:

### **Based Forms of the Verb**

Huddleston and Pullum (2005:31) point out that the starting point of morphological rules which explained what about the various inflectional form

were inflected is called base form of the verb. The base form of verbs were uninflected can be used in first person, second person, also plural subject in present tense (Newson, 2006:21). Furthermore, the base form of verb could be indicated as the habitual aspect. The example of the base form of verb are *say, see, stop, strew*, etc. (Brinton, 2000:115).

### **Past Form of the Verb**

According to Huddleston and Pullum (2005:30) the past form of the verb is inflected for the past tense. That is could be provided by lexical verb plus past tense morpheme –ed. For the past form, there should be irregular forms of the verb. Moreover, the past form of the verb could showed the habitual aspect. Based on Newson (2006:18 and 21) the example of the words are *said, saw, stopped, strewed*, etc.

### **Third Person Singular Form of the Verb**

This form of the verb is supposed to show or tell about the present tense. In this point, the use of the subject must be singular and the third person, such as *he, she, and it* (Newson, 2006:21). Huddleston and Pullum (2005:31) state that the form of this verb is the based form of the verb itself by adding –s. Here are the examples of the person singular, *says, sees, stops, strews*, etc (Newson, 2006:21).

Based the explanation above, it shows that the case has similar to subject-verb agreement that the verb agree with both of number and person. Newson (2006:19) and Huddleston and Pullum (2005:31) said that verb to be are divided into 3. First one is *am* for first person singular subject, for the third singular subject is *is*, and *are* for the rest of (you, we, and they). They also said that the past form are consist of 2 forms, *was* is for the first and third person singular meanwhile *were* is for the rest

### **Perfective or Passive Form of the Verb**

Perfective form of the verb is used to tell the perfective aspect shows up if the event has finished. The verb also has the irregularity and the passive form that always identic against the perfective (Newson, 2006:20-21 and Huddleston



and Pullum, 2005:33). Here is the examples of the verb, *said, seen, stopped, screwed, etc.*

### **Progressive Form of the Verb**

The progressive form of verb is provided to explain the progressive aspect that indicate an event is still on going. The progressive form has well organized that formed by inflecting *-ing* to the stem. The instances of the progressive form of the verb are *seeing, saying, stopping, screwing, etc.* (Newson, 2006: 20-21).

## **2. Grammatical Error**

Since every language has its own grammar rules that might be different from one language to others, the rules are expressing how words are combined, organized, or changed to tell certain meaning are called grammar (Swan, 2005). According to Coghill and Magendaz (2003), “Grammar determines how words are arranged to form meaningful units”. Based on those explanation it means grammar is the rules playing an important role in making sentences since it shows certain kind of meaning. On the other hand, if it is not used in right way, the meaning of the sentences will change.

However, grammar is not easy to understand and almost everyone makes grammatical error both in writing and speaking in English (Novita, 2014). Grammatical errors can be various since grammar consist of several parts. According to James (1998) there are several components of grammar such as reported speech, prepositions, singular/plural, articles, tenses, irregular verbs, possessive case, and adjectives (Mungungu, 2010). Furthermore, Nordquist (2018) point out that grammar consist of several categories such as verbs, nouns, adjectives, prepositions, determiners, conjunctions, and practice. About the grammatical aspects, this study is focuses on subject-verb agreement.

### **a. Subject-verb Agreement**

In a sentence, subject should agree with the verb. If the verb is singular the subject should be also singular as well as if the verb is plural (Benner, 2000). According to Radin and Fong (2014) subject-verb agreement is the one of the major to the students who learning English.

Corder (1974) explained there are five types of subject-verb agreement (cited in Radin and Fongs, 2014).

### **1. Subject-verb Agreement of Person**

Butte College (2016c) said that subject-verb agreement of person is refers to if the word mean for the first person, second person, or third person. In this case, the first person plural consist of *I* and *we*, for the second person plural is *you*, and third person singular are *he*, *she*, and *it*.

