Young Adults’ Punctuation Error
in Writing English Daily Story on Instagram

Yulianah Sain¹, Ervin², Sarjaniah Zur³

¹yuliana.sain@umkendari.ac.id, ²Ervin.13@umkendari.ac.id, ³sarjaniahzur@iainkendari.ac.id

¹,²Universitas Muhammadiyah Kendari, ³IAIN Kendari

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Abstract

This research focuses on analyzing the young adult Instagram users’ punctuation error on their Instagram story. This present research uses qualitative design and the type is content analysis. The subjects of this research are taken from Instagram users who belong to young adult Instagram user and the researcher using snowball. This research employs documentation as the instrument of the study to collect the data. The findings of this research provided into 10 points; the researcher finds that there are 10 kinds of punctuation errors which are made by the young adult Instagram users, they are (1) exclamation mark, (2) capital (capitalization), (3) period (full stop), (4) comma, (5) apostrophe, (6) question mark, (7) inverted comma (quotation mark), (8) ellipse, (9) hyphen, and (10) colon. The percentages of each error are exclamation mark 40.1%, capital (capitalization) 25.2%, period (full stop) 20.5%, comma 6.7%, apostrophe 2.3%, question mark 2.3%, inverted comma (quotation mark) 0.8%, hyphen 0.5%, colon 0.5%, and colon 0.2%. The findings of this study indicate that the most common punctuation error made by the young adult Instagram users was exclamation marks with a percentage of 40.1%.

Keywords: punctuation error; Instagram; Instagram story feature; young adult; and writing.
Introduction

Recently Instagram has been become the most popular social media that has been known by many active users of social media where we can use Instagram as the platform to be used in teaching several skills in English such as writing, listening, reading, and speaking. It is in line with Mansor and Rahim (2014, p. 108) they add that the recent survey proves if Instagram becomes the most popular social network. It is because Instagram has some features which are provided to Instagram users to share everything they want to share on their Instagram account.

Since Instagram becomes the most popular social network it can be denied if the features of Instagram interest the young adult Instagram users and they tend to use Instagram in their daily life. Raharjo and Mulyani (2020) express that the interesting features in Instagram addicted the teenagers to use Instagram continuously. Despite the Instagram features interest the teenagers; it can be sure if they have possibility to make writing error (punctuation) when sharing their caption activity in their story.

Instagram is also known as the social network app which allows the users for uploading or sharing their activities whether photos or videos. According to Moreau (2018) Instagram is the social network application which made for sharing photos and videos from a smartphone. The Instagram users are able to share those by using story feature, sharing photos, replaying other users' stories, and so on. As the time runs fast, Instagram becomes the media social which commonly and the largest social media used by many active user of social media. Alkhowaiter (2020) shows if the active users of Instagram increase from 100 million in 2011 to more than 400 million in 2016. So therefore, Instagram in the present time becomes one of the applications which find the popularity. Since it exists, mostly the Instagram users take a benefit of this social network use this as the platform in their businesses, vendors, and also in the educational sector.

Analysing the writing punctuation errors of young adult Instagram users is a very important thing to be analysed in the present time since writing is considered as the medium of human communication which involves the presentation of a language in written symbols and the most complicated skill in educational field. Usaha and Watcharapunyaawong (2012) argue that there are three reasons why writing arose significantly essential which are the more international linguistic are promoting writing as the field of their specialization, some articles and journals are uploaded in English, and mostly the international students are taking their degrees in speak English country. So that most of the EFL students even the young adults Instagram users tend to make some errors in writing. From the description above, it can be concluded that writing is the most important skill between those four skills and it can be learnt through various ways.

Additionally, the writer found a similar case to the focus of this study where one of
the Instagram users makes a punctuation error in her/his Instagram story. In the following picture, it can be clearly seen if the Instagram user makes an error in punctuation (the Instagram user did not put the full stop at the end of the sentence and the apostrophe) and it supposes there is the full stop at the end of the sentence.

