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# SPELLING ERRORS IN ACADEMIC PAPERS WRITTEN BY STUDENTS OF THE INFORMATICS STUDY PROGRAM AT UNIVERSITAS PERWIRA PURBALINGGA

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**Abstract**

The application of linguistic rules is essential in academic writing and should receive serious attention in higher education. Indonesian is one of the compulsory university courses intended to help students apply proper language rules in academic texts. However, many students still experience difficulties in using correct spelling in their academic writing. These problems are often influenced by limited understanding of Indonesian spelling rules and low interest in learning them. This study aimed to examine spelling errors found in students' academic writing. It employed a qualitative approach with a descriptive design and used content analysis as the main method, focusing on students' academic texts. The data were obtained from both primary and secondary sources. The primary data consisted of papers written by second-semester students in the Informatics Study Program at Universitas Perwira Purbalingga, while the secondary data included theoretical books from the National Library and relevant scholarly publications available online. The findings showed that students still made errors in the use of capital letters, italics, punctuation marks, prefixes, prepositions, standard words, and word combinations. These results indicate that Indonesian language courses play an important role in improving the quality of students' academic writing, especially in preparing them for undergraduate thesis writing.

*Keywords: Academic Writing, Content Analysis, Spelling Error, Indonesian Spelling, Students' Writing*

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Vol. 8 No. 1, April – July , pp. 83 - 94

## Introduction

In academic writing, linguistic rules are essential and must be carefully observed (Samal & Ardianto, 2025). Indonesian Language is a mandatory university course whose primary goal is to ensure students can apply these linguistic rules in their academic writing. A crucial aspect of academic writing is the accuracy of spelling based on the Enhanced Indonesian Spelling System or EYD for short (Ritonga et al., 2025). This spelling system encompasses linguistic rules ranging from the use of letters, word formation, and punctuation, to loanwords, which serve to maintain clarity and precise meaning in a text.

Spelling accuracy in accordance with EYD can serve as a benchmark for an author's language mastery. This aligns with Margareth (Margareth et al., 2022) who argues that individuals often make writing errors without realizing it, especially those who do not fully grasp the applicable rules and language systems. Many students fail to pay attention to correct spelling in academic writing; both a lack of understanding of proper Indonesian spelling and a low interest in learning it are factors that contribute to these writing errors. These errors are frequently found among students who are currently writing or have already completed academic papers. Based on these factors, the author believes that guidance and training for students are necessary to minimize errors in using language spelling guidance (Ramadhani et al., 2025). In fact, learning correct Indonesian spelling is not a difficult task, provided there is a willingness to learn and proper guidance is given to students.

As key contributors to academic writing in higher education, students frequently make spelling errors. These mistakes are commonly found in course assignments, particularly in term papers used to assess their mastery of the material. Such writing errors typically arise from a lack of guidance or general negligence during the writing process. In this context, lecturers play a crucial role in imparting knowledge about the

ISSN 2656-9531
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Vol. 8 No. 1, April – July , pp. 83 - 94

EYD. Intensive guidance is expected to correct these mistakes and reinforce the proper rules of Indonesian spelling (Nurwahid et al., 2025).

The challenge of applying standard spelling is also evident among students in technology-related fields, such as informatics. For informatics students, the primary learning focus is on logic, algorithms, programming, and multimedia. In this academic environment, students tend to prioritize correct coding syntax—ensuring variables are written correctly relative to one another—while neglecting proper grammatical spelling. Consequently, many students pay insufficient attention to spelling rules in their coursework, especially in academic papers. Nevertheless, articulating technological ideas still requires correct spelling and clear structure to ensure they are widely understood and successfully implemented (Anggerawati & Faizzati, 2025).

The structure of an academic paper typically consists of a background, a discussion of the case study, and a conclusion. These sections encompass the core ideas articulated by the students. However, it is within these very sections that writing errors frequently occur. Many students focus entirely on the substance of their arguments, completely neglecting proper spelling. Accurate spelling is essential, as it maximizes the clarity and impact of the paper's content.

Term papers serve as a primary tool for assessing a student's mastery of the course material. Unfortunately, students often overlook correct spelling in their academic writing, even though it heavily determines how effectively the intended message is conveyed. Consequently, providing students with proper guidance on correct writing conventions is crucial. This recurring issue has motivated the researcher to investigate the extent to which students have mastered correct spelling in academic writing, with a specific focus on term papers (Nurwahid et al., 2025).

