FOCUSING THE CONTENT OF ARTICLES, YET NEGLECTING THE CITATION AND REFERENCE STYLE

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Abstract

Scholars tend to give extra efforts to write the content of their study, yet some forget to pay much attention in writing the standardization of citation and reference. It yields errors in presenting citation and reference based on the guideline required by the journals. Citing and referencing are two mediums to quote authors' opinions and also give credits for their intellectual ideas. An analysis of citation and reference of articles indexed by Scopus Quartile 2 was carried out to scrutinize errors in writing citation and reference page. The data were taken from a journal required authors to adhere the guidelines of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th Ed). The method used was qualitative. The data of 68 errors in citations and 139 errors in reference page were gathered by downloading the articles from the website of the journal. The results show that errors identified in writing the citation are classified into narrative citation and parenthetical citation. Errors vary in initiating page number, incorrect use of ampersand, incorrect style of multiple citation and wrong order of multiple citations. With regard to reference page, errors are detected in writing the titles of the works, typing the references taken from journals and proceedings and no translation provided from other languages. Errors in referencing edited works and abbreviating the authors are also pinpointed. The results imply that in order to produce accurate citations and references, authors are obliged strictly to follow and conform one style required by the journal.

Keywords: Accurate, American Psychological Association, citation error, journal, narrative citation, parenthetical citation, reference error

INTRODUCTION

Reading materials of related research is a principal process in order to find out the gap of the research and to gain clear understanding of the theory applied in the research. These previous materials should be clearly written both in the parenthetical citation in text and in the reference page. It is also worth mentioning that any academic writings require citing other previous theoretical frameworks as well as other authors' research findings. Rather, these requirements enable authors to prevent themselves from practicing plagiarism. By all means, citing is a key social practice in academia (Friedman, 2019). Moreover, citations are crucial rhetorical devices permitting seasoned writers to promote their current research findings persuasively and efficiently (Hyland, 1999, 2002, 2004; Kargbo, 2010; Mansourizadeh & Ahmad, 2011). Meanwhile, Gupta (2017) defines citations as quotations of series of academic works specifically used in a scholarly communication. Thus, citation is a pivotal practice required to be performed by scientific authors in establishing comprehensive research.

The significance of citing other resources in academic writing indicates that the material and information cited are proposed by other scholars. Further, citing a source text is more than providing a name and a year; it is a subjective process of deciding how to make meaning out of the available resources (Shi, 2008). Citation provides the readers the source of the information including the surname of the author(s), the year of publication and the page numbers. It also corresponds to a direct quote or paraphrase.

There are two ways in citing material: by using signal phrase or narrative citation and by using parenthetical citation or without signal phrase (APA, 2020). In general, the terms signal phrase and narrative citation are used synonymously and interchangeably. On the other hand, the terms parenthetical citation and without signal phrase are also used synonymously and interchangeably. For the avoidance of confusion, the terms narrative citation and parenthetical citation are used in this study.

Narrative citation includes author last name, publication date, and/ or page number in parentheses. For example, "Rausch et al. (2006) concluded … stressors. (p. 287)." Meanwhile, parenthetical citation is constructed by adding the authors, year and/or page number at the end of the quotation or paraphrase in parentheses. For example, "The research … (Baider et al., 1994)." All the materials cited in the text are to be accurately listed in the reference list.

A reference gives the readers details about the information comprising the name(s) of the author(s), the year of publication, the title of the articles or books, the place of the publication, the publisher, the journal including the name of the journal, volume, issue, and pages. In most cases, the references are listed at the end of the writings and they are written alphabetically according to the last name of the first author.