### **2. Subject-verb Agreement of Number**

According to Butte College (2016c) subject-verb agreement of number refers to if the word is singular or plural. That means in a sentence, the verb is depends on the subject. In case the subject is singular the verb must be also singular, as well as for plural. Moreover, the verb should be added *s* or *-es* at the end of the verb while a plural should not to be added.

### **3. Subject-verb Agreement of Indefinite Subject**

Nordquist (2017b) point out that subject-verb agreement of indefinite subject means to an unspecified of unidentified person or thing. In this case, the subject can be either noun of pronoun. Furthermore, a singular indefinite subject should be paired with singular verb. As well as for the plural.

### **4. Subject-verb Agreement with Coordinated Subject**

Every coordinated subject always a plural. According to Bute College (2016c) subject-verb agreement with coordinated subject is a subject that consist of two things and joined by an *and*.

## **5. Subject-verb Agreement of Notional Agreement and Proximity**

Subject-verb agreement of notional agreement and proximity means that the rules of subject-verb agreement have been applied based on the meaning of the sentences rather than the grammatical form. In this case, singular noun can be paired to a plural verb, and for the plural noun can be paired to a singular verb depend with the meaning of the sentences. Such as the word audience can be known either as singular or plural. If the word of audience has seen as single entity, it should be singular. On the other hand, if it seen as every individual who comes watching a concert, it should be plural (Banner, 2012).

According to Nordquist (2017b) proximity agreement is a way to dependent with noun that is closest against the verb to consider whether the verb is singular or plural.

## **VII. Methodology**

This chapter covers the explanation about: (1) Type of the study, (2) Data, Population, Sample, and Sampling Technique, (3) Method of Collecting Data, (4) Method of Analyzing data.

### **1. Research Method**

This study is kind of descriptive nature since the author is describing the type and the used of subject-verb agreement. Moreover, the author also provided one approach, that is qualitative approach. Qualitative approach will present frequency of the errors

### **2. Data, Sample, Population**

All the sentences that contain error related on the use of subject-verb agreement produced by the object based on her conversation with her mother is the data. In addition, the population on her mother of the object video is 430 videos. However, I only chose some videos that show the object of the study by using purposive sampling method.

### **3. Method of Data Collection**

In collecting the data, I used non-participant observation guide because I did not involve myself in producing the data (Emzir, 2010: 40)

I watched some videos on her mother Youtube channels that it contains of

conversations between the object and her mother. I also decided that there are only 2 videos that I used for the data of this study since the other videos are talking about her mother's daily life.

#### 4. Method of Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, I use the distributional method, in which its determiner is an element of the language itself (Sudaryanto, 2015 : 37). The part of the language itself is the verb. In this method, I use a *teknik ganti* or substitution technique because I change the incorrect form to be the correct form of the verbs that makes the sentence grammatical (Sudaryanto, 2015 : 59).

### VIII. Finding and Discussion

No	Types of Subject Verb Agreement	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Subject Verb Agreement of Person	15	55%
2.	Subject Verb Agreement of Number	10	45%
3.	Subject Verb Agreement of Indefinite Subject	0	0
4.	Subject Verb Agreement With Coordinated Subject	0	0
5.	Subject Verb Agreement of Notional Agreement and Proximity	0	0

Based on the analysis, the most types of subject verb agreement that occurred in the sentences by the subject is Subject Verb Agreement of person and the second is Subject Verb Agreement of Number. In this research, the author did not find Subject Verb Agreement of indefinite Subject, Subject Verb Agreement With Coordinate Subject, and Subject Verb Agreement of Notional Agreement

and Proximity in the sentences by the object because as 3 year old girl, the object can only produce simple sentences and the object is in speech emergence stage. The explanation about the types of subject verb agreement of person and number will be provided below;

1. Subject Verb Agreement of Person

1. *I get all of my favourite toys down here.*

Since *I* is the first person plural subject, the verb should be plural too. Based on the subject and the verb agree each other because the verb *get* without adding –s at the end of the word is used when the subject is plural.

