

## CHAPTER 4

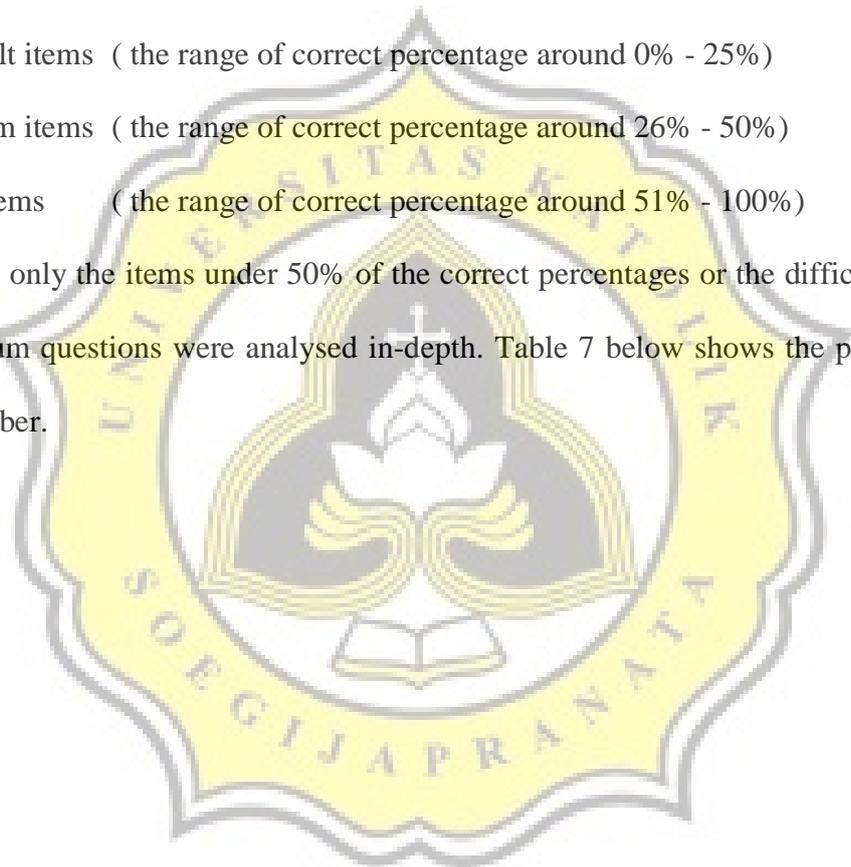
### DATA ANALYSIS

#### 4.1. Results of the Study

The writer had analysed the students' results of the TOEFL structure and written expressions section. This chapter 4 aimed to identify students' problematic skills. The writer analysed the students' error to find the difficulty index classified as follows :

- a. Difficult items ( the range of correct percentage around 0% - 25%)
- b. Medium items ( the range of correct percentage around 26% - 50%)
- c. Easy items ( the range of correct percentage around 51% - 100%)

However, only the items under 50% of the correct percentages or the difficult items and the medium questions were analysed in-depth. Table 7 below shows the percentages of each number.



**Table 6**

*The percentage of error classification of each item from TOEFL preparation II class.*

Item Number	Correct Percentage of error	Incorrect Percentage of error	Topics	Skill
12	8.90%	91.10%	Sentences with inverted subject and verb	16
15	8.90%	91.10%	Sentences with inverted subject and verb	18
35	13.30%	86.70%	Problems with preposition	38
36	24.40%	75.60%	Problems with subject/verb agreement	20
2	26.70%	73.30%	Problems with subject/verb agreement	1
30	28.90%	71.10%	Problems with parallel structure	25
39	33.30%	66.70%	Problems with preposition	56
16	35.60%	64.40%	Problems with nouns	39
29	35.60%	64.40%	Problems with noun and pronouns agreement	45
5	35.60%	64.40%	Appositives	3
24	37.80%	62.20%	Problems with adjective	46
13	37.80%	62.20%	Sentences with reduced clauses	14
19	42.20%	57.80%	Problems with the use of the verb	33
32	42.20%	57.80%	Problems with nouns	60
9	42.20%	57.80%	reduced adjective clause	13
10	44.40%	55.60%	The use of noun clause connectors correctly	9
26	46.70%	53.30%	Problems with adjectives and adverbs	46
38	46.70%	53.30%	Problems with adjectives and adverbs	49
40	46.70%	53.30%	Problems with adjectives(use -ed and -ing adjectives)	51
22	53.3%	46.7%	Problems with comparatives and superlative	28
25	55.6%	44.4%	Problems with usage	59
3	60%	40%	Sentences with multiple clauses	6
8	64.4%	35.6%	Sentence with one clause	5
33	64.4%	35.6%	Problems with pronoun	44
4	66.7%	33.3%	Sentences with multiple clauses	7
17	66.7%	33.3%	problems with subjects/verbs Agreement	21
21	68.9%	31.1%	Problems with passive verbs	37
34	68.9%	31.1%	Problems with parallel structure	26
11	73.3%	26.7%	Sentences with multiple clauses	9
6	75.6%	24.4%	Sentences with multiple clauses	7
1	77.8%	22.2%	Sentence with one clause	1
14	77.8%	22.2%	Sentence with multiple clause	12
28	77.8%	22.2%	Problems with passive verbs	36
23	80%	20%	Problems with adjectives and adverbs	49
20	82.2%	17.8%	Problems with noun	39
27	84.4%	15.6%	Problems with articles	53
7	86.7%	13.2%	Sentence with one clause	3
37	91.1%	8.9%	Problems with comparatives and superlatives	29
18	93.3%	6.7%	Problems with the form of the verb	30
31	97.8%	2.2%	problems with noun	39

There were 19 items in which the correct percentages are less than 50%. Those items were divided into difficult (4 items) and medium (15 items). The easy items were not analysed because the easy items were not in accordance with the research question of this study.

