

**ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' ERROR IN CONSTRUCTING COMPLEX
SENTENCE IN ESSAY WRITING OF FOURTH SEMESTER STUDENTS
AT UIN IMAM BONJOL PADANG**

THESIS

*Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of of the Requirement for the Undergraduate Program in the
English Tadris Department fro the Strata One (S1) Degree*



Written by:

ARIEL AKUSTIKA ROMANSA

2114050072

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND TEACHER TRAINING
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI IMAM BONJOL PADANG
2026 / 1447H**

DECLARATION PAGE

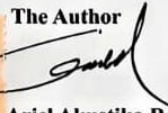
I, the undersigned:

Name Ariel Akustika Romansa
NIM 2114050072
Thesis **Analysis of Students' Error in Constructing Complex Sentence in Essay Writing of Fourth Semester Students at UIN Imam Bonjol Padang**

Hereby solemnly declare that:

1. This thesis is entirely my own work. In preparing and writing this thesis, I have implemented and adhered to the research code of ethics that applies both within and outside the Universitas Islam Negeri (UIN) Imam Bonjol Padang.
2. If it is later discovered and proven that any part or the whole content of this thesis violates the research code of ethics, I am willing to accept all legal consequences in accordance with the relevant provisions.

Padang, February, 20th 2026

 **The Author**

Ariel Akustika Romansa
2114050072

APPROVAL PAGE

The thesis entitled **“ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS’ ERROR IN CONSTRUCTING COMPLEX SENTENCE IN ESSAY WRITING OF FOURTH SEMESTER STUDENTS AT UIN IMAM BONJOL PADANG”** by Ariel Akustika Romansa, student’s registered number 2114050072, has met the academic requirements and is hereby approved to be submitted to the Munaqasyah.

Padang, January 5th, 2026

First Supervisor,



Dr. Melinda Roza, M.Pd.
NIP. 197301272005012003

Second Supervisor,



Renggi Vrika, M.Pd
NIP. 199501042020122029

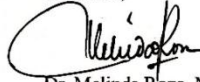
THESIS ACCEPTANCE

The thesis entitled “Analysis of Students’ Error in Constructing Complex Sentence in Essay Writing of Fourth Semester at UIN Imam Bonjol”, written by Ariel Akustika Romansa, student’s registered number 2114050072, has been examined by the Board of Examiners in the faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training, Universitas Islam Negeri Imam Bonjol Padang, on February 20th, 2026. Therefore, it has been accepted as one of the requisites to procedure Academician Degree Program of the Strata One (S1) degree in the English Tadris Department.

Padang, February 20th, 2026

Board of Examiners

Chairman,



Dr. Melinda Roza, M.Pd.
NIP. 197301272005012003

Secretary,



Rengga Vrika, M.Pd
NIP. 199501042020122029

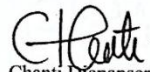
Members

Examiner I,



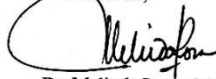
Dr. Darmayenti, M.Pd.
NIP. 197307111999032002

Examiner II,



Chanti Diananseri, M.Pd
NIP. 198606262020122014

Examiner III,



Dr. Melinda Roza, M.Pd.
NIP. 197301272005012003

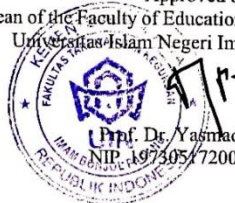
Examiner IV,



Rengga Vrika, M.Pd
NIP. 199501042020122029

Approved by,

Dean of the Faculty of Education and Teacher Training
Universitas Islam Negeri Imam Bonjol Padang



Prof. Dr. Yasmadi, M.Ag
NIP. 197305172000031001

LEMBAR PENGESAHAN

Skripsi berjudul "*Analysis of Students' Error in Constructing Complex Sentence in Essay Writing of Fourth Semester at UIN Imam Bonjol*", yang ditulis oleh **Ariel Akustika Romansa**, NIM 2114050072, telah diujikan dalam sidang Munaqasyah Fakultas Tarbiyah dan Keguruan, Universitas Islam Negeri Imam Bonjol Padang, pada tanggal 20 Februari 2026. Oleh karena itu, telah diterima sebagai salah satu syarat untuk memperoleh gelar Sarjana Pendidikan (S.Pd) Program Strata Satu pada Program Studi Tadris Bahasa Inggris.

