



Word Spelling Errors in Messages

Yani Lubis^{1*}, Aslimah Nur², Putri Humairah Sitorus³, Queen Latifa Dalimunthe⁴

^{1,2,3,4}Universitas Islam Negeri Sumatra Utara, Indonesia

E-mail: yanilubis@uinsu.ac.id¹, aslimahnur026@gmail.com², humairah9186@gmail.com³,
queenlatifa06@gmail.com⁴

*Corresponding Author: yanilubis@uinsu.ac.id

Abstract. This research aims to explore the causes, impacts and solutions related to spelling errors in written messages in more depth. With the advancement of technology, spelling mistakes can occur both unintentionally and intentionally, influenced by factors such as technological features, user habits, and social context. This research uses a descriptive qualitative method because this approach allows researchers to explore the phenomenon of spelling mistakes in written messages in depth and contextually. The results show that spelling errors are often caused by inaccurate autocorrect features, small keyboard size, and time pressure when sending messages. In formal contexts, spelling errors can lower the credibility of the message sender and cause confusion in comprehension. To reduce such errors, this study recommends the development of smarter autocorrect systems and digital literacy education to improve the quality of communication.

Keywords: Digital Communication, Messages, Spelling Errors.

1. INTRODUCTION

Communication through written messages, such as SMS, email, instant messaging apps and social media, has become an integral part of modern life. In a fast-paced world, digital communication offers an efficient and easy way to convey information, both in personal and professional contexts. However, these technological advancements also bring new challenges, one of which is spelling errors. These errors are becoming increasingly common in digital communication due to a variety of factors, including technological features, user habits and social context.

Spelling errors in written messages can occur both intentionally and unintentionally. Unintentional errors often result from the use of small keyboards on mobile devices, text prediction features or typing speed. Meanwhile, intentional errors are more often seen in the form of abbreviations, creative spellings, or word adaptations to suit the digital communication culture. For example, the use of “u” for “you” or “luv” for “love” is evidence of how digital communication creates new language norms that differ from formal grammar rules.

This phenomenon raises important questions about the relationship between language, technology and society. Not only do spelling errors affect the clarity of a message, but they can also affect the receiver's perception of the sender of the message. In formal contexts, such as business or academic communication, spelling mistakes are often perceived as a sign of a lack

of professionalism or attention to detail. In informal communication, on the other hand, such errors may be considered normal or even part of personal expression.

Previous research has shown that spelling errors are influenced by both internal and external factors. Internal factors include the user's literacy level, grammar knowledge, and typing ability. External factors include the technology used, such as autocorrect features and virtual keyboards, as well as time pressure when composing messages. In addition, social context also plays an important role; for example, users tend to be more relaxed in spelling when communicating with friends compared to colleagues or superiors.

Word spelling refers to the way words are written according to the rules of a language. In English, proper spelling is essential to ensure clear and effective communication. Proper spelling allows readers to understand the message conveyed without confusion. Nurhamidah, (2018) suggests that Spelling is a set of rules that regulate how to symbolize speech sounds, how to separate and combine these symbols in a language. In line with the above understanding, Keraf (1997: 3) states that spelling is a whole of rules on how to describe various speech sound symbols and how they interact in a language. (Carney, 2008, p. 4) states that spelling is associated with the order of consonants and vowels.

According to Benyo (2014), spelling mistakes cause sound problems. One of the reasons why spelling is difficult to learn is because of the correspondence between the sound of the word and the correct way to spell it. Cook (1999) investigated the most common types of spelling errors in the written work of English language learners and the four types of spelling errors commonly found in student writing are: 1) omission (removing one or more letters), 2) substitution (replacing one or more letters with an inappropriate letter), 3) transposition (reversing the position of one or more letters), and finally 4) insertion/addition (inserting one or more letters). Spelling mistakes can cause confusion, misunderstanding, and reduce the credibility of the writer. Therefore, having the ability to write with correct spelling is an indispensable basic skill in written communication.