There are different ways in citing resources from scholars' theories as well as other previous findings. A number of organizations have created formats or styles in citing and referencing academic writings. They are AAA (*American* Anthropological Association), APA (American Psychological Association), ASA (American Sociological Association), CBE (Council of Biology Editors Chicago), CSE (Council of Science Editors), Harvard, MLA (Modern Language Association of America), Oxford, The Vancouver system, and Turabian. The preference of citation style depends of the academic disciplines. Very often, APA (American Psychological Association) is used by Education, Psychology, and Sciences. APA makes a distinction between references and bibliography. The former includes the list of works cited, while the later refers to the sources and the information used in writing the reports both the works cited and not cited.

Many authors have been conducted studies on the practice of citing in academic writing (Hyland, 1999; Kumasi, 2012; Loan & Pramoolsook, 2016; Mansourizadeh, & Ahmad, 2011; Moore, 2014; Shi, 2008; Schiess, 2009). Hyland (1999) reveals that non-integral citations are implemented more frequently in hard disciplines. He continues that writer in the humanities and social sciences employed substantially more citations than engineers. Meanwhile, Loan and Pramoolsook (2016) reveal that in writing master's theses, Vietnamese students were not fully alert of the importance of citations as a rhetorical device in their thesis writing, and their study also shows that insufficient attention was paid to the in-text citations in the TESOL discourse community in Vietnam.

A study was also conducted in the field of practicing citations by non-native experts and novice scientific writers. The research carried out by Mansourizadeh and Ahmad (2011) manifested that novice writers mainly used citation to attribute, while the experts used citation strategically to provide support and justify their claims. Among them, Shi (2008) noted that the degree to which citational acts are discursive markings of learning and knowledge construction.

Notwithstanding, a number of studies have examined the use of citation. Swales (1986) initiated the study of citation. He differentiated two main categorizations of citation: integral and non-integral as well as reporting and non-reporting. Integral citation occurs where cited authors' names appear as a part of the reporting sentence. Non-integral citation, on the other hand, is references in which the name of the researcher appears in brackets, or they are referred to in parentheses or by numbers.

Despite the importance of citing in academic writing, few authors paid special and full attention to this practice. They tend to give more proportion of comprehension in accomplishing the theory of research and writing the results of the study as well as concluding the study and composing the abstracts. Accordingly, this study aims to figure out the behavior of authors in citing the source materials used in their articles. Therefore, the author formulated two research questions: 1) What citation style is used by the authors in writing their articles? 2) What citation errors are commonly made in writing parenthetical citations in text and in writing reference pages?

METHODS

The present study employed a descriptive qualitative method focusing on the frequencies of errors in narrative citation, parenthetical citations and in reference pages detected in the articles published on a journal indexed by Scopus Quartile 2. The citation and reference style used in writing their articles is American Psychological Association (2013) and American Psychological Association (2020). The APA style requires three kinds of information to be

included in in-text citations: the author's last name and the work's date of publication, and/or page number. Moreover, these items must match exactly the corresponding entry in the reference list.

In creating the corpus, the articles were downloaded from the web of the journal. Generally, each article contains more or less 30 references. The researcher counted manually the citation and reference errors found in the articles. The errors are mainly classified into two; those are errors in citations and errors in the reference pages. The sub-classification of errors in citations includes incorrect use of initiating page number, incorrect use of using '*and*' and ampersand*,* incorrect style of multiple citation, and wrong order of multiple citations.

On the other hand, the sub-classifications of errors in reference page encompass incorrect style of the title of the book and article, incorrect style of referencing journal and proceeding, no translation of the title of book or articles from other language, incorrect style of referencing edited works, incorrect style of abbreviating authors, missing the referencing the citation, and missing citing the reference.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents in details errors in writing the citation and reference found in articles published in a journal indexed by Scopus Quartile 2. The issues are presented in

the following subheading: (1) errors in citations and (2) errors in reference pages. Errors in citations are classified into incorrect use of initiating page number, incorrect use of using 'and' and ampersand, incorrect style of multiple citation, wrong order of multiple citations. Meanwhile, errors in reference pages are categorized into incorrect style of writing the title of the book and article, incorrect style of referencing journal and proceeding, no translation of the title of book or articles from other languages, incorrect style of referencing a chapter in an edited work, incorrect style of abbreviating authors, missing the referencing the citation, missing citing the reference.

