



วิเคราะห์ข้อผิดพลาดคำคุณศัพท์ภาษาอังกฤษ The Error Analysis of English Adjectives

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บทคัดย่อ

การศึกษากาการเขียนภาษาอังกฤษของนักศึกษาภาษาอังกฤษชั้นปีที่ 3 มหาวิทยาลัยราชภัฏบุรีรัมย์ครั้งนี้ มีจุดมุ่งหมายเพื่อวิเคราะห์ข้อผิดพลาดในการใช้คำคุณศัพท์ภาษาอังกฤษและเพื่อศึกษากาการแทรกแซงภาษาแม่ (ภาษาไทย) ต่อข้อผิดพลาดในการใช้คำคุณศัพท์ภาษาอังกฤษในงานเขียน กลุ่มตัวอย่างที่ใช้ในการศึกษานี้เป็น นักศึกษาจำนวน 30 คนถูกคัดเลือกโดยวิธีเจาะจง จากนักศึกษาทั้งหมด 60 คนที่ลงทะเบียนเรียนในหลักสูตรการ เขียนวิชา Essay Writing 1553403 ข้อมูลในการศึกษานี้เป็นข้อมูลที่ได้มาจากข้อผิดพลาดในการใช้คำคุณศัพท์ ภาษาอังกฤษในการเขียนความเรียงของนักศึกษากลุ่มตัวอย่างที่ใช้หลักการระดมความคิดจากการดูรูปภาพการกระ โดตร่มเพื่อการเขียนความเรียงอย่างมีขั้นตอน ข้อมูลถูกวิเคราะห์ตามรูปแบบการใช้คำคุณศัพท์ภาษาอังกฤษด้วย การพรรณนา

ผลการวิเคราะห์พบว่าข้อผิดพลาดส่วนใหญ่คือการใช้คำคุณศัพท์ภาษาอังกฤษในตำแหน่งชนิดของคำ คำคุณศัพท์ภาษาอังกฤษที่ถูกใช้ในโครงสร้างภาษาไทยอาจเกิดจากการแทรกแซงภาษาแม่ของนักศึกษา ความแตกต่างของคุณสมบัติภาษามีอิทธิพลต่อการใช้ภาษาที่สองของผู้เรียนภาษาที่สองดังนั้นนักศึกษาควรได้รับการสอนการใช้ Verb to be ควบคู่คำคุณศัพท์ภาษาอังกฤษเพื่อป้องกันการใช้คำคุณศัพท์ภาษาอังกฤษแทนคำกริยา (verb) และ ผีกลสลับตำแหน่งคำเพื่อแก้ไขการแทรกแซงภาษา เช่น ภาษาอังกฤษใช้คำคุณศัพท์หน้าคำนาม (adj + noun) ขณะที่ภาษาไทยใช้คำขยายหลังคำนาม (noun + adj or modifier)

คำสำคัญ ;การวิเคราะห์ข้อผิดพลาด, การแทรกแซงของภาษาแม่, การเขียนภาษาที่2

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Introduction

Understanding language structure is very important both for learning and using a language. Communication through listening, speaking, reading or writing may be rather a failure arisen from the difference of language structure. The mother tongue had an essential role in studying English language or any second language - L2. The interference of mother tongue or first language [L1] with English composition writing may occur in daily life. Anne Seaton and Y H Mew (2005) defined an English adjective as a describing word to tell about noun which often comes before the noun that it describes. It can also come after the noun, later in the sentence, which are in the different position from Thai language structure.

Writing is one of the significant language learning skill. It is difficult to make the readers to understand the meaning of composition if the writers do not have the knowledge how to use language. Hamp – Lyons and Heasley (1984) defined writing as an incidence of communication between a writer and a reader in which the writer produces a discourse with the imagined reader and derives from this text by which a real reader can estimate to the original discourse.