The importance of correct spelling in English is also reflected in several studies. A study published in *The Application of English Spelling in News on the Travel Channel at Okezone.com* (2024) emphasized that the use of proper spelling in news writing is essential to avoid miscommunication and ensure the message conveyed can be clearly understood by readers. Another study, titled *The Importance of Indonesian and English as a Conduit of Science in Scientific Article Writing* (2024), underlines that good and correct writing, including proper spelling, is a key factor in ensuring the scientific credibility of an article. Finally, the article *Use of Good and Correct Indonesian in Communication* (2024) emphasizes the

importance of correct spelling to improve effectiveness and professionalism in communication, although its main focus is on the Indonesian language. Overall, these studies show that proper spelling plays a huge role in ensuring effective communication, whether in academic, professional or mass media contexts. Therefore, understanding and applying correct spelling is an essential skill that everyone should have, as it can improve the quality of communication and aid success in many aspects of life.

2. RESEARCH METHODS

This research method entitled “Word Spelling Errors in Messages” uses a qualitative approach with data collection methods in the form of open surveys or group discussions and analyzes and presents facts systematically so that they can be more easily understood.

This research uses qualitative methods because this approach allows researchers to explore the phenomenon of spelling errors in written messages in depth and contextually. “Qualitative approach is used because the data studied are not in the form of numbers, but in the form of lingual units lingual units in the form of sentences or words in short messages. (Riani, R. 2016).

The main focus of this research includes three aspects:

- 1) The causes of spelling errors, including the influence of technology, user habits, and communication context.
- 2) The impact of spelling errors, both in everyday communication and in formal situations.
- 3) Solutions to reduce spelling errors, including technology development and digital literacy education.

Qualitative methods are suitable for analyzing non-numerical data, such as sample messages or user interviews, which provide a clearer picture of the causes of spelling errors, such as the influence of technology, user habits, and social context. This approach also allows researchers to explore the impact of spelling errors on message comprehension and recipient perception, and identify patterns of errors that occur in digital communication. With flexibility in data collection, such as observation or content analysis, this method helps to understand the user's perspective and provides a rich and detailed description of the communication dynamics involved, in accordance with the research objective of identifying, analyzing, and evaluating the causal factors as well as the impact of spelling errors in digital communication.

According to Creswell, qualitative research focuses on understanding the meaning of human experience and behavior.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Causes of Spelling Errors

Spelling errors in written messages are caused by a variety of interrelated factors. These factors can be grouped into three main categories: technology, user habits and social context. A more detailed analysis of these causes provides deep insights into how errors occur and why this phenomenon is increasingly common in digital communication.

Technological Factors

Modern technology plays a major role in influencing the way users write messages. Some aspects of technology that are a major cause of spelling mistakes include:

1) Autocorrect and Text Prediction Features:

Autocorrect features often replace the correct word with another word that is irrelevant or out of context. For example, the word “me” can be changed to “aquarium” as the feature works based on predictions that may be wrong. A study by Brown and Lee (2023) found that spelling errors in social media messages are often caused by the use of abbreviations and the influence of autocorrect. The study showed that such errors were more prevalent in informal communication compared to formal communication.

2) Virtual Keyboard Size:

The small size of keyboards on mobile devices increases the chances of users typing the wrong letters. This is especially true for users with large fingers or those who type in a hurry.

3) Multilingual System:

Language settings on devices often lead to spelling errors, especially if users use more than one language in their communications. Words in one language can be automatically corrected to another language prioritized by the device. Smith (2024) explains that spelling errors are often the result of technology, such as text prediction features, replacing the correct word with an irrelevant one.

Social and Cultural Factors

Messages sent through apps like WhatsApp, Instagram or Twitter tend to be more casual compared to official emails. Many social media users do not have sufficient knowledge of correct spelling rules and they often feel no need to adhere to standardized grammar or spelling rules. The influence of Pop Culture and Language Trends is also a cause of errors. For example,

the use of “luv” instead of “love” or “4ever” for “forever”. This creates a new norm where spelling mistakes are considered less important.