Errors in citation and reference page were examined in the light of American Psychological Association (2013) and American Psychological Association (2020). The articles published before 2020 were scrutinized based on American Psychological Association (2013). Meanwhile, those published after 2020 were analyzed based on American Psychological Association (2020).

Overall, there is a higher density of the reference page errors than that of the citation errors (See Figure 1). As illustrated in Figure 1, 68 errors are found in the citation, whereas 139 errors are identified in the reference pages. A closer investigation reveals the following findings. Errors in narrative citation and parenthetical citation were found in some articles. A total of 68 errors in citation was found.
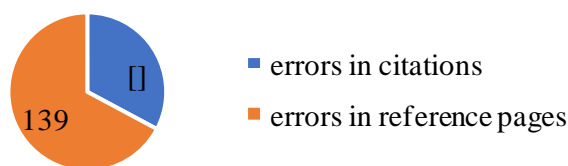
Figure 1. Occurrences of errors in citation and in reference pages

Errors in Citations

As shown in Table 1, out of this total, the most common error was incorrect use of initiating page number. The total number of this error was 15. Authors tend to use semi colon in introducing page number instead of using letter *p*. This common error is commonly influenced by most of books prefer using MLA style to APA style. In MLA style, authors are required to use colon in introducing page number of the materials cited. The second place of error is incorrect use of *and* and ampersand. Nine data are identified as error in misleading the use of et al. Based on American Psychological Association (2020) the second and all other in-text citation of a single source written by three to five writers use the abbreviation of *et al*. Nevertheless, some authors listed all the authors. The least error listed is wrong order of multiple citation. APA (2020) requires when citing multiple works parenthetically, writers are to place the citations in alphabetical order and separating them with semicolons. Yet, some authors did not write the multiple citations in alphabetical order. They tend to write randomly.

Table 1. Occurrences of errors in parenthetical in-text citations

No.	Errors in parenthetical citation	Occurrences	Percentages
1.	incorrect use of initiating page number	28	31.2 %
2.	incorrect use of '*and*' and ampersand.	22	32.4%
3.	incorrect style of multiple citation	9	13.2%
4.	wrong order of multiple citations	9	13.2%
	T o t a l	**68**	**100**

Incorrect Use of Initiating Page Number

American Psychological Association (2020) requires authors to use letter *p* in displaying the information of page number. However, some authors use colon in introducing the page number of the cited material. This error is the most misleading one found in the data. It is shown in Datum 1.

Datum 1. Incorrect: (Fischbach, 1961:1; Fischbach, 1986:1)

Correct: (Fischbach, 196, p. 1; Fischbach, 1986, p. 1)

Datum 1 is categorized as a parenthetical citation. Other styles of citing use colon to initiate page number, yet, APA (2020) requires authors to use letter *p* in indicating page number. This different style lead misleading in stating page number. In Datum 1, the citation style used is without signal phrase. This is presented by the use of brackets before the author and after the page number. The error is indicated by the use of colon before page number. To revise the error, letter p should be used in initiating the page number. Instead of writing (Fischbach, 1961:1; Fischbach, 1986:1), it should be revised into (Fischbach, 196, p. 1; Fischbach, 1986, p. 1).

Meanwhile the error of initiating page number in the narrative style can be shown in the Datum 2.

Datum 2. Incorrect: Vinay and Dalbernet (1995:21-22) define….

Correct: Vinay and Dalbernet (1995, pp. 21-22) define….

In writing more than one pages, APA (2020) suggests authors to use double letter *p* and followed by n-dash instead of semi colon. The error in Datum 2 is indicated in the use of colon. To revise the error, the colon should be substituted with double letter *p*.

Another error of initiating page number is also found in the citation using without signal phrase. In Datum 3, the author used coma in separating the page number.

