

A SYSTEMATIC STUDY OF CERTAIN COMMON MISTAKES IN ENGLISH
MADE BY CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL
REFERENCE TO GRAMMATICAL STRUCTURE



Prasoo Kallavattijaya

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.....

Dean of the Graduate School.

Thesis Committee *U. Pongyarn* Chairman
..... *Chiraporn Sawarungs*
..... *Vichin Panupong*
.....

Thesis Supervisor *Vichin Panupong*

Date..... *29/4/66*

ABSTRACT

This thesis is an attempt to collect, classify and analyze certain common mistakes made by Chulalongkorn University students, with special reference to the grammatical structure of English, and also to determine linguistic reasons for such mistakes.





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INTRODUCTION



The data for common mistakes made by Chulalongkorn University students were collected from 1500 mid-year and final examination papers submitted by students in the academic year 1964, together with students' work in written English during the academic year 1965. Mistakes with the frequency of at least 50 times were considered as common mistakes and were then, in Part I, systematically analyzed and classified in a compact form according to English grammatical structure.

Part I thus, serves as the valid data for Part II in which an attempt is made to determine linguistic reasons for these common mistakes. There are, no doubt, many factors which account for the common mistakes observed, but this thesis is confined to linguistic factors only.

A knowledge of the linguistic reasons for the common mistakes should be helpful to instructors of English when teaching in the area in which students commonly make mistakes. The instructors will understand, from the linguistic point of view, why students make such mistakes. This may enable them to understand students' problems better and to teach more efficiently.

All the examples in Part I of the thesis, unless indicated otherwise, are reproduced as written by the students. Brackets are used to enclose a word or a mark that the author believes should be included in the correct sentence. Slants are used before and after a unit to enclose what, in the opinion of the author, should be excluded. Underlining of a unit indicates that it is grammatically wrong unless otherwise stated in footnotes.

Other marks which are not used as frequently as these three will be explained in footnotes.

The transcription of the Thai words in Part II is based on Inter-Sentence Relations on Modern Conversational Thai, the thesis submitted for the Ph.D. Degree of the University of London, by Miss Vichintana Chantavibulayā, July 1962.