#### 4.1.1 Difficult Items

The items under 25 % of the correct percentages were classified as difficult items. Table 7 shows that there are four difficult items, each of which was analysed one by one from the most to the least difficult items.

**Table 7**  
*The Percentage of the Frequency of the Errors of the Difficult Items*

Item number	correct percentage	incorrect percentage	Topics	Skill
12	8.90%	91.10%	sentences with inverted subject and verb	16
15	8.90%	91.10%	sentences with inverted subject and verb	18
35	13.30%	86.70%	Problems with prepositions	38
36	24.40%	75.60%	Problems with subject/verb agreement	20

##### 4.1.1.1 The Analysis of Item 12

Table 8 shows the percentage of the students' answers of Item 12, and only four students answered C (the correct answer).

**Table 8**  
*The Percentage of the Students' Answers of Number 12*

Q12				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid A incorrect	22	48.9	48.9	48.9
B incorrect	6	13.3	13.3	62.2
C correct	4	8.9	8.9	71.1
D incorrect	13	28.9	28.9	100.0
Total	45	100.0	100.0	

The following is Item 12 in Section 1:

On every continent except Antartica\_\_\_\_\_ more than 30.000 species of spiders.

- (A) some are
- (B) some of the
- (C) are some of the**
- (D) is some

\* *bold means the correct answer*

It is reflected in Table 8 that this number was the most difficult item as only four students (8.9%) could answer correctly. In other words, the majority of the students (91.10%) failed to answer this number. They seemed to have a serious problem to solve the inversion. Item 12 was grouped into Skill 16: Inverted Subjects and Verbs with Place expressions.

Based on the data above, the writer assumed that

1. The students who chose A (48.9%) were assumed to think that the subject of the sentence is *Some* as a plural noun, and then it is followed by *are* as the verb of the sentence.
2. The students who chose B seemed to think that “Some of the” is followed by plural nouns (species) like **some** of the **students** or **some** of the difficult structure **questions**.
3. The students who chose C seemed to think that the subject of the sentence was either *continent* or *Antartica* as a single subject which needed a single verb like *is*.
4. Almost all of the students (91.10%) think that subject was: *Antartica*, therefore, they think it wrong to use “are” as the subject of the sentence. Only a small number of the students



The topic in item 15 was inversion with skill applied was **skill 18: *inverted subjects and verbs with conditionals***. This question can be proved on the multiple choice answer in which there were *if* and *were* that belonged to the pattern of skill 18.

Based on Table 9, the writer assumed that

1. Most of the students ( 32 students) chose A with *if all*. They assumed *the earth's ice* was the subject since these words at the beginning of the sentence. To keep *if* needs a subject and a verb. Answer A was incorrect, it had a connector *if*, but answer A did not have a verb.
2. 20% of the students ( 9 students) chose C with *if all were*. The word *if* is possible to be omitted when inverting the subject and verb. Answer C had a connector *if* and a verb *were*, the connector *if* should be omitted because of *were*.
3. All students did not choose D, and answer D did not have a connector, answer D had a verb although the verb was singular.
4. 8.90% of the students ( 4 students) were noticed that answer B as the correct answer. On answer B, the connector was omitted with *were* (verb).

*Were all* refer to the subject of *The Earth's oceans*.

- **The Earth's oceans** would rise by about two hundred feet

if **were** all the earth's ice to melt. (common pattern)

V

- (omitted if) **Were** all the earth's ice to melt. The earth's oceans would rise by about two hundred feet. ( Inverted)

#### 4.1.1.3 The Analysis of Item 35

**Table 10**  
*The Percentage of the Students' Answers of Number 35*

		Q35			Cumulative
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Percent
Valid	A incorrect	22	48.9	48.9	48.9
	B incorrect	12	26.7	26.7	75.6
	C correct	6	13.3	13.3	88.9
	D incorrect	5	11.1	11.1	100.0
Total		45	100.0	100.0	

The following is Item 35 in Section 2 :

Melons most probably originated in Persia and were introduced the  
 A B C  
 North American Continent during the sixteenth century  
 D

\* *bold means the correct answer*

The topic of Item 35 was **the preposition**. Prepositions were commonly used in front of nouns or pronouns, and they show the relationship between the noun or pronoun in a sentence (Hornby, 1995).

From **Table 10**, the writer assumed that

1. 22 students chose answer A. The students seemed to think to answer A with *most probably* was incorrect. They assumed *most* like the part of degrees of comparison (the most expensive, the most important thing, etc) and

*probably* is used to say something certainly did not have any connection.

2. Students who chose answer B were 26.7% of students (12 students) with the preposition *in*. On Answer B, the preposition was correct because of the preposition located in front of the noun, *Persia*. Answer D was chosen by 12 students ( 11.10%) with *during*. The preposition of *during* also correct, the preposition of *during* referred to *the sixteenth century* and it located in front of the noun.

3. Six students could identify the answer C as passive voice, *were introduced*. However, this error referred to the preposition after *introduced*. Between *introduced* and *the North American* need a preposition to connect the noun. The appropriate preposition to fill the blank between *introduced* and *the North American* was *to*.

- Melons most probably originated in Persia and were introduced to the North American Continent during the sixteenth century. (correct answer)

#### 4.1.1.3 The Analysis of Item 36

**Table 11**  
*The Percentage of the Students' Answers of Number 35*

		<b>Q36</b>			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	A incorrect	20	44.4	44.4	44.4
	B incorrect	3	6.7	6.7	51.1
	C correct	11	24.4	24.4	75.6
	D incorrect	11	24.4	24.4	100.0
	Total	45	100.0	100.0	

The following is Item 36 in Section 2 :

More than 600 million individual bacteria **lives** on the skin of  
 A B C  
humans.  
 D

\* *bold means the correct answer*

The topic that is tested was **agreement**. A correct sentence must have an agreement between subject and verb. It means that if the subject is singular, then the verb must be singular. Otherwise, if the subject of the sentence is plural, the verb must be plural. The word *bacteria* was the irregular plural noun of the bacterium.