Figure 1.1 an Example of Punctuation Error on Instagram Story

In general, there has been one research related to the wiring on Instagram caption in Indonesian context which carried out by Prasetyawati et al. (2017) the research focusing on analysing the contribution of writing English caption of the ELESP students' written linguistics performance. In addition, the result of the study showed that the usage of Instagram in the classroom can increase the students' ability in writing. However, the writer finds that there is still a limited amount of research that is done which is related to the writing error (punctuation) on Instagram story feature. In addition, by looking at the preliminary study above the researchers did not discussed about the punctuation errors made by the students.

The writer highly believes that this point must be able to discuss in the future since it has the possibility to produce the right result and the new innovation. So, it is really needed to
discuss the writing error (punctuation) made by the young adult on the Instagram story feature further, and the writer is excited to challenge himself to find a new discovery related to the use of Instagram. Next, the writer hopes this study will bring a positive effect to the young adult Instagram users in their writing ability.

Method
To describe the data found in the field, the researcher used a qualitative descriptive method. Corte and Aspers (2019) argued that qualitative research is the method which has multiple focuses involving an interpretative, naturalistic approach to the subject matter. The subjects of this research were 118 young adult Instagram users. The subject of this research only focused in young adult Instagram users. In choosing the subjects, the researcher used snowball. The data of this research were collected using documentation. In analysing the data, the researcher adopted the theory by Miles et al. (2014) which indicate that data analysis consists of: data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing and verification.

Findings and Discussion
Findings
The researcher finds 10 types of punctuation errors which are made by young adult Instagram users in story feature of Instagram. Furthermore, the researcher finds 341 punctuation errors that are uploaded by 118 young adult Instagram users and those errors were taken after analyzing for 198 Instagram English daily stories. Those errors consist of period (full stop), comma, question mark, exclamation mark, ellipses, inverted comma (quotation mark), apostrophe, capital (capitalization), also hyphen, and colon.
This current study uses a formula to know the percentage of the punctuation errors which are carried out by the young adult Instagram users on Instagram story feature during this research conducted. So therefore, the researcher finds the percentage of each error, they are: exclamation mark as much as 40.1%, capitalization as much 25.2%, full stop 20.5%, comma as much as 6.7%, apostrophe as much as 2.3%, question mark as much as 2.3%, quotation mark as much as 0.8%, ellipses as much as 0.5%, hyphen 0.5%, and colon as much as 0.2%.

1. Exclamation mark

Exclamation mark as one of the kinds of punctuation becomes the most common and become the dominant error which found in this research. In addition, these exclamation marks errors were created by the young adult Instagram users during this research conducted for 137 times and have percentage of 40.1%.

The pictures below are the English caption Instagram story made by the young adult:

![Happy Birthday Bou Rosita](image1)

(4.1.a Exclamation error)

![Keep shining and Inspire Ka Ven](image2)

(4.1.b Exclamation error)

Those two Instagram stories above contain exclamation mark errors. The first story in (4.1.a) was “Happy Birthday Bou Rosita”. This Instagram story is an expression in English where one of the young adult Instagram users forget to put an exclamation mark the end of the expression. It should be written “Happy birthday Bou Rosita!”

The (4.1.b) story also one of the stories which show the exclamation mark error. The story was “Keep shining and inspiring kak Ven” if we are looking at this Instagram story, the young adult Instagram user command the person he/she mentions in that story to do what the Instagram user write and the Instagram user did not put the exclamation mark in rest of the story caption. So, the correct Instagram story should be “Keep shining and inspiring kak Ven!”

Another error of exclamation mark found in this research shown in the picture down below:
Additionally, two pictures above contain a similar error in punctuation especially in exclamation mark. In the picture (4.1.c) was “take care” this kind of expression usually used when farewell with someone, so we have add an exclamation mark in the end of the expression. The correct one supposes to be “Take care!”. Then, the picture (4.1.d) was “Yuta in japan now” one of the instagram users forget to put the exclamation mark in this instagram story since the instagram users makes this story caption to tell everyone he or she follows that Yuta in japan now. The word “now” show if there is an emphasis, so the story should be “Yuta in Japan now!”.