Based on the writing course, it has found the different kinds of errors in students' writing. These errors mostly are the wrong usages of English adjectives. Students seem to use adjectives without co-occurrence to verb to be, adjectives as adverbs, adjectives as verbs and misapplying adjectives. Considering these kinds of errors, Phitsinee Khaourai (2002) study "A Study of Error Analysis in English Composition: Case Study of English Major Students of Rajabhat Institute Nakhon Pathom" found that students use English adjectives by interfering their mother tongue with English composition. Kerdphol, S. (1983) analyzed students' free essays, and suggested that since Thai students tended to translate word by word from Thai to English, they committed errors in using vocabulary, in lexical meanings and grammatical functions. Besides Charatdao Intratat (2001) studied Thai error in using English adjectives which was found that Thai students have the concept of verb category instead of adjective category, they applied English adjectives in the co-occurrence which are typical to Thai.

The present research has noticed the errors of English adjectives in English composition written by the third year English students of Buriram Rajabhat University. Most of them have written English essay with interference of mother tongue. It seems that they transfer writing skill from their mother tongue or first language [L1] to English or second language [L2].

Literature Review

The English adjective and Thai modifier

The words that modify noun are classified as adjectives in parts of speech of English. In Thai linguistics, they are classified as คำวิเศษณ์ /*khamwisèt*/ which means modifier.



The so-called adjectives in Thai can function as predicate alone without adding verb in the sentence (Royal Institute Dictionary). Amara Prasithratsint (2000) found that the so-called adjectives in Thai function virtually the same as verbs in the main syntactic environment. They are used as sentence predicates and noun modifiers. They also can occur in negative and imperative sentences. They are actually a sub-class of verbs.

The modifier (คำวิเศษณ์ /*khamwisèt*/) of Thai is like an adjective in English which is used in the predicate of sentence or used for explaining in the complement clearly. Thanawan Piya-bawornnan (2013) studied the literatures of Thai Adverb Textbook and found that the modifier of Thai is used for supplementing to describe the meaning of the word (noun, pronoun, verb and adverb) to be clear. The Thai modifier refers to the word describing a noun, pronoun, verb and adverb by giving the information about the object's size, shape, quality, quantity, time.

Potjanee Manipantee (2012) explained the characteristic features of Thai modifier, which is for explaining noun complementary as English adjective function. However, it usually occurs after noun in Thai function grammatically e.g. ต้นไม้ใหญ่ /*tôn má:iyài*/ (tree big, noun + modifier, in which is written in Thai language structure, it should be written in English language structure big tree, adjective + noun), and is for explaining verb complementary (adverbials in English) to refer to the condition e.g. เขาเดินช้า /*khāod̄x:n t̄châ:*/ (He walk slow in which is written in Thai language structure – Pronoun or Noun + Verb + Modifier, on the other hand, He walks slowly in which is written in English language structure – Pronoun or Noun + Verb + Adverb). These examples show that Thai modifier (คำวิเศษณ์ /*khamwisèt*/) can be used after noun or pronoun and verb to describe the categories of noun or pronoun and verb in the phrases or sentences, means the word is used to give details of size, shape, quality, quantity, time in word, phrase or sentence level.

N.D.V. Prasada Rao (2001) divided this kind of adjectives into the following classes:

1. Adjectives of Quality (Descriptive), which are the type of adjectives for adding the detail of noun or pronoun by describing its qualities. For example, a large city, an honest man, English language.

2. Adjectives of Quantity, these adjectives are used to describe the measurement or answer the question: How much? For example, some rice, much patience, sufficient rain.

3. Adjectives of Number, these adjectives are to indicate an amount of exact number, to show how many persons or things are meant, e.g. five fingers, all men, few cats.

4. Demonstrative Adjectives, they are used to point out which person or thing is meant, e.g. this boy, that girl, these mangoes, those rascals, such thing.

5. Interrogative Adjectives, they are used with nouns to ask questions. For example, What manner of man is he? , Which way shall we go? , Whose book is this?.