Datum 3. Incorrect: (Flores et al., 2003:1,2).

Correct: (Flores et al., 2003, pp. 1-2).

Two kinds of errors found in Datum 3. The first is the use of colon and the use of a coma. APA (2020) requires the use of double p instead of using symbol of coma. To revise the error, the style should be written as (Flores et al., 2003, pp. 1-2).

Incorrect Use of 'And' and Ampersand

The conjunction 'and' in writing citation is used to link the authors of the article. Yet, some authors cannot distinguish the use of conjunction 'and' and ampersand. They tend to apply interchangeably. This can be presented in Datum 4.

Datum 4. Incorrect: (Molina and Albir, 2002)

Correct: (Molina & Albir, 2002)

In the citation of Datum 4, an author implemented the style of citing without signal phrase or in other words parenthetical citation. This citation is indicated by the use of brackets after the citation. Based on APA 2020, in using parenthetical citation with more than one authors, it is the ampersand should be used, not the conjunction 'and'. The incorrect style of citation (Molina and Albir, 2002) should be replaced by (Molina & Albir, 2002).

This common error is found in some articles. This finding is supported by Vlah and Vrbanec (2021). He argued that the misleading in citing is due students know very little about citing. He also continued that the levels of literacy are still quite low.

However, an error indicated in the use of ampersand in the style of signal phrase or narrative citation. This style of citation is characterized by writing the surname of the author and then followed by the year of publication in brackets and the quotation.

An error in misleading writing the style of signal phrase citation is presented in Datum 5.

Datum 5. Incorrect: Patil & Davies (20141) examined ….

Correct: Patil and Davies (20141) examined ….

Datum 5 is classified as a narrative citation. Based on APA (2020), ampersand is not used in the writing of the signal phrase or narrative citation style. Furthermore, the conjunction 'and' should be applied in writing the narrative citation style with two authors. To revise the error in Datum 5, it is conjunction 'and' must be used. The correct style of the citation is Patil and Davies (20141) examined …. In a clause with a signal phrase, American Psychological Association (2020) asks scholars to use and instead of ampersand.

This error probably occurs as the authors have just focused on the number of sources cited. This is also stated by Harwood and Petric 2012. They commented that the informants of their article thought that the more citation they included in the article, the better the mark they would get for that piece of work.

Incorrect Style of Multiple Citation

In some articles, misleading in the style of multiple citation was also found. This is shown in Datum 6.

Datum 6. Incorrect: (Mayers, Koomey, Hall, Bauer, France, and Webb, 2015)

Correct: Mayers et al., 2015

As shown in Datum 6, all the sixth authors are listed in the text and ended with conjunction *and*. This does not correspond to American Psychological Association (2020). Only the first author should be mentioned in the text. It is no need to use *and* in this citation. It is *et al* should be used.

Wrong Order of Multiple Citations

As can been seen in Table 1, the fourth place of error is wrong order of multiple citations. This is shown in Datum 7.

Datum 7: Incorrect: (Anastasiou & Schaler, 2010; Jimenez-Crespo, 2011; Dietz, 2007; Honeywood, 2007).

Correct: (Anastasiou & Schaler, 2010; Dietz, 2007; Honeywood, 2007; Jimenez-Crespo, 2011).

Authors wrote the multiple citation randomly. They were not listed alphabetically. This multiple citation should be written alphabetically.

Errors in Reference Pages

The result presented in Table 2 confirms the four most frequently errors in the reference pages were incorrect style of the titles of books and articles, incorrect use of writing journal and proceeding, incorrect style of writing unpublished works and incorrect style of abbreviating the name(s) of the author(s), missing the referencing the citation, and missing citing the reference.