The writer presumed from table 14 that

1. 44% of the students assumed *600 million* are plural with *s*.

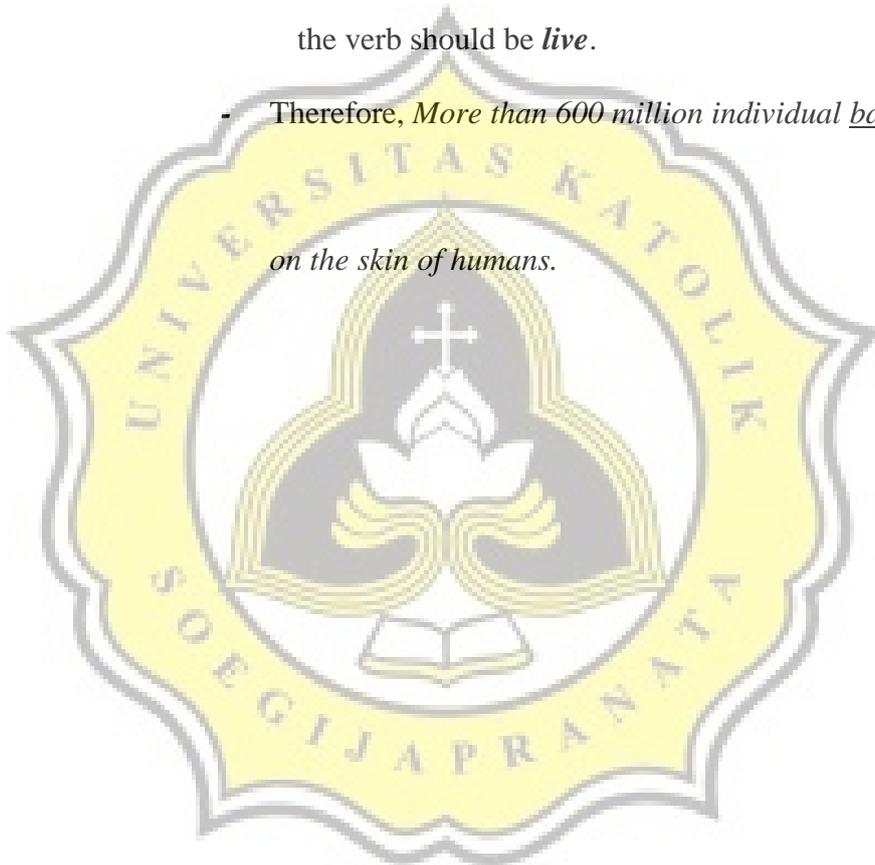
The truth is answer A with *million* is correct since the specific number was written on Item 36 is *600 million*. In British English, million and millions are different. Million is used when the number is specific. Otherwise, millions are used when the quantity is not a precise amount (Hornby, 1995).

2. Students who chose answer D were 11 students (24.40 %) with *humans*. The word of *humans* was also correct because it was a noun, not an adjective. The students who answered D assumed that *humans* should be changed into *a human* because the word *bacteria* and *human* are singular.

3. Three students (6.7% of students) chose answer B with *bacteria*. Answer B can be concluded that three students did not notice *bacteria* is plural since they assumed answer C no need to be changed. The error that appears on Item 36 answered C with *lives*. The rule of the agreement has been mentioned before that the subject must agree with the verb. *Bacteria* are plural nouns so that the verb should be *live*.

- Therefore, *More than 600 million individual bacteria live on the skin of humans.*

S V



### 4.1.2 Medium Items

The writer categorised 25-50% of the correct percentage as the medium items. Based on **Table 12** below, 15 question items were identified as the medium items.

**Table 12**  
*The Percentage of the Frequency of the Errors of the Difficult Items*

Item Number	Correct Percentage	Incorrect Percentage	Topics	Skills
2	26.70%	73.30%	Problems with subject verb agreement	1
30	28.90%	71.10%	Problems with parallel structure	25
39	33.30%	66.70%	Problems with preposition	56
16	35.60%	64.40%	Problems with nouns	39
29	35.60%	64.40%	Problems with noun and pronouns agreement	45
5	35.60%	64.40%	appositives	3
24	37.80%	62.20%	Problems with adjective	46
13	37.80%	62.20%	Sentences with reduced clauses	14
19	42.20%	57.80%	Problems with the use of the verb	33
32	42.20%	57.80%	Problems with nouns	60
9	42.20%	57.80%	Reduced adjective clause	13
10	44.40%	55.60%	The use of noun clause connectors correctly	9
26	46.70%	53.30%	Problems with adjectives and adverbs	46
38	46.70%	53.30%	Problems with adjectives and adverbs	49
40	46.70%	53.30%	Problems with adjectives (use -ed and -ing adjectives)	51

#### 4.1.2.1 The Analysis of Item 2

**Table 13**  
*The Percentage of the Students' Answers of Number 2*

		Q2			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	A incorrect	30	66.7	66.7	66.7
	C incorrect	3	6.7	6.7	73.3
	D correct	12	26.7	26.7	100.0
Total		45	100.0	100.0	

The following is Item 2 in Section 1 :

The tidal forces on the Earth due to the \_\_\_\_ only 0.46 of those due to the moon.

- (A) the sun is
- (B) the sun they are
- (C) the sun it is
- (D) the sun are**

\* *bold means the correct answer*

The lowest correct percentage was occupied by item 2. Item 2 was discussing an *agreement*. The objective of this skill was that the students should find the subject and the verb in this sentence. Furthermore, the subject must agree with the verb.