This paper focuses on the study of descriptive adjectives in English which express the size, color, shape and other quality of people, animals, things or places by describing what they really are. For example; a lovely puppy, a nice boy, a blue sky, a long bridge. This kind of adjective tend to be a problem of English word order for Thai students due to the difference of word order between Thai and English in accordance with the concepts of usage of adjective or modifier.

The different position of English adjectives and Thai modifier (คำวิเศษณ์ /*khamwisèt*/) can be explained by the following observing the patterns; as, 1) An English adjective usually occurs after Verb to be, functions as the predicate of sentence, but there is no such pattern in Thai language in which verb is used instead. 2) English adjective is used as a noun complement replacing another noun [Adjective + Noun = tall man], however the complement in Thai is placed after noun [Noun + Modifier or Verb (Modifier)] = ผู้ชายสูงเดินช้า /*phú:tchā:y sǔ̀:ŋ dǎ:n tchâ:/*, this sentence is composed with noun (ผู้ชาย /*phú:tchā:y/* (man)), verb (เดิน /*dǎ:n/* (walk)) and Thai modifier (สูง /*sǔ̀:ŋ/* (tall)) และ (ช้า /*tchâ:/* (slow)). (www.thai-language.com/ref/modifiers)

Thai	ผู้ชายสูงเดินช้า /phú:tchā:y sǔ̀:ŋ dǎ:n tchâ:/
English	A tall man walks slowly

Prasith Rathsint's (2000) viewpoint is based on syntactic distribution of the words and adjectives in Thai are categorized into 4 aspects:

1) Occurring in the predicative position: Thai verbs are not marked by any inflectional affix which usually occur in the predicative position like the predicative position of English structure.

2) Negation: a criterion is used for testing whether a word is a verb in Thai, and the negation markers can precede Thai adjective, for instance, /mâ:/ [ไม่] 'not'.

3) Imperative: Thai adjectives can occur in the imperative construction, following /karuna:/ [กรุณา] 'please' the same as other typical verbs.

4) Occurring with words signifying aspect: the words which can occur with verb or Thai adjectives, for example, /lǎew/ [แล้ว] 'already' (perfective), /kamlan/ [กำลัง] 'happening now' (progressive), and /cà / [จะ] 'will' (future).

Using Thai adjectives or modifiers in Thai structure can be mistaken by students' structural concept to English writing resulted from grammatical, lexical and syntactical rules. Sittsak Pongpuehee's (2012) research found that the errors in composition writings are caused by misconception, interference of mother tongue and grammatical error. The difference in using Thai modifier and English adjective in its position to describe noun or pronoun, it may cause Thai



language learners to conceptualize in using Thai modifier and English adjective.

Therefore, a correct understanding of the concepts of adjectives or modifiers in both languages will guide the correct use of adjectives or modifiers in these languages, which are used differently in accordance with each language structure.

Purposes of the Study

This study aims to 1) to analyze the errors of English adjectives in English composition writing written by the third year English students of Buriram Rajabhat University, and 2) to imply how Thai language causing the error in the usage of English adjectives in the composition writing.

Delimitation

This research focuses on the 60 populations who are the third year English students, faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Buriram Rajaphat University, and the samples were 30 students of the total populations selected by purposive sampling. It study the error of English adjective in the writing by English major students.

Research Methodology

Population The population of this study were 60 third year English students, faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Buriram Rajaphat University, they were enrolled in writing courses titled Essay Writing 1553403. The samples were 30 students of the total population selected by purposive sampling.

Instruments

The instruments of this study were:

- 1) a brainstorming paper with a picture of parachuting.
- 2) a writing paper with the topic “Parachuting”
- 3) a form to record the sentences with descriptive adjectives.

Data Collection and Data Analysis

The data were collected from Essay writing by 30 students who have brainstormed idea from the picture of parachuting. The brainstorming idea is composed in essay writing process that students have taken courses. The collected data were the English sentences with error adjective usage that were analysed for patterns of English adjective usage in descriptive method.