2. Capital (capitalization)

Capitalization is also becomes the error conducted by young adult instagram users and capitalization stand after exclamation mark where this error repeated by the young adult for 86 and have percentage for 25.2%. The pictures below show the capitalization error made by the young adult instagram users:

The story in the picture (4.3.a) contains the capitalization error where the young adult write the story using capital letters in all of the words. The story was “SOON VESTIVAL AFTER CHINESE NEW YEAR” while the word which use capital letters should be only on the first or in the beginning word of the sentence. So that, the correct one supposes to be “Soon festival after Chinese New Year”

In addition, the second story in (4.2.b) also contains the capitalization error where the story was about ”me and my bestie join this trend”. In this story, the young adult
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An Instagram user did not use the capital letters in the first word in the beginning of the sentence and the correct story should be like “Me and my bestie join this trend.”

These following pictures are the additional capital (capitalization error made by the young adult in their English story:

(4.2.c Capitalization error) (4.2.d Capitalization error)

In the picture of (4.2.c), the young adult Instagram user wrote an English story using capital letters for all the written word. The content of the story was “Too MUCH LOVE.” Besides, the using of capital letters only used in the first word of the sentence and the name of person. The content of the story should be written “Too much love.” Additionally, the story of (4.2.d) was also the story which contains capital (capitalization error). One of the young adult make a story without starting the story caption with the capital letter first and the story was “happy birthday ma pretty girl.” The content of the story have to be written “Happy birthday ma pretty girl!”

3. Period (Full stop)

This kind of punctuation was found in this research and stand after exclamation mark and capitalization. The period (full stop) error was made by the young adult Instagram users as much as 71 times with the percentage of 20.5%. The pictures below are the documentation of full stop error in young adult Instagram story on Instagram story feature.

(4.3.a full stop error) (4.3.b full stop error)

The Instagram stories above contain full stop error which is conducted by young adult Instagram users during the research conducted. The (4.3.a) story was about “I’m here for oligarchy slander”. By looking at that story, it can be clearly seen that the young adult
instagram users forget to put the full stop in the end of the sentence. The story above is the complete sentence, so it has to end with full stop. Then, it should written “I’m here for oligarchy slander.”

In addition, the (4.3.b) story was also the Instagram story that has punctuation error that is full stop. The story was “I don’t want to leave you on read but idk how to respond” in this story, the young adult Instagram user didn’t put in the punctuation mark (full stop) since that sentence include in compound sentence, so the sentence has to be ended by full stop. The correct story supposes to be “I don’t want to leave you on read but idk how to respond.”

Another full stop error also available on the pictures below:

(4.3.c full stop error) (4.3.d full stop error)

Those stories show the full stop error. The (4.3.c) and the (4.3.d) story are simple sentences. The stories were “I ONLY NEED ONE FLOWER TO DECORATE MY SOUL” and “It is the only thing that makes us feel alive” in those stories the young adult Instagram users also did not put the full stop in the end of the sentence. Since both of the stories include in simple sentence, so it has to be ended by a full stop in the end to the sentence. Therefore, the correct stories are “I only need one flower to decorate my soul.” And “It is the only thing makes us feel alive.”

3. Comma

Comma was also one of the punctuation mark error which made by the young adult Instagram users. This punctuation mark stands at the after full stop stop and capitalization. During the research conducted, the researcher finds some of the young adult made an Instagram stories and there were found some stories that contain comma error. The amount of comma error was 23 with the percentage of 6.7%. The pictures will be shown down below:
The four stories above, the young adult Instagram users conducted a comma error when writing their story. In the picture of (4.4.a) the story was “BECAUSE OF THE STATEMENT ABOVE I REALIZE THAT ALL OF GIRL WHO HAD RELATIONSHIP AND BROKE UP THEY’LL NOT RECOGNIZE THEIR EX-BF” the (4.4.a) story include in complex sentence since there is dependent sentence and independent sentence. In addition the young adult did not put the comma to separate the independent sentence and the dependent sentence. So, the story has to be like “Because of the statement above, I realize that all of girl who had relationship and broke up. They’ll not recognize their EX-BF”.

While the story in (4.4.b) the one of the young adult Instagram users abuse a comma in the Instagram story where the story was “Thanks for ur time guys, KKP become so fun bcs all of you that’s totally insane” the Instagram user put the comma mark after thanking while it should be replaced by an exclamation mark after thanking to whoever. Therefore the correct story is “Thank for ur time guy! KKP become so fun bcs all of you that’s totally insane.”