Based on the finding of table 14, the writer assumed

1. The students assumed *the sun* as the subject that followed by *is* because it was singular.
2. The students seemed to understand that answer B was an incorrect answer so that no one of the students chose answer B. The sentence on answer B of only need a verb, not another subject like mentioned on answer B *they*.
3. A small number of students ( 3 students) chose answer C with *the sun it is*. These students did not realise that there were two subjects on answer C. This answer quite the same with answer B, which was two subjects in the option.

4. Twelve students (26.7%) chose the correct answer; the correct answer was the answer D with *the sun are*. Answer D had the correct verb, *are* and *the sun* as the object to explain *the tidal forces* between *the sun* and *the moon*. The word refers to *the earth*, and the word refers to *the sun*. In English grammar, a subject should not be followed by object preposition. It could not be concluded that *the sun* is the subject of the sentence. Therefore, the subject of this question, which is *tidal forces*, should be followed by the plural, *are*. Item 2 should be:

- The tidal forces on the Earth due to the sun are only 0.46 of those due to the moon.
- S V

#### 4.1.2.2. The Analysis of Item 30

**Table 15**

*The Percentage of the Students' Answers of Number 30*

		Q30			Cumulative
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Percent
Valid	A incorrect	8	17.8	17.8	17.8
	B incorrect	22	48.9	48.9	66.7
	C correct	13	28.9	28.9	95.6
	D incorrect	2	4.4	4.4	100.0
Total		45	100.0	100.0	

The following is Item 30 in Section 2 :

Joseph Heller's novel *Catch-22* satirizes both the horrors of the war

A

B

as well as the power of modern bereaucratic institution.

C

D

\* *bold means the correct answer*

Item 30 discussed the *parallel structure with paired conjunctions*. The paired conjunction contained *both... and. either...or. neither...nor. and not only...but also* (Philip, 2001).

Based on the table had been mentioned, the writer assumed that

1. On item 30, 48.9% of students (22 students) deemed *horrors* from option B supposed to be *horror* because *horror* is adjective. However, *horror* is a noun that could be uncountable and countable, so Answer B was correct referred to *war* and *the power of modern bureaucratic institution*.
2. *Heller's novel Catch-22* was a singular subject, and the verb *satirizes* equal with the subject. Thus answer A did not have an error because the verb agrees with the subject. The *Catch-22 novel* was a singular subject, and it needed a singular verb, *satirizes*.

3. Answer D with *bereaucratic* was chosen by two students. *Bereaucratic* as the adjective for the *institution*. Therefore, *bereaucratic* is correct, so that no need to be changed.

The statement of Item 30, *both the horrors of the war ... the power of modern bereaucratic institution*, needs conjunction. The word *both* were

identified as paired conjunction of *and*. Therefore, answer C should be changed with *and*.

Accordingly, the rule of paired conjunction, the sentence should be

- both the horrors of the war **and** the power of modern bureaucratic.

#### 4.1.2.3. The Analysis of Item 39

Table 16

*The Percentage of the Students' Answers of Number 39*

		Q39			Cumulative
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Percent
Valid	A incorrect	5	11.1	11.1	11.1
	B correct	15	33.3	33.3	44.4
	C incorrect	17	37.8	37.8	82.2
	D incorrect	8	17.8	17.8	100.0
Total		45	100.0	100.0	

The following is Number 39 in Section 2 :

Kilauea's numerous eruptions are generally composed in molten

**A**

**B**

lava, with little escaping gas and few explosions.

**C**

**D**

\* *bold means the correct answer*

Based on frequency Table above, the writer assumed

1. Answer A had an error. However, *Numerous* referred to the countable eruptions of Kilauea, which was correct.
2. The students who chose answer C with *little* assumed that *little* should be followed by a little. However, the word of *little* also correct because *little* referred to

*escaping gas*, which is uncountable. The use of *a little* should be followed by uncountable singular nouns.

3. Answer D was also correct with *few* because the word of *explosions* is a countable plural noun.

4. The topic was being tested on this item was ***preposition***.

The preposition of *in* on answer B was incorrect. In English grammar, preposition sometimes is kind of idiomatic that there was no rule or reason to explain the idiomatic so that we need to follow the idiom as well.

The preposition *in* was incorrect and based on the idiom, composed should be followed by *of*. Therefore, *Kilauea's numerous eruptions are generally composed of molten lava, with little escaping gas and few explosion*

#### 4.1.2.4. The Analysis of Item 16

**Table 17**

*The Percentage of the Students' Answers of Number 16*

		Q16			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	A incorrect	21	46.7	46.7	46.7
	B incorrect	6	13.3	13.3	60.0
	C incorrect	2	4.4	4.4	64.4
	D correct	16	35.6	35.6	100.0
Total		45	100.0	100.0	

The following is Item 16 in Section 2 :

The brilliantly colored rhinoceros viper has two or three horns above each

A

B

C

nostrils.

**D**

\* *bold means the correct answer*

Item 16 discussed the *problem with nouns*. The error answer was Answer D with *nostrils*. The word before nostril was *each*, a singular noun should follow it. The word *each nostrils* should be changed with *each nostril*.

The writer assumed the students' answers that

1. Students who chose answer A deemed an adverb mostly appear at the end of the sentence. Adverb phrase can be put at the front, in the middle or at the end of a clause. If the adverb phrase is located in the front, it means that *brilliantly* is the first item in the clause.
2. The writer assumed the students who chose answer B thought that *has* referred to *rhinoceros*. They thought that *rhinoceros* is plural subject that must be agreed with the verb. The subject was *rhinoceros viper*. It is kinda snake which has venom. *Rhinoceros viper* is a singular subject, and it needs a verb that agreed with the subject. The verb *has* definitely agreed with the subject, and it did not need to be changed.
3. The writer assumed, students who chose C thought that *horns* referred to the giant animal called *rhinoceros*. Meanwhile, *rhinoceros viper* is a snake.