Findings

The collected data showed that, there are 96 sentences using descriptive adjectives, 65 sentences are written with the correct usage of English structure and 31 sentences are written



with the error usage in English language structure. The errors in using descriptive adjectives in students' writing are classified into 8 patterns;

1. The usage of adjective without verb "to be" is about 38.71%.

- 1) It will dangerous. * It will be dangerous.
- 2) He very funny. * He is very funny.
- 3) It very interesting.* It is very interesting.
- 4) It easy to do. * It is easy to do.
- 5) That so excited. * That is so excited.
- 6) It very fun and fast. * It is very fun and fast.
- 7) It the good experience. * It is the good experience.
- 8) She brave, clever and cute. * She is brave, clever and cute.
- 9) It nonsensical and dangerous.*
It is nonsensical and dangerous.
- 10) He smart, good -looking and rich.*
He is smart, good -looking and rich.
- 11) Everybody so excited to become cadets.*
Everybody is so excited to become cadets.
- 12) Air force important to this war very much.*
Air force is important to this war very much.

An English adjective usually occurs after Verb to be, functions as the predicate of sentence; Verb "to be", related to subject in the sentence (Subject + Predicate), describing the quality of subject, for example; It will dangerous. (It will be dangerous.), He very funny. (He is very funny.), It very interesting (It is very interesting), or It the good experience. (It is the good experience.).

2. The usage of adjective in a wrong position is about 12.9%.

- 1) That was parachuting enjoyable. *
That was the enjoyable parachuting.
- 2) The plane is in the sky high.*
The plane is in the high sky.
- 3) It is a season of summer fun. *
It is a season of fun summer.
- 4) The parachuting is a sport extreme. *
The parachuting is an extreme sport.

The error is made by false analogies between English adjectives and Thai modifier in the language structure. English adjective is used as a noun complement replacing before noun [Adjective + Noun], however the complement in Thai is placed after noun [Noun + Adjective or



Verb (Modifier)].

For example; the adjectives in sentences 1- 4 were placed after noun [Noun + Adjective or Verb (Modifier)] i.e. That was parachuting enjoyable. (Original) That was the enjoyable parachuting. (Correct).

3. The usage of adjective as adverb is about 16.13%.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1) He was carefully.* | He was careful. |
| 2) It is famous and beautifully.* | It is famous and beautiful. |
| 3) Max is a normally person.* | Max is a normal person. |
| 4) I am very fear and alarmingly.* | I am very fear and alarming. |
| 5) I am very happy and proudly.* | I am very happy and proud. |

The adjectives used as adverb also co-occur in the students' essay writing samples. Here are some common mistakes in using adverbs instead of adjectives.

4. The adjective error with there is / there are is about 6.45%.

- 1) There is very peaceful.* It can be written structurally as “It is very peaceful.”
- 2) There is not a sunny.* It can be written structurally as “It is not sunny.”

These two examples show that students have substituted there is for it is. Having the English structure; There is / are + (adj.) noun, the sentences were written as; “There is very peaceful.” and “There is not a sunny.” in their mind. These can be corrected as; “It is very peaceful.” and “It is not sunny.”

5. The usage of adjective in negative construction is about 6.45%.

- 1) Parachuting not suitable for children. *
Parachuting is not suitable for children.
- 2) My friend not good. *
My friend is not good.

The lack of verbs that function as predicate of the sentence in the source of this error.

6. The usage of adjectives with linking verb is about 6.45%.

- 1) It is feel good. * It feels good.
- 2) Everyone is feel exciting. *
Everyone feels excited or “Everyone is excited”

These sentences are written with linking verb followed by adjective [S + Linking Verb + Adj. (Subject complement)]. The verb “to be” is not required in this structure. The sentence makes sense only when we omit the “to be” verb and treat the linking verb as main verb. It is replaced with the equal verb.