Table 2. Occurrences of errors in reference pages

No.	Errors in reference pages	Occurrences	Percentages
1.	incorrect style of the title of books and articles	54	38.9%
2.	incorrect style of referencing journal and proceeding	31	22.2%
3.	no translation of the title of book or articles from other language	21	15.1%
4.	incorrect style of referencing a chapter in an edited work	15	10.8%
5.	incorrect style of abbreviating authors	10	7.2%
6.	missing the referencing the citation	4	2.9%
7.	missing citing the reference	4	2.9%
	T o t a l	**139**	**100**

Incorrect Style of The Title of Books and Articles

From 139 errors analyzed, the most common error was incorrect style of the title of the book and article. It is actually unique that American Psychological Association (2020) requires the writing the title of the books, articles, proceedings, and unpublished works in sentence case. The capitalization is only applied in the beginning of the title, in the sub-title, and proper nouns. Authors are not fully aware of this style. Some errors were also identified that in writing the title of the book, the style use is regular instead of italic. This occurs in Datum 8.

Datum 8. Incorrect: Exploring Translation Theories

Correct: *Exploring translation theories*

Instead of writing in capitalization of each word, APA (2020) requires writers to capitalize the beginning of the title, proper noun and after the symbol of semi colon. The rest word is written in small cases. However, some writers use the case of capitalization of all words and also regular style instead of writing it in italic style. For the title of the book the style required is italic.

The style of writing the title of the book and the title of articles is different. In

writing the title of the book the case is italic. Meanwhile in writing the title of articles the style is regular. Authors tend to use the style interchangeably. Datum 9 shows error in writing the title of the article published in a journal.

Datum 9. Incorrect: *Translating English Verbal Collocations into Spanish: On Distribution And Other Relevant Differences Related To Diatopic Variation.*

Correct: Translating English verbal collocations into Spanish: On distribution and other relevant differences related to diatopic variation.

The first place of common errors identified is writing the title of the articles. American Psychological Association (2020) requires the writing style of the titles is in regular style rather than in italic one. The data indicating incorrect and correct of this phenomenon is shown in Datum 9.

Datum 9 shows the title of an article published in a journal. This style is incorrect as it is written in italic style and capitalization of the words. To revise it it should be written in regular style and only the first letter of the first word is capitalized. The capitalization is also implemented in proper noun and the first word right after sub title indicated by the symbol of colon.

Incorrect Use of Referencing Journal and Proceeding

The second place of error is incorrect use of referencing journal and proceeding. Errors vary in writing the style of the title of the article, the style in writing the title of the journal and errors in using the symbol of dash and coma. The error can be presented in Datum 10.

Datum 10. Incorrect: Anggororeni, Pramesty; Santosa, Riyadi & Wiratno, Tri. (2018). Analisis Terjemahan Makna Interpersonal dalam Dubbing Film Thomas and Friend: Blue Mountain Mistery. *Lingua* (2018), 15(1):7-18.

Correct: Anggororeni, P., Santosa, R., & Wiratno, T. (2018). Analisis terjemahan makna interpersonal dalam dubbing film Thomas and Friend: Blue Mountain Mistery. *Lingua, 15*(1), 7-18.

Errors identified in Datum 10 are in the case of writing the name of the authors, the title of the article, error in writing the symbols. APA (2020) requires to write the surname of the authors and abbreviating the initial and the middle name. In writing the name *Anggororeni, Pramesty, Santosa, Riyadi,* and *Wiratno, Tri*, the author made mistake.

It should be written into *Anggororeni, P., Santosa, R.*, and Wiratno, T. Revsion of the title of the article should be made into capitalizing the initial letter of the first word, proper noun and the initial letter of the word after semi colon. The revision of the title is

"Analisis terjemahan makna interpersonal dalam dubbing film Thomas and Friend: Blue Mountain Mistery."

Another error is in writing the volume of the journal. It is no need to add the year of the publication after the name of the journal. The year of the publication is already written after the authors. Revision of the incorrect style of writing the journal should be made into *Lingua, 15*(1), 7-18.

The italicization is implemented in writing both the title of the journal and the volume of the journal. Between the name of the journal and the number is inserted with a coma instead of inserting a full stop. Right after writing the number it is followed by writing the volume. The volume is put in brackets without giving the space before.