Based on the rule of problems with the noun, The correct should be

*The brilliantly colored rhinoceros viper has two or three horns*

S

V



- In 1964, GATT established the International Trade Center in order to assist developing countries in the promotion of **their** exports.

#### 4.1.2.6. The Analysis of Item 5

**Table 19**

*The Percentage of the Students' Answers of item 5*

Q5					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	A correct	16	35.6	35.6	35.6
	B incorrect	5	11.1	11.1	46.7
	C incorrect	15	33.3	33.3	80.0
	D incorrect	9	20.0	20.0	100.0
	Total	45	100.0	100.0	

The following is Item 5 in Section 1 :

The Missouri \_\_\_ longest river in the United States, flows through seven states from its source in Montana to its confluence with the Mississippi.

- (A) **River. The**
- (B) River is the
- (C) River is one of the
- (D) River. one of the

*\*Red bold means the correct answer*

Based on the description of each option above, the writer concluded that

1. Students who chose answer B assumed item 5 was kind of comparison topic since there was...*longest River*. However, Answer B had verb *is* while the statement of item 5 had a verb already. The verb was *flows*.
2. Seemingly, they assumed item 5 was kind of comparison as well as answer B because of *one of the*

*longest*. However, they had missed the verb *is* on the answer C.

4. The students chose answer D did not realise that *one* the first word for the first clause. Since *one* is the word of the first clause, it should be with Capital *One*.

The topic of Item 5 belonged to **Appositives**. An appositive is a noun that appears before or after another noun and has the same meaning (Philip, 2001). The word of *The Missouri* was incomplete subject, it needed *River* to give the detail of the subject. The sentence of *longest river in the United States* could easily recognise as an appositive phrase because of the noun of *longest river* and coma after *River* (subject). To make the sentence perfect, the sentence needed *the* to put after the subject. Therefore, the best answer for number 5 was A. The sentence of *The Missouri River* and *the longest river in the United States* are the same things. When appositive left out, the sentence still acceptable.

- The Missouri River flows through seven states from Its source

S V

in Montana to its confluence with the Mississippi.

(common pattern)

- The Missouri **River**, *the* longest river in the United States,

S app

flows through seven states from its source in Montana to its

V

Confluence with the Mississippi. ( Appositives pattern)

#### 4.1.2.7. The Analysis of Item 24

**Table 20**

*The Percentage of the Students' Answers of Number 24*

Q24				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	A incorrect	20	44.4	44.4
	B incorrect	5	11.1	55.6
	C correct	17	37.8	93.3
	D incorrect	3	6.7	100.0
	Total	45	100.0	100.0

The following is Item 24 in Section 2 :

Present in rocks of all types, hematite is **particular** abundant in the sedimentary

A

B

C

rocks known as red beds.

D

\* *bold means the correct answer*

Item 24 discussed *problems with adjectives and adverbs*. The writer assumed

1. The students had difficulty in recognise adjective and adverbs. They did not realise the error of item 26 was on *particular*. The word of *particular* is an adjective, but the article was not written. The word of *abundant* referred to the adjective, it was incorrect to put the adjective after the adjective without verb or subject.
2. The students did not realise the *particular* referred to *known as*. It needs an adjective + -ly to be adverb and described *known as* because *known as* described when something happens.

Therefore, the correct sentence should be *present in rocks of all types, hematite is particularly abundant in the sedimentary rocks known as red beds.*

#### 4.1.2.8. The Analysis of Item 13

**Table 21**

*The Percentage of the Students' Answers of Number 13*

		<b>Q13</b>				
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative	
					Percent	
Valid	A correct	17	37.8	37.8	37.8	
	B incorrect	2	4.4	4.4	42.2	
	C incorrect	23	51.1	51.1	93.3	
	D incorrect	3	6.7	6.7	100.0	
	Total	45	100.0	100.0		

The following is Item 13 in Section 1 :

Many bugs possess defensive scent glands and emit disagreeable odors when\_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) **disturbed**
- (B) are disturbed
- (C) they disturbed
- (D) they are disturbed

\* *bold means the correct answer*

Item 13 related to **Reduced Clause** and it concentrated on **reduced adverb clauses**. The Rule of reduced form, the adverb connector remains, but the subject and *be*-verb are omitted. Based on the rule of the reduced clause that already mentioned before, answer A had the criteria of the reduced adverb clause. The answer A reflected the rule of the reduced clause, *disturb* without subject and *be*-verb. Then, the adverb connector of *when* referred to as reduced in passive *disturbed*.

Based on the frequency of option, the writer assumed

1. The students who chose D, they did not realise that Item Thirteen focused on reduced clause. The word *when* could be assumed by the students as the connector of the first clause and the second clause. Since the second clause did not have a subject and verb, they assumed the second clause need subject and verb like the answer D.

- Many bugs possess defensive scent glands and emit  
S V

disagreeable odors When they are disturbed.  
Connector S V

However, the pattern of Item 13 with answer D was incorrect since the rule of the reduced clause was not applied on the answer D, “*the adverb connector remains, but the subject and be-verb are omitted*”.

2. Seemingly, two students who chose answer B did not know the rule of the reduced clause. They thought that the verb was missing. So they chose answer B with *are disturb* to add a verb in the sentence. On the answer B was incorrect because answer B only reduced the subject and *be-verb* was not reduce.
3. Similarly, answer C only reduced the *be-verb* and the subject *they* were not reduced. The writer assumed the students who chose answer C thought that the connector *needs* subject and verb.

