A Comparative Study of The Indonesian and English Articles

FX. Nadar

1. Introduction

Commonwealth Department of Education in Australia (1983:22) has concluded that articles will be an area of difficulty for Indonesian students. This is because the "BI (Bahasa Indonesia) has no real equivalents of the English definite and indefinite articles. In many cases where the articles are used in English no corresponding word occurs in Bahasa Indonesia". Errors related to the use of articles deserve close attention because articles are not only one of the grammar elements, but also "extremely frequent in English (Berry, 1991:252). Carrol, et al (1971) have found that articles account for almost every tenth word in English. This paper means to explore the similarities and differences of the articles in Indonesian and English, and how the findings may affect Indonesian students' difficulties in using the English articles.

is essential for learners of English either as a second or foreign language. Fromkin, et al. (1984:11) write that "to understand the nature of language we must understand the nature of this internalised, unconscious set of rules which is part of every grammar of every language". There are some definitions about grammar, and "the word grammar has various meanings" (Quirk et al., 1985:12). Robin (1971:17) states that grammar "is concerned with the patterns and arrangements of units established and organized on criteria other than those referable to phonetic features". Ur (1988:4) defines grammar as "the way a language manipulates and combines words (or bits of words) in order to form longer units of meaning". Quirk et al. do not want to define grammar (1985:10) but stress that grammar includes both syntax and the aspect of morphology (the internal structure of words) that deals with inflections. However, they provide a definition about prescriptive grammar (Quirk et al., 1985:14) i.e. a set of regulations that are based on what is evaluated as correct or incorrect in the standard varieties".

There are "several thousands of languages" (Finegan et al. 1992:247) all over the world. Those languages can be identical to one another or strikingly different. These differences may include the sound, grammar, syntax, morphology, meaning, etc. There have been studies on grammar comparisons from one language to another. The result of the study may not only deepen the understanding of the language users in general but also the advancement of the study of languages in particular. It is with that in mind that this paper, about the comparative study of the Indonesian and English articles, is written.

Sentences used as examples are numbered for easier reference, and certain symbols and special printing effects are used in this paper, for clarity and ease in reading. They are:

1. Underlining : for specifically referred English words
   e.g. The indefinite article an is used before a noun beginning with a vowel sound.

2. Italics : for specifically referred Indonesian words
e.g. The definite article sang is often used.

3. \(-\rightarrow\):: to replace the expressions: This becomes or the right form is ...
Dua buah rumah
Two CLASS house
\(-\rightarrow\) Two houses

4. *: Grammatically not acceptable
   * He turned on light as room dark.

5. CLASS : Classifier;
6. ART : Article
7. Num : Numeral
8. Prep : Prepositional
9. Adj : Adjective

2. The Noun Phrase

In Indonesian, a noun phrase may be defined as a phrase with a noun in its structure. As in English (Leech, 1989: 295) the noun normally functions as the head of the noun phrase. The noun phrase typically functions as a subject, an object, a complement of sentences, a complement of prepositional phrases (Quirk and Greenbaum, 1973: 59). Indonesian noun phrases may be expanded not only to the left of the head nouns, as premodifiers, but also to the right, as postmodifiers.

The premodifiers may consist of adjectives, articles, numerals, nouns, while the postmodifiers mostly consist of phrases with prepositions. Consider the examples below:

(1) empat rumah
    four house
\(-\rightarrow\) four houses

Empat is a numeral and rumah is a noun. The structure is similar to that of the English four houses.

(2) empat buah rumah
    four CLASS houses
\(-\rightarrow\) four houses

Buah is a noun classifier. There are many noun classifiers in Indonesian, which will be discussed in the later part of the paper. The complexity of the noun classifiers may cause difficulties to those learning the Indonesian language. The noun classifier is put between the noun and the numeral. In English, there are noun phrase structures with noun classi-

fiers identical to those in Indonesia, such as four sheets of paper, four pairs of shoes, four pieces of meat. Perhaps, empat buah rumah may be best expressed into four units of houses.

(3) rumah empat buah
    house four CLASS
\(-\rightarrow\) four houses

The numeral and noun classifier may be put on the right of the head noun. When other determiners exist, such as ini(this), itu(that), nya(possessives: her, his, its), adjectives, the numeral and noun classifiers should be put on the left of the head noun, e.g.