2. *Yes, it can hurt my feeling.*

*It* is a third person singular subject, to make the sentence correct the verb must be also singular. The subject *it* and the verb *can* agree each other, since *can* is modal verb that the form is can not be changed.

3. *I was just sleeping and daddy just mad.*

*I* is a first person plural subject, hence, the verb must be also plural. The subject *I* and verb *was* agree with each other because the verb *was* without adding –s at the end of the word is used when the subject is plural. Furthermore, *was* is known as auxiliary verb to be.

4. *See, I bring all of the toy to play.*

The form of the sentence is right. Since the subject is first person plural and the verb must be also plural. Subject *I* and verb *bring* agreed each other.

5. *Can you open it?*

*You* is a second person plural subject, therefore the verb must be also plural. The subject *you* and the verb *open* agreed with each other because the verb *open* without adding –s at the end of the word is used when the subject is plural.

6. *They are not babbies, mommy.*

In this sentence, either the subject and the verb agree each other, since

subject *they* is the third person plural and the verb *are* is also

plural. Therefore, the verb *are* is known as auxiliary verb to be that can not change their forms.

7. *You need to put your camera away.*

The subject *you* is a second person plural, to make the sentence correct the verb must be also plural. The subject *you* and the verb *need* are agree with each other because the verb *need* without adding –s at the end of the word is used when the subject is plural.

2. Subject Verb Agreement of Number

1. *The camera is not supposed here.*

Based on the sentence, the subject and the verb are agree each other. Since *the camera* is a singular subject and the verb *is* is singular verb also included as auxiliary verb.

2. *No, the finger looks dirty.*

The subject *the finger* is a singular noun, to make the sentence correct the verb must be also singular. Since the formula if the subject is singular, the verb of the sentence should be also singular and must be added s or es at the end of the word. In this sentence, between the subject *the finger* and the verb *looks* agree each other because the verb looks adding –s at the end of the word.

3. *Where is my dolphin gone?*

*My dolphin* is a singular noun since it refers to one dolphin, therefore the verb must be also singular. The auxiliary verb to be *is* is used for singular subject. Furthermore, the subject *my dolphin* and auxiliary verb to be *is* agree with each other.

After the explanation above, the author will provide the error sentences by the object related on the use of Subject Verb agreement. Based on the



analysis, the author found 10 error sentences. From the findings, there are two

types of subject verb agreement were occur related the error sentences related on the use of subject verb agreement. They are Subject Verb Agreement of Person and Subject Verb Agreement of Number. Both of Subject Verb Agreement of Person And Subject Verb Agreement of Number has the same frequency and also percentage.

The three year old girl as the object of the study is in Speech Emergent stage of development English process. At the stage, the object can only produce simple sentences and asking questions. Grammatical and pronunciation mistakes also often made during this stage

No	Type of Subject Verb Agreement	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Subject Verb Agreement of Person	5	50%
2.	Subject Verb Agreement of Person	5	50%
3.	Subject Verb Agreement of Indefinite Subject		
4.	Subject Verb Agreement with Coordinate Subject		
5.	Subject Verb Agreement of Notional Agreement and Proximity		

1. *He say he mad at me*

*He says he mad at me*

The first example shows the error in subject verb agreement. Since the subject *he* is belonging as third person singular, that's mean the verb of the sentence it should be also singular. The verb *say* is not agreed with the subject because it should be adding *-s* at the end of the word to correct the sentence.

2. *He say tired to me*

*He said tired to me (past)*

*He says tired to me*

In this sentence, the explanation will be provided in two ways. The first one if the structure of the sentence is past tense, the verb *say* should be tur into *said* to make the sentence correct. The second one is since the

subject *he* is third singular person, the verb *say* should be adding –s to make the verb also a singular. Based on the explanation above, the rule

of the use of subject verb agreement if the subject is singular, the verb should be also singular

3. *Because he **don't** want me and he **stuff** him playing.*

*Because he **doesn't** want me and he **stuffs** him playing.* The verb *don't* and *stuff* not agree each other to the subject. Since subject *he* is third person singular, the verb should be turn into *doesn't* and adding –s at the end of word *stuff*.