In addition, the (4.4.c) story also one of the stories that contain comma mark error. Where the content of the story are similar with the story in (4.4.b) which contain dependent and independent clause. The story was “HOPEFULLY IN THE YEARS TO COME IT WILL REMAIN THE SAME AND CONTINUE TO ACCOMPANY” the Instagram user also did not put the comma to separate the dependent and independent clause in the story. So that, the story (4.4.c) has to be like “Hopefully in the years to come, it will remain the same and continue to accompany.”

The last story (4.4.d) also as same as the previous stories above where the Instagram users forget to put comma when writing the Instagram daily story. The story was “highest level of loving someone, that you are willing to let go and take them back when they’re hurt by others.” The Instagram user abuses the comma where the Instagram user put the comma
to separate the independents clause and the dependent clause. While, if the sentence begins with independent clause and followed by dependent clause and also there an relative pronoun so, there is no need any more to separate them by using comma. So that, the correct story should be like “Highest level of loving someone that you are willing to let go and take them back when they’re hurt by others.”

4. Apostrophe

Apostrophe was also the kind of punctuation mark error created by the young adult. Apostrophe stud after comma error as much as 8 errors with the percentage of 2.3%. The pictures below are the Instagram stories that contain an apostrophe error:

![Apostrophe error](image1)

(4.5.a Apostrophe error)  (4.5.b Apostrophe error)

![Apostrophe error](image2)

(4.5.c Apostrophe error)  (4.5.d Apostrophe error)

There are four Instagram stories above which are conducted by young adult and contain an apostrophe error when making an Instagram story during this research held. The story in (4.5.a) was about “im here for oligarchy slander”. The Instagram users in this story abbreviated the word I am to be im, but the young adult Instagram users did not put the apostrophe mark in that word. The story should be written like “I'm here for oligarchy slander.”

Furthermore, the story in picture (4.5.b), (4.5.c), (4.5.d) has the same error with the story in the picture (4.5.a). The stories were “the sunset is beautiful, isn't it?”, “We don't need coklat to deyy!”, and “Mandalika im coming”. In those three Instagram stories, the young adult Instagram users are similar in abbreviating some words in the story and they did not put the apostrophe in each abbreviated words. So that, the correct stories have to be written like “The sunset is beautiful, isn't it?”, “We don't need coklat to deyy!”, and also “Mandalika I'm coming!”.

5. Question mark
Question mark is one of the punctuation errors which were found by the researcher in this research. In addition, question mark stands at the same position with the apostrophe error and the amount of this error for 8 errors with the percentage of 2.3%. During the research conducted, the researcher found several instagram stories that contain question mark error:

As we can see on the pictures above, the first story was “So chemtrail is happening now in jabodetabek?” that sentence is not the doubtful or even the interrogative sentence since the auxiliary verb in that sentence written after the subject of the sentence. So that, the young adult instagram users abuses the question mark in that story and the story should be written like “So, chemtrail is happening now in jabodetabek!”. While the story in picture (4.6.b) was about “What is your opinion for this photo” it can be clearly seen that this story is a interrogative sentence since the young adult instagram user use 5W+H question what and followed by to be is after the 5W+H but the instagram user did not put a question mark in the lend of the sentence. So therefore, the correct story should be written like “What is your opinion for this photo?”

6. Inverted comma (Quotation mark )

Quotation mark was one of the errors that the researcher found in this research and this error was conducted by young adult instagram users in their instagram story. These kinds of punctuation stand after question mark error with the amount of error as much as 3 errors and the percentage of this error is 0.8%. In addition, some pictures below are the story that contains a quotation mark found in the field:
The first story is about “form the book titled love for imperfect things”. In that story, the young adult Instagram user writes a story caption or wants to show the title of the book but the young adult did not put the quotation mark when writing the title of the book. So therefore, the correct story caption should be like “From the book titled “Love for imperfect things””.

The second story in the picture (4.7.b) is also the story that contains a quotation mark error where the story was about “WISH ALL THE BEST FOR YOUR FUTURE CAREER KAK” from that story, it can be clearly seen if the young adult Instagram user wants to deliver her or his hope but the young adult uses quotation mark to begin and close the sentence. So, the story should be like “Wish all the best for your future carrier kak!”