The use of correct spelling in an academic paper has a highly significant impact. Proper spelling, particularly the accurate use of periods and commas, heavily influences the clarity of the conveyed content. In this context, term papers serve as a method for the researcher to assess students' mastery of academic writing, using the Enhanced Spelling

ISSN 2656-9531
JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND TEACHING (JLLTE)
Vol. 8 No. 1, April – July , pp. 83 - 94

System as the primary guideline. Indeed, the precise application of spelling and punctuation not only determines the clarity of information in a paper but also functions as a core instrument to measure students' academic writing proficiency against these standardized rules.

Delivering material on linguistic rules through the Indonesian Language course at Universitas Perwira Purbalingga (UNPERBA) is crucial for shaping students who are proficient in writing conventions. Through this course, students are guided to learn Indonesian spelling, which is fundamentally not that difficult to grasp. Unfortunately, students' low willingness to study these correct spelling rules frequently leads to errors in their academic papers. To minimize these writing mistakes, continuous support and encouragement in academic writing instruction are deeply needed. It is hoped that conscious efforts from the institution will increase students' interest in learning proper spelling conventions.

Students' frequent disregard for proper spelling conventions directly diminishes the quality of their academic writing (Ramadhani et al., 2025). If left unchecked, excessive spelling errors can obscure the intended meaning and core message of an academic paper. To address this issue, fostering a habit of independent writing coupled with direct guidance from lecturers is key to improving spelling accuracy. Students must diligently proofread their academic papers to minimize errors; through this self-evaluation process, they are expected to enhance the overall quality of their writing (Iryani et al., 2025).

Beyond the students' own responsibilities, lecturers play a highly influential role in providing direction and feedback on correct linguistic conventions. Lecturers should not act merely as assessors of content; they must also provide direct, ongoing guidance and spelling corrections. Given this urgency, this study specifically examines the application of spelling rules in term papers submitted by Informatics students at UNPERBA. The qualitative descriptive analysis used in this study aims to identify specific writing errors and formulate appropriate solutions for improvement (Naini & Ulya, 2025). Ultimately, the

ISSN 2656-9531
JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND TEACHING (JLLTE)
Vol. 8 No. 1, April – July , pp. 83 - 94

findings of this research are expected to serve as a shared evaluation tool for both lecturers and students, thereby enhancing literacy in academic publishing.

## Method

This study employed a qualitative approach using a descriptive method to examine the phenomenon of spelling errors in students' academic writing. The study applied content analysis as the main method, with a particular focus on students' academic texts. The analysis was based on two types of sources: primary and secondary sources. The primary source consisted of papers written by second-semester students in the Informatics Study Program at UNPERBA. Meanwhile, the secondary sources included theoretical books from the National Library and scientific publications available online.

The analysis process was carried out by categorizing these errors and then providing explanations and identifying the causes of the errors based on existing references. This approach allows the researcher to reveal common patterns of errors found in students' academic writing and to provide a clear description of their level of understanding of Indonesian language rules in the context of academic writing. In addition, through this qualitative descriptive approach, it is expected that recommendations can be produced to help improve the quality of students' academic writing in the future (Yusuf et al., 2024). Through these sources, the researcher was able to objectively observe how students prepared drafts and produced academic texts.

### Instruments

The instruments used in this study were observation and note-taking techniques. The researcher read each student paper carefully and recorded instances of spelling errors found in the texts. In addition, the researcher used the fifth edition of the EYD as the main reference for identifying and evaluating correct spelling practices (Syukur et al., 2025). The students' papers also functioned as the main research documents, while relevant books and online scientific publications supported the interpretation of the findings.

### Data Analysis Procedure

ISSN 2656-9531
JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND TEACHING (JLLTE)
Vol. 8 No. 1, April – July , pp. 83 - 94

The data were analyzed using the intralingual matching method, which compares language elements within the language itself. In the analysis process, the researcher first observed and read each student paper, then identified and noted spelling errors found in the texts. After that, the errors were compared with the spelling rules provided in the fifth edition of the EYD (Mawarni, 2025). Based on this comparison, the researcher provided guidance on correct writing practices. This procedure was intended not only to identify spelling errors but also to improve students' understanding and application of proper linguistic rules in academic writing.

## Findings and Discussion

Based on the results of the study conducted on 15 papers written by students of the Informatics Study Program at Universitas Perwira Purbalingga, the author identified several forms of language errors, including the use of capital letters, italics, punctuation, prefixes, prepositions, standard words, and compound words. Language errors in academic papers can affect the formal acceptability of a scientific manuscript and may also reduce the accuracy of meaning. The following section presents examples of the errors found in the 15 papers written by students of the Informatics Study Program at UNPERBA.