Time Pressure and Urgency

Situations where users feel the need to send messages quickly can also lead to spelling mistakes. In this context, the user's priority is to send the message as soon as possible, without regard to spelling quality. This can be seen in instant messaging applications such as WhatsApp, where users are often in a hurry to reply, thus ignoring good spelling standards. Users are more concerned with speed than accuracy, and research shows that in these situations, spelling mistakes are more common.

Effects of Spelling Errors

Spelling mistakes in written messages can have a variety of effects that affect both the sender of the message and the receiver. In informal communications, such as conversations between friends or family, spelling mistakes may not be very significant, and are often taken for granted. However, in formal contexts, such as business emails or professional communications, spelling mistakes can lower the credibility of the message sender and create a negative perception of their abilities. These errors are often seen as a sign of lack of attention to detail, inaccuracy, or even unprofessionalism. In line with this, Johnson (2022) identified that spelling errors in formal communication can lower the credibility of the message sender and affect their professionalism in the eyes of the message receiver.

In addition, spelling mistakes can cause confusion in the understanding of the message, especially if the mistyped word has a different meaning or if the mistake changes the meaning of the sentence as a whole. For example, writing the word “there” as “their” or “affect” as “effect” can lead to misunderstandings that affect the effectiveness of communication. In some cases, especially when the message involves instructions or important information, spelling mistakes can lead to wrong decisions or costly actions.

Proposed Solutions

To reduce spelling errors in written messages, several solutions can be implemented, including those related to technology, education, and user habits. One of the main solutions is the improvement of autocorrect systems and text prediction features on digital devices, Zhang and Davis (2023) recommend the development of context-based spell checking systems to help users type more accurately, especially in formal situations. The use of more advanced artificial

intelligence in messaging applications can also improve the accuracy and relevance of the advice provided, so that spelling errors can be reduced without changing the meaning of the message.

In addition, digital literacy education is also important to reduce spelling errors. Users, especially young ones, need to be educated about the importance of proper grammar and spelling in digital communication. Educational programs that emphasize digital literacy in schools or universities can teach students to be more careful in using language on digital devices, including an understanding of context in choosing the right words as well as the use of spell-checking apps.

A change in user habits is also very important. Users need to be more aware of the importance of correct spelling, especially in professional communication. One way to encourage this habit is to provide constructive feedback on frequent spelling mistakes, either through apps or professional training. For example, in business communications, companies can encourage the use of spell-checking tools and ensure that every important message is checked first.

Raising awareness about the impact of spelling mistakes is also effective in increasing understanding of the negative effects of spelling mistakes on professionalism and social relationships, which can help users be more careful in their word choice. So that they can be minimized, resulting in more effective and clear communication.

4. CONCLUSION

Spelling errors in written messages are a common phenomenon in digital communication, especially with the growing use of mobile devices and instant messaging applications. Based on this research, it can be concluded that spelling errors are caused by various factors, such as technological features such as autocorrect and text prediction, users' habits of rushing or not checking messages carefully, as well as socio-cultural influences that are more likely to be relaxed in digital communication. In addition, the impact of spelling errors can vary from negatively affecting the credibility of the message sender in formal contexts, to potential confusion in understanding the message if the error changes the meaning of the sentence. Nonetheless, spelling errors can also be considered as part of the dynamics of digital communication, which provides space for users to be more expressive, especially in more informal conversations.

5. SUGGESTION

To reduce spelling errors in digital communication, several important steps need to be taken. Technology developers should continue to improve autocorrect and text prediction systems with more contextualized artificial intelligence. Digital literacy also needs to be introduced in schools and colleges to teach the importance of correct spelling. Users should be encouraged to be more thorough in checking messages, especially in formal contexts, through training or spell-checking tools. Social campaigns to raise awareness of the impact of spelling mistakes are also very important. Finally, the development of more adaptive spell-checking technologies will help correct errors more efficiently. These measures are expected to improve the quality of digital communication and minimize spelling errors.

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