ABSTRACT

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Writing skill is a language skill that should be mastered in primary and secondary English education. When the teacher knows the students' errors in writing, the teacher can determine English learning strategies in writing. In this research, the problems are "What types of errors do the students make in their descriptive writing?" and "What are the sources of errors in their descriptive writing?" Then, the objective of this research was to find the types and source of errors that students made on their descriptive writing. The researcher used Dulay's surface strategy taxonomy to categorize the types of errors and used Ellis theory to find source of errors. The data were collected through case study in qualitative method which used data analysis and interview as the instruments. The subject of this research is students of the tenth graders of science class, there were 30 students. The finding of this study showed the highest frequency of error is misformation errors (34%). The lowest frequency of error is misordering error (16%). Meanwhile, the highest cause of error is intralingual transfer (59%), while the lowest cause of errors is interlingual transfer (41%). Based on the result, it can be concluded that the most types of errors made by students is misformation errors, and the source of errors is mostly from intralingual transfer due to exploiting redundancy, incomplete rule applications, and misanalysis.