- Many bugs possess defensive scent glands and emit  
S V

disagreeable odors When they disturbed.  
 (Connector S V  
 passive)

Therefore, the correct sentence should be *Many bugs possess defensive scent glands and emit disagreeable odors when **disturbed.***

#### 4.1.2.9 The Analysis of Item 19

**Table 22**

*The Percentage of the Students' Answers of Number 19*

Q19					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	A incorrect	12	26.7	26.7	26.7
	B incorrect	11	24.4	24.4	51.1
	C incorrect	3	6.7	6.7	57.8
	D correct	19	42.2	42.2	100.0
	Total	45	100.0	100.0	

The following is Item 19 in Section 2 :

Robert Heinlein was instrumental in popularizing science fiction with a  
 series of stories that is first published in the *Saturday Evening Post*.  
 A B  
 C D

\* *bold means the correct answer*

In this item, the percentage of incorrect error was 57.80%. Ttable 29 reflected the frequency of the students' answers. The writer assumed that

1. Nineteen students understood the sentence on item 19 had two different *be*-verbs. The first verb was and the second verb was *is*. This could be the reason behind they chose D because the verb *is* was not match with the past tense that used on Item 19.
2. The three students assumed the words of *a* for *series* which were plural.

Item 19 related to *the problems of verbs*, and it focussed on *the use of the past with the present*. A sentence is possible to have both present and past together, but the students must check the meaning to determine whether or not the sentence is correct. However, in this case, *the first published* was also referred to as *instrumental*. So, the verb before the *first published* should be in the *past* as well. The first verb of Item 19 was *was* because of the first verb was in the past, the second verb must be followed. Therefore, the correct sentence of Item 19 should be

- *Robert Heinlein was instrumental in popularizing science fiction with a series of stories that was first published in the Saturday Evening Post.*

#### 4.1.2.10 The Analysis of Item 32

**Table 23**  
*The Percentage of the Students' Answers of Number 32*

		Q32			Cumulative
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Percent
Valid	A incorrect	7	15.6	15.6	15.6
	B incorrect	17	37.8	37.8	53.3
	C incorrect	2	4.4	4.4	57.8
	D correct	19	42.2	42.2	100.0
Total		45	100.0	100.0	

The following is Item 32 in Section 2 :

The carbon atoms of the diamond are so strongly bonded that a

A B  
diamond can only be scratched with **other** diamond.

C D

*\*Red bold means the correct answer*

On Table 23, the students who chose correct answers were 19 students. Based on the data, the writer assumed

1. The students understand the problems with the noun.

They understood when to use *other*, *another* and *others* (*problems with noun*). The error of Item 32 was the pronoun of *others*. To have *others* in a correct sentence, *others* need a plural noun afterwards. On Item 32, the noun after *others* was a singular noun, *diamond*. To have a correct sentence, *others* must be replaced with *another* because the *diamond* was a singular noun.

2. Some students assumed answer B was incorrect because of *so* + adverb. In fact, to put *so* before the adverb is correct unless to put *so* before the adjective is incorrect.

The error of Item 32 had been mentioned, then the correct sentence should be

- *The carbon atoms of the diamond are so strongly bonded that a diamond can only be scratched with **another** diamond.* (correct)

If the students wanted to use *others*, the sentence should be

- *The carbon atoms of the diamond are so strongly bonded that a diamond can only be scratched with **others** diamonds*

↓  
*Plural noun*

#### 4.1.2.11. The Analysis of Item 9

**Table 24**

*The Percentage of the Students' Answers of Number 9*

<b>Q9</b>					
					Cumulative
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Percent
Valid	A incorrect	12	26.7	26.7	26.7
	B correct	19	42.2	42.2	68.9
	C incorrect	9	20.0	20.0	88.9
	D incorrect	5	11.1	11.1	100.0
	Total	45	100.0	100.0	

The following is Item 9 in Section 2 :

Charles Darwin's first scientific book, published in 1842, \_\_\_\_\_ a since substantiated theory on the origin of coral reefs and atolls.

- (A) to present
- (B) presented**
- (C) presenting
- (D) it presents

\* *bold means the correct answer*

Table 17 shows that Item 9 has the percentage of error with 57.80%.

Answer B was the answer item 9. In total, 19 students could answer item 9 correctly. The students' answers were varied, such as (A), (C) or (D). The topic of item 7 was about the *reduced clause* and focused on the *reduced adjective clause*. The word *published*, when it was not reduced adjective clause, it should be *which was published*. In the form, the adjective clause connector and *be*-verb that directly follow it were omitted. In the reduced form, the connector *who*, *which*, or *that* is omitted along with the *be*-verb *is* or *was* some adjective clauses are set off from the rest of the sentence with

commas, and these adjective clauses can also be reduced. The writer assumed from the students answer that

1. 19 students understood the reduced clause. Another possibility was the students thought that *published* was in the past, so the verb should be followed in the past.
2. Some of the students did not realise the reduced form this is the reason they could not answer Item 9 correctly.

In order to have a correct sentence, the blank of Item 9 should be filled with *presented*.

- *Charles Darwin's first scientific book, published in 1842, **presented** a since substantiated theory on the origin of coral reefs and atolls.*

#### 4.1.2.12 The Analysis of Item 10

**Table 25**

*The Percentage of the Students' Answers of Number 10*

		<b>Q10</b>			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	A correct	20	44.4	44.4	44.4
	B incorrect	12	26.7	26.7	71.1
	C incorrect	2	4.4	4.4	75.6
	D incorrect	11	24.4	24.4	100.0
	Total	45	100.0	100.0	

The following is Item 10 in Section 1 :

Phytoplanktons thrive where \_\_\_ phosphorus into the upper layers of a body of water.

**(A) upwelling currents circulate**

(B) the circulation of upwelling currents

(C) are upwelling currents

(D) circulates upwelling currents

\* *bold means the correct answer*

In this item 10, the total percentage of error was 55.60% out of the total students who participated in the test (45 students). Twenty-two students were correct with answer A. This item was discussed *problems with nouns*, especially the use of noun clause. Item 10 had one clause, it was *Phytoplanktons thrive*. The word *where* is the noun clause as the object. To have a perfect sentence, *where* needs *subject+verb*. Based on the table above, the writer assumed that

1. Even though some of the students understood the problem with noun clause, the rest of the students did not understand about noun clause.
2. They still confused to find subject and verb when the sentence is complex.