### The Use of Capital Letter

Data:

1. Puji syukur kami haturkan kehadirat Allah Swt yang telah melimpahkan rahmat dan hidayah-Nya sehingga kami bisa menyelesaikan laporan studi kasus tentang "Peran Sistem Informasi dalam Organisasi Pada Umkm "Toko Berkah JAYA".

Analysis:

Based on data (1), errors in the use of capital letters were found in the writing of "Allah Swt," which should be written as "Allah SWT" because SWT is an abbreviation of *Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala*. Another error appears in "Pada Umkm," which should be written as "pada UMKM" because UMKM is an abbreviation of *Usaha Mikro Kecil dan Menengah* and therefore must be written entirely in capital letters.

ISSN 2656-9531
JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND TEACHING (JLLTE)
Vol. 8 No. 1, April – July , pp. 83 - 94

2. TPS (Transaction Processing System) adalah sistem Pemrosesan data transaksi. DD (Decision Support System) adalah sistem Operasional pengolahan data. MIS (Management Information System) adalah bagian yang mendukung dalam pengambilan keputusan, kadang juga bagian ini yang terlibat langsung dalam pengambilan keputusan.

Analysis:

Based on data (2), errors in capitalization were found in the words "*Pemrosesan*" and "*Operasional*." These words should be written as "*pemrosesan*" and "operasional" because they do not require capital letters.

3. Dampak bagi operasional salah satunya yaitu meningkatkan profitabilitas untuk mengurangi biaya administrasi kertas dan mencegah kebocoran keuangan melalui laporan otomatis yang akurat, mengambil keputusan Berbasis data dari CRM dan laporan keuangan untuk memudahkan pemilik klinik menentukan promo atau strategi pemasaran yang tepat sasaran dan efisiensi waktu agar proses pendaftaran dan pembayaran lebih cepat meningkatkan turnover pasien per hari.

Analysis:

Based on data (3), an error in capitalization was found in the word “*Berbasis*,” which should be written as “*berbasis*” because it does not require a capital letter.

**The Use of Italics**

Data:

4. Berdasarkan hasil analisis terhadap implementasi sistem informasi di PT Indofood Sukses Makmur Tbk, penerapan sistem informasi terintegrasi seperti Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) dan Sitem Informasi Manajemen (SIM) memberikan dampak nyata terhadap proses bisnis perusahaan.

Analysis:

Based on data (4), an error in the use of italics was found in the term "Enterprise Resource Planning," which should be written in italics because it is a foreign term.

ISSN 2656-9531
JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND TEACHING (JLLTE)
Vol. 8 No. 1, April – July , pp. 83 - 94

5. Proses pengiriman barang membutuhkan manajemen rantai pasok atau Supply Chain Management (SCM) yang terintegrasi mulai dari penerimaan paket, proses sortir, distribusi, tracking real time hingga barang diterima konsumen.

Analysis:

Based on the data (5), an error was identified in the use of italics in the writing of the term “Supply Chain Management (SCM)”, which should instead be written as *Supply Chain Management*. In addition, the term “tracking real time” should also be italicized as *tracking real time* because it is a foreign term, and foreign terms should be written in italics.

6. Electronic Commerce (E-Commerce) atau perdagangan elektronik merupakan salah satu inovasi di bidang bisnis yang telah transformasi dari bisnis yang awalnya menggunakan tatap muka sekarang bisa dilakukan secara online dari suatu platform sebagai perantara jual beli tanpa harus bertatap muka.

Analysis:

Based on the data (6), an error was identified in the use of italics in the terms *Electronic Commerce (E-Commerce)* and *online*. Both terms should be written in italics because they are foreign terms.

**The Use of Prefixes**

Data:

7. Seperti halnya perdagangan pada umumnya, e-commerce juga memiliki berapa sistem yang harus di perhatikan agar dapat membantu dalam proses penyaringan data baik itu data konsumen, ada juga sistem yang membantu pengolahan, penyimpanan, perawatan data yang telah dikumpulkan menjadi data yang terstruktur dan rapi agar data itu bisa menjadi acuan atau rujukan dalam pengambilan keputusan jangka panjang serta jangka pendek.