Padang, 20 Februari 2026

Tim Penguji

Ketua,



Dr. Melinda Roza, M.Pd.
NIP. 197301272005012003

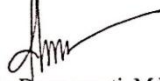
Sekretaris,



Renggi Vrika, M.Pd
NIP. 199501042020122029

Anggota

Penguji I,



Dr. Darmayenti, M.Pd.
NIP. 197307111999032002

Penguji II,



Chanti Diamanseri, M.Pd
NIP. 198606262020122014

Penguji III,



Dr. Melinda Roza, M.Pd.
NIP. 197301272005012003

Penguji IV,



Renggi Vrika, M.Pd
NIP. 199501042020122029

Disetujui oleh,
Dekan Fakultas Tarbiyah dan Keguruan
Universitas Islam Negeri Imam Bonjol Padang



Prof. Dr. Yasnudi, M.Ag
NIP. 197305172000031001

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



“In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful”

Alhamdulillahirabbil’alamin. Praise to Allah SWT who has given me the health, opportunity, knowledge, and strength to finish the thesis entitled **“ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS’ ERROR IN CONSTRUCTING COMPLEX SENTENCE IN ESSAY WRITING OF FOURTH SEMESTER STUDENTS AT UIN IMAM BONJOL PADANG”**. Peace is upon Prophet Muhammad SAW, the message, May Allah bless him and give him peace.

The author realizes that this thesis could be completed thanks to the support and assistance from various parties. Therefore, the author would like to thank all parties who directly and indirectly contributed so that the author could be complete this thesis smoothly. On this occasion the author would like to express his thanks to:

1. Dr. Melinda Roza, M.Pd as Head of the English Tadris Department as well as employees of the English Tadris Department.
2. Dr. Melinda Roza, M.Pd as Supervisor I and Renggi Vrika, M.Pd as Supervisor II who has teaching, demonstrating, and guiding the author in completing this thesis so that the author could finish it.
3. Lecturer and fourth semester students who provided data to researcher so that the researcher could conduct the research.

My deepest gratitude to my beloved father (Ilham) and my beloved mother (Murtia) who always prayed and tried to give the best for the author, both in the

My deepest gratitude to my beloved father (Ilham) and my beloved mother (Murtia) who always prayed and tried to give the best for the author, both in the form of moral and material support, and faithfully and patiently encouraged and advised the author so that it could accompany the author until the end of his life. Moreover, to the author's friends who have provided motivation, encouragement, assistance, and always accompanied the author in the process of compiling this thesis so that the author can complete this thesis.

Hopefully each of the oldest words in it can provide new insights and deeper understanding of the topics discussed. This thesis should be useful for writers in particular and readers in general. Hopefully all the help and sincerity that has been given to the author will be an act of worship and be worth a reward in the sight of Allah SWT. Aamiin, Ya Rabbal'Alamin.

Padang, February 20th, 2026



Ariel Akustika Romansa
NIM. 2114050072

ABSTRACT

Ariel Akustika Romansa, 2026: “ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS’ ERROR IN CONSTRUCTING COMPLEX SENTENCE IN ESSAY WRITING OF FOURTH SEMESTER STUDENTS AT UIN IMAM BONJOL PADANG”