Move to answer B, the answer B only had a subject, that was *currents* and *circulation* as a noun. Answer C was incorrect because the subject behind the verbs *are upwelling currents*. Answer D was also inappropriate *circulates upwelling currents*. Even though answer D had subject *currents* and verb *circulates*, the verb was incorrect. The subject was *currents* (plural), thus it needs verb without s, *circulate*. To have a correct sentence, there are two possibilities.

- Phytoplanktons thrive where upwelling currents circulate

S                      V    Noun                      S                      V  
Connector

phosphorus into the upper layers of a body of water.

- Where upwelling currents circulate phosphorus into the upper

Noun                      S                      V  
Connector

layers of a body of water, Phytoplanktons thrive

V

#### 4.1.2.13 The Analysis of Item 26

**Table 26**  
*The Percentage of the Students' Answers of Number 26*

Q26					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	A incorrect	10	22.2	22.2	22.2
	B incorrect	4	8.9	8.9	31.1
	C correct	21	46.7	46.7	77.8
	D incorrect	10	22.2	22.2	100.0
	Total	45	100.0	100.0	

The following is Item 26 in Section 2 :

Elizabeth Cady Stanton organized the first U.S. women's rights

A                      B

convention In 1848 and was instrumentally in the struggle to win

C

voting and property rights for women.

D

\* means the correct answer

Item 26 was also categorised into the medium level category. Ten students (22.20 %) were failed to give the correct answer. These ten students chose to answer A with *women's*. The writer assumed that

1. The students thought that *women* with apostrophe *s* should be *womens'*. The word of *women* is already plural and possessive. Thus, it needs to add the apostrophe *s*, *women's*
2. Ten students chose answer D with *voting and property*, which were correct. The words of *voting and property* were correct because *voting and property* were related to *rights for women*.
3. The main error of Item 26 was *instrumentally*. Based on the topic of *the problems with adjectives and adverbs*, *instrumentally* should be changed with adjective → *instrumental*. *Instrumentally* in this item was adverb form.

To have perfect sentence, the *instrumenally* must be replaced by *instrumental*. Therefore

- *Elizabeth Cady Stanton organised the first U.S. women's rights convention in 1848 and was **intrumental** in the struggle to win voting and property rights for women.*

#### 4.1.2.14. The Analysis of Item 38

Table 27

*The Percentage of the Students' Answers of Number 38*

Q38					
				Cumulative	
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Percent
Valid	A incorrect	8	17.8	17.8	17.8
	B correct	21	46.7	46.7	64.4
	C incorrect	6	13.3	13.3	77.8
	D incorrect	10	22.2	22.2	100.0
Total		45	100.0	100.0	

The following is Item 38 in Section 2 :

As the International Dateline at 180 degrees longitude is crossed

A

**westerly**. It becomes necessary to change the date by moving it

B

C

D

one day forward.

\* *bold means the correct answer*

Based on Table 27, the writer concluded that

1. Half of the participants understood *westerly* was the error of Item 38. *Westerly* can be adjective and adverb form. The sentence of *As the International Dateline at 180 degrees longitude is crossed* referred to *westerly* in adjective form. To have an adjective form, *westerly* should be *in a westerly direction*.
2. Seemingly, the students have problems with adjective and adverb. They have a problem when adjective changed to adverb and otherwise.

The *westerly* is kind of adjective, and adverb forms, the word of *westerly* (*west* and *-ly*) means in a westward position or direction. As mentioned before on point 1, the word of *westerly* needs preposition to make the sentence correct. It should be *in a westerly direction* since this refers to a place or position.

Therefore, the sentence of Item 38 should be

- As the International Dateline at 180 degrees longitude is crossed **in a westerly direction**. It becomes necessary to change the date by moving it one day forward. (adjective form)

#### 4.1.2.15 The Analysis of Item 40

**Table 28**

*The Percentage of the Students' Answers of Number 40*

		Q40			Cumulative
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Percent
Valid	A incorrect	4	8.9	8.9	8.9
	B incorrect	13	28.9	28.9	37.8
	C correct	21	46.7	46.7	84.4
	D incorrect	7	15.6	15.6	100.0
Total		45	100.0	100.0	

The following is Item 40 in Section 2 :

The incubation period of tetanus is usually five to ten days, and the  
 frequently **occurred** symptom is jaw stiffness.

\*Red bold means the correct answer

The last medium item was analyzed by the writer was Item 40. 53.30 % of students could not answer the question correctly. The topic of Item 40 discussed *problems with adjectives*. The use of *-ed and -ing* in adjective form is similar to the difference between active and passive. *Occurred* was doing the action and refers to the *incubation period*, it should be *occur* with *ing*, *occurring*.

The writer assumed that

1. More than 50% of the students could identify the error of Item 40, which was discussed problems with an adjective.
2. Another possibility, the students thought that the sentence of Item 40 used the present tense. So the word of *occurred* was incorrect.

This reason made sense that the word *frequently* was something to do continuously.

Therefore, the sentence should be

- *The incubation period of tetanus is usually five to ten days, and the most frequently **occurring** symptom is jaw stiffness.*



The data have been identified and investigated, the writer created a table to organize the findings and to answer the research question of this study.