7. Ellipse

Ellipse is also one of the kinds of punctuation that abused by the young adult Instagram users. In this research, the ellipses mark stands after quotation mark error as much as 2 errors with the percentage of 0.5%. The pictures below are the Instagram stories of young adult which contain ellipses error:

The picture in (4.8.A) was about “COMING SOON....” In this story, the young adult Instagram user writes an exclamation sentence but it is ended with an ellipses mark while an exclamation sentence supposes to be ended with an exclamation mark. So therefore, the correct story should be written like “Cooming soon!”. Meanwhile, the second picture in the (4.8.b) was about “Thank you bestie.” this story also almost similar with the first story in picture (4.8.a). in the second story, the young adult wrote a thanking sentence but it is closed with ellipses. Then, the correct story has to be like “Thank you bestie!”

8. Hyphen

Hyphen is the punctuation mark that the researcher found and stand in the same position with the ellipse error. The amount of this error as much as 2 errors with the percentage of 0.5%. The picture below is the only one Instagram:
The Instagram story above contains the hyphen error where the story was about "- Happy semprotulation -." The young adult Instagram user abuses the hyphen mark where the young adult starts and ends the story caption with hyphen. So, the correct Instagram story supposes to be like “Happy semprotulation!”.

Colon

Colon was also the punctuation mark that the researcher found and became the smallest amount of punctuation error which made by the young adult Instagram user as much as 1 error with the percentage of 0.3%. The picture below is the Instagram story that contains colon error.

The story above contains colon error where the content of the story above is "If we go down then we go down together:" one of the young adult Instagram users make a story which contain colon error. The young adult put the colon in the end of the story without any additional writing after the story. It can be clearly seen if the correct story supposes to be “If we go down then we go down together.”

Discussion

So far, people have looked at grammatical errors, but punctuation errors are no less important. The use of correct punctuation is a significant part of writing since improper use of punctuation changes the meaning of writing and helps the reader or the writer to know the meaning of the sentence in writing. So therefore, if the using of punctuation mark is not used correctly, the meaning of the sentence in the writing will be not delivered or understand by the reader. After doing this research, it turns out that mostly the young adult Instagram users did not know how to apply exclamation mark when writing their English daily story caption on Instagram story feature since the most common error made by the young adult was exclamation mark.
Exclamation mark is a punctuation mark which used to convey strong emotion such as surprising expression, joy, anger, shock, or another strong emotion. Exclamation mark was the most common punctuation error which conducted by young adult Instagram users. According to Samhon and Abdalah (2016) define that the students conducted some error in punctuation such as the use of exclamation mark, comma, and quotation mark. It is happen to the students since they lack of practice. So, the students have to practice a lot to prevent the wrong use of punctuation mark particularly in the use of exclamation mark because of there are many young adult Instagram users who carried out the exclamation mark in their daily Instagram English story on Instagram.

Capital letter is a typeface that has a special shape and is not the same size as other letters. This capital letters used to sign or they should be used in the following cases such as the first word in a sentence, names of organizations, nationality words, names of people, titles (capitalize main words only), days and months. Capitalization was the second common punctuation error which carried out by the young adult Instagram users after exclamation mark. According to Shweba and Mujiyanto (2017) they added that there were three kinds of writing error in mechanics of writing consist of capitalization, spelling, and punctuation. Even though this seems trivial but it can give a negative impact to the writing performance of the young adult Instagram users when they will write their academic writing.

The full stop is also one of the kinds of punctuation used at the end of a sentence. The third common punctuation error made by the young adult was full stop. This kind of punctuation is also often abused by the young adult Instagram users during this research conducted. According to Samhon and Abdalah (2016) the results of the study prove that the common punctuation errors made by the students at secondary school are the abuse of comma in full stop, full stop, exclamation mark, and also quotation mark. In addition, the researcher also asked the students to rewrite some sentence in and they forget to put the period in the rest of the sentence they write. Therefore, this error was also often found in this research.