Analysis:

ISSN 2656-9531
JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND TEACHING (JLLTE)
Vol. 8 No. 1, April – July , pp. 83 - 94

From data (7), an error was found in the use of the prefix in the word “di perhatikan,” which should be written as “diperhatikan.” This is because it is not a preposition indicating place or time; therefore, it should be written as a single word.

8. DSS merupakan sistem yang mendukung terjadinya pengambilan keputusan oleh pemimpin, dibagian ini biasanya di isi oleh supervisor, DSS menggunakan pemodelan prediktif untuk mengevaluasi berbagai alternatif, seperti melakukan analisis biaya sampai manfaat sebelum meluncurkan produk baru atau merancang strategi pemasaran berdasarkan variasi respons konsumen.

Analysis:

From data (8), an error was found in the use of the prefix in the word “di isi,” which should be written as “diisi.” This is because it is not a preposition indicating place or time; therefore, it should be written as a single word.

9. Jika pada system di level awal hanya mencatat semua data transaksi, di system adalah system lanjutan, jadi data yang telah di catat disusun kembali agar menjadi data yang terstruktur, agar data itu bisa menjadi acuan untuk pengambilan keputusan oleh pemimpin suatu bisnis baik itu jangka panjang ataupun jangka pendek.

Analysis:

From data (9), an error was found in the use of the prefix in the word "di catat," which should be written as "dicatat." This is because it is not a preposition indicating place or time; therefore, it should be written as a single word.

**The Use of Preposition**

Data:

10. Apa saja tantangan yang dihadapi dalam penerapan sistem informasi diperbankan?

Analysis:

ISSN 2656-9531
JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND TEACHING (JLLTE)
Vol. 8 No. 1, April – July , pp. 83 - 94

In data (10), an error was identified in the use of the preposition in the word “diperbankan,” which should be written as “di perbankan.” This is because di functions as a preposition indicating place or context, so it must be written separately.

11. Perkembangan teknologi diera digital saat ini mendorong organisasi dan perusahaan untuk mengelola data serta informasi secara lebih efektif.

Analysis:

In data (11), an error was identified in the use of the preposition in the word “diera,” which should be written as “di era.” This is because di functions as a preposition indicating time or context, so it must be written separately.

**The Use of Standard Word**

Data:

12. Puji syukur penulis haturkan kehadirat Allah SWT atas rahmat-Nya penulis dapat menyelesaikan makalah ini yang berjudul “Laporan Pendukung Sistem Informasi pada Toko Berkah Jaya” dengan tepat waktu, makalah ini disusun bertujuan untuk memenuhi salah satu tugas mata kuliah Pengantar Sistem Informasi.

Analysis:

In data (12), an error was found in the use of the standard word “haturkan.” This word is borrowed from the Sundanese regional language and is therefore considered nonstandard in formal Indonesian. It should be replaced with “ucapkan” in accordance with the General Guidelines for Indonesian Spelling.

13. Keberadaan berbagai jenis sistem informasi tersebut membantu organisasi dalam meningkatkan efisiensi, akurasi data, dan kwalitas pengambilan keputusan.

Analysis:

In data (13), an error was found in the use of the nonstandard word “kwalitas.” It should be replaced with “kualitas” in accordance with the General Guidelines for Indonesian Spelling.

ISSN 2656-9531
JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND TEACHING (JLLTE)
Vol. 8 No. 1, April – July , pp. 83 - 94

## Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, many language errors were still identified, particularly spelling inaccuracies in scientific papers written by second-semester Informatics students in the Introduction to Information Systems course. This indicates the need to strengthen students' understanding of the General Guidelines for Indonesian Spelling through the Indonesian language course. The types of errors found in this study included the use of capital letters, italics, punctuation, standard words, and compound words. Among the 15 student papers analyzed, 26 errors were related to capitalization, 34 to the use of italics, 16 to punctuation, 2 to standard words, and 2 to compound words. The large number of writing errors in these papers was caused by students' limited understanding of the General Guidelines for Indonesian Spelling and their lack of carefulness in writing. This is in line with Budiantoro (Budiantoro et al., 2020), who states that the main cause of such errors is a lack of attention to detail in scientific writing, especially in understanding and applying punctuation appropriately according to context. Therefore, it is very important for students to practice writing regularly and become accustomed to applying the General Guidelines for Indonesian Spelling so that they can develop familiarity with and mastery of correct spelling in academic writing.

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ISSN 2656-9531
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Vol. 8 No. 1, April – July , pp. 83 - 94

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