**Table 37**

*The Description of the students' structural problems of Section 2 of TOEFL*

Items	correct percentage	Error Percentage	Skill	Skill number	%
12	8,90%	91,10%	Sentences with inverted subject and verb	16	91,10%
15	8,90%	91,10%	Sentences with inverted subject and verb	18	
35	13,30%	86,70%	Problems with preposition	38	76,70%
39	33,30%	66,70%	Problems with preposition	56	
36	24,40%	75,60%	Problems with subject verb agreement	20	71,10%
2	26,70%	73,30%	Problems with subject verb agreement	1	
29	35,60%	64,40%	Problems with noun and pronouns agreement	45	
30	28,90%	71,10%	Problems with parallel structure	25	71,10%
13	37,80%	62,20%	Sentences with reduced clauses	14	63,30%
9	42,20%	57,80%	Reduced adjective clause	13	
6	35,60%	64,40%	Appositives (reduced adjective clauses)	4	
16	35,60%	64,40%	Problems with nouns	39	59,27%
32	42,20%	57,80%	Problems with nouns	60	
10	44,40%	55,60%	The use of noun clause connectors correctly	9	
19	42,20%	57,80%	Problems with the use of the verb	33	57,80%
24	37,80%	62,20%	Problems with adjective	46	55,53%
40	46,70%	53,30%	Problems with adjectives (use -ed and -ing adjectives)	51	
26	46,70%	53,30%	Problems with adjectives and adverbs	46	
38	46,70%	53,30%	Problems with adjectives and adverbs	49	

It can be seen from Table 37 that the students found difficulty in understanding about Inversion (91.10%), Preposition (76.70%), Agreement (71.10%) and Parallel Structure (71.10%). Then, those topics were followed by Reduced Clauses (63.30%), Problems with Nouns (59.27%), Problems with Verbs (57.80%), and Problems with adjectives(55.53%). The colours on skill number column are used to classify the level of the item categories. The

colour of red means the most difficult items with a correct percentage of less than 25%. The colour of Yellow means the medium items with correct percentages of more than 50%.

### **Inversion**

The definition of inversion is a literary technique in which the standard order of word is reversed. Based on the data, two items with Inversion were the most difficult topic with 91.10%. This issue could happen because inversion in Bahasa Indonesia quite to use in daily life unless in formal Bahasa Indonesia. In Bahasa Indonesia, Inversion known as *inversi*. Similarly, Puspitasari (2015) stated in Bahasa Indonesia “Kalimat inversi merupakan kalimat yang struktur urutan fungsinya berbeda dari pola umum dalam bahasa Indonesia”. Another possibility, the students did not know, or they did not get used to inversion. When a subject and a verb are inverted in a complex sentence, they got a problem to solve the inversion.

### **Preposition**

A preposition is a function word that typically combines with a noun phrase to form a phrase which usually expresses a modification or predication Preposition (2019). A preposition is used to link nouns, pronouns, or phrases. Some students had difficulty in understanding prepositions. The writer assumed the students have difficulty in a preposition because of the preposition in English is related to idiomatic. The students get used to translating preposition from Bahasa Indonesia to English, and they missed to check the idioms prepositions.

### **Agreement**

The agreement is known in some texts as Concord. The agreement is the correspondence of a verb with its subject in person and number, and of a pronoun with its antecedent in person, number, and gender (Nordquist, 2019). The antecedent is a phrase, word or clause changed by a pronoun in a sentence. In agreement topic, the students have problems when the subject is irregular plural. The writer assumed that some of the students

did not know some words in English were irregular plural. When they did not know the subject was irregular plural, they could not choose the verb correctly to agree with a sentence. Another problem was the students could not recognise the subject, and the verb separated from the typical pattern in a sentence. For instance, in typical pattern, the subject next to the verb, but in another pattern, a verb could be put after a noun. This problem caused the students reckless to choose the option of the item.

### **Parallel Structure**

To have good English pattern in a sentence, the language should be balanced as possible (Philip, 2001). The balance is called a parallel structure, and it has several patterns. On this TOEFL test, the parallel structure related to paired conjunction. In other words, one side must be parallel to what is on the other side. Common words on paired conjunction are *not only...but also*, *both... and*, *either..or*, *etc*. Some of the students know about parallel structure with paired conjunction this can be proved that the students could answer an item with parallel structure correctly. However, almost half of the participants missed the paired conjunction. The writer assumed the students did not realise the paired conjunction of *both* on Item 30 and the students focused on the other option on Item 30.

### **Reduced Clauses**

In English, reduced clauses have reduced adjective and adverb clauses. Reduced adverb clauses refer to the shortening of an adverb clause to an adverbial phrase of the time, causality, or opposition (Beare, 2018). Based on the data have been mentioned before, the writer concluded that the students have a problem to reduce the adverb clause. This happened because they did not know the rule or the pattern to reduce. The student's answers' were various. The students omitted the subject or be-verb only where the rule is the adverb connector remains, but the subject and be-verb omitted.

### **Problems with noun**

There were four items used problem with the noun as their topics. Based on those items, the writer assumed the students lacked a singular and plural noun. The students also have problems when they have to pair the plural or singular noun. For instance, Item 16, *each* must be followed by a singular noun. The students assumed *each* referred to plural that needs plural a noun. Another error was the students missed the rule of *others*, *other* and *another* that related to singular and plural noun.

### **Problems with adjective**

The definition of adjective was written on a dictionary of Oxford. An adjective is a word naming an attribute of a noun (Hornby, 1995). Seemingly, the students have problems to classify words that belonged to adjectives or adverbs. Generally, when a word ends in *-ly* in English, it is an adverb. However, a few words are ending with *-ly* that is adjective. The writer assumed that some of the students lacked the kind of adjective words with *-ly*.

### **Problems with verb (The past with the present)**

The problem with verb quiet easy for the students. The writer assumed, the students understood about past and present verb, but they missed the error of the verb. Based on Item 19, there were 19 students could answer Item 19 correctly. It means that almost the whole participants knew about this error. The rest of The students focused on other answers that not need to be changed. The highest answer chosen by the students was answer A. The writer assumption about this problem was that the students thought that *instrumental* was incorrect to address the subject of the sentence.