This study aims to analyze students’ errors in constructing complex sentences in comparative essay writing. Complex sentences play an essential role in academic writing because they enable writers to express logical relationships between ideas, such as cause, contrast, condition, and time. However, many EFL students still encounter difficulties in forming grammatically accurate complex sentences. This research employed a qualitative document analysis design. The data were collected from comparative essays written by fourth-semester students of the English Tadris Department at UIN Imam Bonjol Padang in the academic year 2025. The data were analyzed using the interactive model proposed by Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña (2014), which includes data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing. The findings reveal that students produced various types of errors in constructing complex sentences. The most dominant error was fused sentences, followed by missing subjects and missing verbs. These errors indicate that students still have difficulties in distinguishing independent and dependent clauses, using appropriate subordinating conjunctions, and applying correct punctuation. Although students demonstrate basic understanding of sentence components, their ability to integrate clauses accurately remains limited. In conclusion, the results suggest that grammar instruction should be more explicitly integrated into writing practice to enhance students’ syntactic accuracy and overall academic writing proficiency.

Keywords: *Complex sentences, Error analysis, Essay writing, Comparative essay*

ABSTRAK

Ariel Akustika Romansa, 2026: “ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS’ ERROR IN CONSTRUCTING COMPLEX SENTENCE IN ESSAY WRITING OF FOURTH SEMESTER STUDENTS AT UIN IMAM BONJOL PADANG”

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis kesalahan siswa dalam menyusun kalimat kompleks pada penulisan esai perbandingan. Kalimat kompleks memainkan peran penting dalam penulisan akademik karena memungkinkan penulis untuk mengekspresikan hubungan logis antara ide-ide, seperti sebab, perbandingan, kondisi, dan waktu. Namun, banyak siswa EFL masih mengalami kesulitan dalam membentuk kalimat kompleks yang secara gramatikal akurat. Penelitian ini menggunakan desain analisis dokumen kualitatif. Data dikumpulkan dari esai perbandingan yang ditulis oleh mahasiswa semester empat Program Studi Tadris Bahasa Inggris di UIN Imam Bonjol Padang pada tahun akademik 2025. Data dianalisis menggunakan model interaktif yang diusulkan oleh Miles, Huberman, dan Saldaña (2014), yang meliputi pengkondensasian data, penyajian data, dan penarikan kesimpulan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa mahasiswa menghasilkan berbagai jenis kesalahan dalam menyusun kalimat kompleks. Kesalahan yang paling dominan adalah kalimat yang digabungkan, diikuti oleh subjek yang hilang dan kata kerja yang hilang. Kesalahan-kesalahan ini menunjukkan bahwa mahasiswa masih mengalami kesulitan dalam membedakan klausa independen dan dependen, menggunakan konjungsi subordinatif yang tepat, dan menerapkan tanda baca yang benar. Meskipun mahasiswa menunjukkan pemahaman dasar tentang komponen kalimat, kemampuan mereka untuk mengintegrasikan klausa secara akurat masih terbatas. Kesimpulannya, hasil penelitian menyarankan agar pengajaran tata bahasa lebih eksplisit diintegrasikan ke dalam praktik menulis untuk meningkatkan akurasi sintaksis siswa dan kemampuan menulis akademik secara keseluruhan.

Keywords: *Complex sentences, Error analysis, Essay writing, Comparative essay*

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

Writing is an essential skill in academic contexts because it enables learners to communicate complex ideas, organize arguments logically, and demonstrate critical thinking through structured text production. Academic writing goes beyond mere sentence formation it requires both syntactic accuracy and textual complexity so that the content is not only grammatically correct but also academically meaningful. In second language (L2) contexts such as English as a Foreign Language (EFL) classrooms, mastery of grammatical structures plays a crucial role in determining the quality of students' written texts, especially in academic essays or research-based assignments.

A significant aspect of academic writing competence is the ability to construct complex sentences, which consist of one independent clause and one or more dependent clauses. These structures enable writers to express relationships between ideas, including cause–effect, condition, contrast, and elaboration, in a single sentence. Research in L2 writing indicates that the use of complex sentences is associated with higher levels of syntactic complexity and can correlate positively with writing quality when used accurately. For instance, Subekti (2024) found that although students produced a relatively large number of complex sentences in their essays,