4. *But where **is** the little girls?*

*But where **are** the little girls?*

*The little girls* is plural subject and the use auxiliary verb *is* is not agree to the subject. The sentence will correct if plural subject followed by auxiliary *are*.

5. *Where my present?*

*Where **is** my present?*

The error of subject verb agreement also happened when the sentence lack of auxiliary verb. Since *my present* is singular subject, the auxiliary verb should be *is* to correct the sentence.

6. *It not clean yet*

*It **is not** clean yet*

In this sentence has the same case with the sentence above, lack of auxiliary verb. Since the word *it* is third singular person subject, the sentence will be correct if we put auxiliary verb *is*.

7. *It don't look beautiful*

*It **doesn't** look beautiful*

The subject *it* and verb *don't* are not agree each other because the subject *it* that include to third person singular should be followed by singular verb. To make the sentence correct, the verb *don't* should be replaced by *doesn't*.

8. *Where the airplane?*

*Where is the airplane?*

The case in this sentence is lack of auxiliary verb. To make the sentence correct, the auxiliary verb should be *is* (singular verb) since the subject *the airplane* is singular subject.

9. *His gonna stick like a big burp.*

*He is gonna stick like a big burp.*

*His* is a possessive adjective which can not be subject. For the sentence word *his* refers to someone, to make the sentence correct we should replace *his* into *he*. Since he is the third person plural subject, the auxiliary verb should be *is*.

10. *That not your finger*

*That is not your finger*

For a singular subject, the verb must be added *-s* or *-es* in the end of the word. The case in this sentence is not about the verb itself, but about lack of auxiliary verb. To fix the sentence we must add auxiliary verb *is* because the subject of the sentence is singular.

## **IX. Conclusion**

Based on the finding, we can conclude that zee as the object mostly used sentences with Subject Verb Agreement of Person. For the error zee mostly forgot the auxiliary verb in her sentences. Even she only 3 years old, she can used the subject verb agreement proven by 53 sentences, there is only 10 error sentences se made. The author can assume that 3 years old girl with native speakers mother already know the grammar rule.

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## APPENDIX

The sentences that are produced by the object

1. I get all of my favourite toys down here
2. See, I bring all of the toy to play
3. Because daddy's mad
4. I want you, because you happy
5. Because he don't want me and he stuff him playing
6. I was just sleeping and daddy just mad
7. I don't wanna sleep and daddy get mad
8. He say he mad at me
9. He say tired to me
10. Yes, it can hurt my feeling
11. But, I'm happy with you
12. You like to play
13. I think daddy just mad
14. I think I don't like daddy
15. I don't like daddy, I like you
16. We are going in the playground with you
17. I have a lot of toys
18. Where my present?
19. Where the airplane?
20. I'm going to Canada
21. We need to buy more candies here
22. I'm just taping some tape
23. I don't have candy today
24. Can I see daddy up there?
25. His gonna stink like a big burb
26. The camere is not supposed here
27. The camere is going there
28. It don't look beautiful
29. It not clean yet
30. There are getting in your hand
31. No, the finger look dirty
32. You need to put the camera away
33. That not your finger
34. But where is the little girls?
35. I'm a little bit strange
36. Can I go ever there?



37. Wow, It's my favourite
38. Can you open it?
39. I think daddy has to brush
40. They are not babbies, mommy
41. They are big gilrs
42. Where is my dolphin gone?
43. Can you help me find my dolphin?
44. My babbies doesn't like it, they are going to tickle
45. I ticke my my girls like 4 times or 6 times..... or they can laugh
46. Hm... like my toys... laugh when I tickle them
47. But they are still sleeping
48. Bu they are not waking up first
49. No, they always waking up in the morning
50. I'm not going anywhere, my babbies will miss me so long
51. They miss me so long
52. You wanna play with me mommy
53. I don't want to go and go to school