Comma is a punctuation mark that used to separate items in a list, separate words that are not part of sentence, separate linking words, and clauses. It is also used before and after a clause or phrase that gives additional, but not essential, information about the noun it follows. The fourth common punctuation error carried out by the young adult Instagram users was comma. Comma is one of the punctuations error that conducted by young adult Instagram users during this research held. Mullina (2022) claimed that the Russian speaking students made comma error in writing English text such as do not put the comma between extended simple clauses as the part of compound sentence. During this research, some of the young adult Instagram users abuse the usage of comma in their English daily story on Instagram story feature. In addition, it followed by apostrophe error.
Apostrophe is one of the types of punctuation that used to mark contraction and mark possession. While question mark is the punctuation mark which used at the end of the interrogative sentence and it is used to mark doubtful parts of a sentence. Two kind of punctuation mark above stand at the same position and they became the fifth common punctuation error made by the young adult on their Instagram story. According to Ali et al. (2020) they stated that some of the university students in Pakistani made error in both punctuation mark apostrophe and question mark. In addition, the use of apostrophe and question mark is always problematic for the students since it is used for contractions and also for showing possession and also in the interrogative sentence.

Quotation mark is the seventh common punctuation error carried out by the young adult Instagram users on their English daily story. In this present research, the researcher only finds quotation mark error as much as 3 errors with the percentage only 0.8%. According to Ali et al. (2020) they convey that the Pakistani university students made punctuation error such as in use of quotation mark. The result of the study above shows if some of the students have a big possibility to make a quotation mark error in their writing. Than the next punctuation error is followed by Ellipse mark.

The hyphen mark is used to write the repeated words; to separate date, moon, and year; to separate lowercase and uppercase letters in a word; or to separate numbers and letters in one word. Meanwhile, the function of ellipse mark is to mark sentences disjointed or omitted parts of the sentence. Those two kind of punctuation stand in the fourth common punctuation error made by the young adult on Instagram story feature. According to Abdul and Niruba (2021) the both have ever conducted a study and they found that the ESL students have not previous knowledge and they have no ideas about the punctuation mark especially in Ellipses. It shows if the young adult also tends to make an error in ellipses. Harzoni et al. (2022) they defined that based on the result of analysis showed that the 32 students’ essays contain some errors include in punctuation mark namely hyphen. In addition, the statement above supports the finding of this present research since the researcher also finds hyphen error in this research.

Colon is used to introduce a list of items and in informal writing it is usually used to give more information about main clause. This kind of punctuation mark became the smallest common punctuation mark error made by the young adult in their English daily Instagram story. According to Harzoni (2022) the result of their research under the titled “Investigating Malaysian ESL students’ writing problems on conventions, punctuation, and language use at secondary school level” the findings revealed that according to the teachers’
response some of the students usually have problems and confusing in using punctuation mark such as colon.

Conclusion

In this study, researchers used the taxonomy proposed by Ali et al. (2020) where they found 9 types of punctuation error in their research as follow: capital, comma, apostrophe, inverted comma, period, colon, parenthesis, semi colon, and hyphen. In addition, the researcher adds some punctuation mark to be looked for in this research since there are some punctuation marks which did not find the Ali et al. research. They are exclamation mark, dash, slash, and ellipsis.

As this research progresses, there are two punctuation mark errors that do not cover in Ali et al theory in this research. According to Ali et al. there are nine types of punctuation error found in their research, while in this research the researcher find 10 types of punctuation error but there are some punctuation error which are not covered in Ali et al. findings they are exclamation mark and ellipses. Furthermore, there are also some punctuation mark errors which found by Ali et al and not found in this present research such as semicolon and parenthesis.

Based on the findings of this research, it can be clearly seen that the most common punctuation error that carried out by the young adult instagram users when writing their English daily story on instagram story feature is exclamation mark as much as 137 exclamation mark errors with the percentage of 40.1% and followed by capitalization seat at the second position as much as 25.2% with the amount of error as much as 86 capitalization error, full stop as much as 71 error with the percentage of 20.5%, comma as much as 6.7% with the amount of error for 23 comma error, apostrophe as much as 2.3% with the amount of error for 8 errors, question mark as much as 2.3% with the amount of error for 8 errors, quotation mark as much as 0.8% with the amount of error for 3 errors, ellipses as much as 0.5% with the amount of error for 2 errors, colon as much as 0.5% with the amount of error 2 hyphen error, and the last is colon with the percentage of 0.2% and the amount of error as much as 1 error.

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