7. The usage of adjectives as noun 9.68%.

1) It is a happy of family. * It is a family happiness.

2) I found the bad. * I found the worst.

3) That place fulfilled of beautiful and peaceful. *

That place fulfilled with beauty and peace.

The co-occurrence of adjectives in the predicate is incorrect. Words can be transformed by adding prefixes and suffixing to base word, called derivation; happy + ness is happiness, bad + Ø is worst, and instead of beautiful and peaceful we can use the original root that is beauty and peace.

8. The usage of adjectives as an incomplete/progressive aspect marker is about 3.23%.

1) Sky is feeling fresh and beautiful. *

Sky is fresh and beautiful.

This structure consists of Subject + Verb to be + V-ing + Adj. in which the usage of Adjective preceded wrongly by an incomplete/progressive form of the verb. So it can be written as sky is fresh and beautiful.

Discussion

Given the above data and analysis which can conclude that the students mistook the English adjectives for various parts of speech. It seems they applied English adjectives to Thai structure. In students' essay writings, it found that errors in applying English adjectives in English composition writings are caused by interference of Thai language or students' mother tongue to language structure. The interference can have and influence in any aspects such as word order (Thai modifier/adjective is placed after a noun, English adjective is added before a noun), the English usage with word by word causes the omission of verb to be, or affixation is not used in Thai language, these may be caused the error.

Writing second language is difficult for second language learners in which it needs both syntactic and semantic knowledge and grammatical structure of each language are not similar (Somchai Watcharapunyawong & Siriluck Usaha, 2013). The errors in the writing second language can be occurred from the differences of language properties between mother tongue (L1) and second language (L2). Therefore, these errors should be emphasized, are beneficial in teaching English as a foreign language (EFL) for Thai L2 learners.

The errors in applying adjectives show that Thai learners tend to have the concept of verb category for adjective category. They consider English adjectives as Thai verbs in their composition writing. In designing the teaching material, this kind of errors should be dealt with; that is including the categorization of English adjective and modifier in Thai should be taken into



considerations. Here are some of the interference of mother tongue (L1) to second language (L2);

Example 1 is from the usage of adjectives in ‘to be’ less structure.

Thai structure	มัน	จะ	อันตราย
	It	will	dangerous
English structure	It will be dangerous.		

The word ‘dangerous’ may be used as noun in Thai structure, but its application is ungrammatical in English structure. The word ‘dangerous’ in this writing is an adjective which occurs after verb to be in the predicate of sentence and describe the quality of the subject in English structure.

Example 2 is from the usage of adjectives in the grammatical structure.

Thai structure	การกระโดดร่ม	เป็น	กีฬา	โหดโผน
	The parachuting	is	a sport (Noun)	extreme. (Modifier)
English structure	The parachuting is an extreme sport. Adj. N			

Here is the sample of writing interfered by mother tongue (L1) conceptually. English adjective is used as a noun complement replacing before noun [Adjective + Noun], the complement in Thai is placed after noun [Noun + Adjective or Verb (Modifier)].

English adjective can appear after a linking verb (i.e., predicative adjectives as in He is/ seems happy) or before a noun it modifies (i.e., attributive adjectives as in He is a good guy). These are omitted the linking verb in front of a predicative adjective (e.g., It will dangerous) and wrong placement of attributive adjectives (e.g., The parachuting is a sport extreme). The possible reason of wrong placement of attributive adjective is the usage of modifier in Thai placed after a noun.

The interference of mother tongue (L1) to second language (L2) influencing to language learner can be reduced by teaching the notion of adjective/modifier in English and Thai are categorized differently. English learners should be suggested the use of English adjectives coupled with verb to be (e.g., be happy, be shy), and word order should be also emphasized the placement of word; English (adjective + noun), Thai (noun + adjective). This suggestion is for the language learners’ comprehending the language structure.



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