After the volume it is followed by the page range of the article. APA (2020) suggest that separate the page range with an en dash (e.g., 7-18). An en dash is different from an em dash and a hyphen. An en dash is a midsize dash. It is longer and also thinner than a hyphen and shorther than an em dash.

No Translation of The Title of Book or Articles from Other Languages

In order to cite a work in another language in which they are writing, APA (2020) requires writers to provide the reference with the translation of the title in square brackets after the title and before the period.

This is to give insight to the readers who do not speak the specific language. The translation does not have to be literal. Datum 11 presents the errors of not providing the translation of the sources.

Datum 11. Incorrect: Pasolong, H. (2007). *Teori administrasi publik*. Bandung: Alfabeta.

Correct: Pasolong, H. (2007). *Teori administrasi public [Public administration theory]*. Bandung: Alfabeta.

As the working language of the article is in English, all the title from other language should be translated into English. The writer should provide the translation of "Teori administrasi publik" in English.

This can be written as *Teori administrasi public [Public administration theory]*. The translation is given after the original language in brackets.

Incorrect Style of Referencing A Chapter in Edited Works

A chapter in an edited book is written by stating the author(s) of the chapter, year of publication, title of the chapter, the editor(s), the title of the book chapter, and range of page numbers.

Errors are commonly found in writing the author, the case style of the title of the chapter and the book as well as the style in writing the editors. Some are not provided with the range of page numbers. As shown in

Datum 12, errors are made in missing the name of the editor, the symbol of linking the page number.

Datum 12. Incorrect: Shchedrovitsky, G. P. (1995). Systemic movement and prospects for the development of a systemic structural methodology. In *Selected works* (pp. 57-87). Moscow: School of Cultural Politics.

Correct: Shchedrovitsky, G. P. (1995). Systemic movement and prospects for the development of a systemic structural methodology. In …(Ed.), *Selected works* (pp. 57-87). Moscow: School of Cultural Politics.

Incorrect Style of Abbreviating Authors

The fifth most frequently error investigated is incorrect style of abbreviating the name(s) of the author(s). They tend to write the initial names of the writer in full instead of abbreviating them. This is found in 35 cases. This can be illustrated in Datum 13.

Datum 13. Incorrect: Pym, Anthony. (2015). Translating as risk management. *Journal of Pragmatics*, *85*, 67-80,

Correct: Pym, A. (2015). Translating as risk management. *Journal of Pragmatics*, *85*, 67-80

In referencing, the surname is to write in full while the initial and the middle name are abbreviated (APA, 2020). In Example 13, the initial name is written in full.

Missing Referencing the Citation and Missing Citing the Reference

Writing the citation without referencing and writing the reference without citing are misbehaviors explored in this study. They were inconsistencies of citation in text and reference page. There are references used in the theses that are not listed in the reference list, and there are references on the reference page list that are not cited in the theses. This kind of error was found four times. Manually, they can also double-check the citation and reference. The Example 14 presents a reference which is not cited in the text.

Datum 14: Bernal-Merino, M. Á. (2015). Translation And Localisation In Video Games: Making Entertainment Software Global. Routledge. Meanwhile Example 15 reflects the citation is not listed in the references.

Datum 15. (Karwacka, 2014, p.20).

CONCLUSION

The main findings of the errors are classified into two. The most common error is in writing in text citation, while the other error is in writing reference page. Five sub-classifications are listed in in-text citation errors. From the highest number to the least number of errors, they can be described as in initiating page number, incorrect use of *and* and ampersand, incorrect style of multiple

citation and wrong order of multiple citations. On the other hand, errors in writing reference page include errors in writing the titles of the books and articles, in typing the references taken from journals and proceedings, and no translation provided from other language, errors in referencing edited works and abbreviating the authors, and no reference for the cited work as well as no citation for the reference listed.

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