(3) a. empat buah rumah ini
    four CLASS houses these
\(-\rightarrow\) these four houses

(3) b. empat buah rumah itu
    four CLASS houses those
\(-\rightarrow\) those four houses

(3) c. empat buah rumah nya
    four CLASS houses HIS/HER
\(-\rightarrow\) his/her four houses

(3) d. empat buah rumah besar
    four CLASS houses LARGE
\(-\rightarrow\) four large houses

(4) rumah indah
    house beautiful
\(-\rightarrow\) beautiful house

The adjective indah is put on the right of the head noun. The noun phrase in English has the adjective on the left of the head noun. More adjectives in the Indonesian noun phrase can be put after indah, for example besar(big), kuat(strong). The word yang (which) is used, e.g:

(4) a. rumah indah yang besar
    houses beautiful which large
\(-\rightarrow\) large beautiful houses

(4) b. rumah indah yang kuat
    houses beautiful which strong
\(-\rightarrow\) strong beautiful houses

(5) empat buah rumah indah
    four CLASS house beautiful
\(-\rightarrow\) four beautiful houses

The combination of a numeral, noun classifier, head noun and adjective is also possible. The acceptable structure is the numeral and noun classifier should be
put before the head noun and the adjective after the head noun.

(6) empat buah rumah indah dekat danau 
four CLASS houses beautiful near the/a lake  
----- > four beautiful houses near the/a lake

*Dekat danau* is a qualifier. This is considered a prepositional phrase in Indonesian context, because *dekat* may function not only as an adjective, the opposite of far, but also as a preposition preceding a proper noun (*danau*). The position of such a qualifier is always after the head noun, which is similar to the position of a qualifier in an English noun phrase.

(7) empat buah rumah kayu indah dekat danau 
four CLASS house wood beautiful near lake  
----- > four beautiful wood houses near the/a lake

The word *kayu* (wood) from which the house is made is added. As *kayu* modifies *house* and becomes an integral part of it, the word is put closest to *house*.

*Indah* comes afterwards. The noun phrase *"rumah indah kayu"* is unacceptable. Sometimes, *yang* is put between *kayu* and *indah*, because *yang* (which) is useful to put adjectives after adjectives. Similarly, in English "wood beautiful house" is not acceptable.

(8) empat buah rumah kayu putih dekat danau 
four CLASS house wood white beautiful near lake  
----- > four beautiful white wood houses near the/a lake

In the phrase above, another adjective *putih* is added. Adjectives denoting colours are put after *kayu*. In the long phrase sound phrase *"rumah indah kayu"* is unacceptable. Sometimes, *yang* is put between *kayu* and *indah*, because *yang* (which) is useful to put adjectives after adjectives. Similarly, in English *"wood beautiful house"* is not acceptable.

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To test the correctness of the post modifiers’ order, it is useful to ask:
- What is the phrase about? house (rumah)
- What is the house made of? wood (kayu)
- What colour are the houses? white (putih)
- What do they look like? beautiful (Indah)
- Where are they? near a/the lake (dekat danau)

If the beauty of the houses is given more stress, rather than the colour, the *empat buah rumah kayu putih dekat danau* will be an alternative.

The structure of the Indonesian and English longest phrases (8) can be summarized as follows:

1. A noun phrase in Indonesian may be formed with a noun head preceded by premodifiers consisting of numeral and noun classifier; and followed by adjectives and prepositional phrase (Figure 1). A noun phrase in English also has a noun head which can be preceded by numerals, adjectives and followed by a prepositional phrase (Figure 2).

**Figure 1.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Num. CLASS.</th>
<th>Head</th>
<th>Adj.(1,2,3)</th>
<th>Prep. Phrase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>empat buah</td>
<td>rumah</td>
<td>kayu putih</td>
<td>dekat danau</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 2.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Num.</th>
<th>Adj.</th>
<th>Head</th>
<th>Prep phrase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>four</td>
<td>beautiful white wood</td>
<td>house</td>
<td>near the/a lake</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Indefinite Articles

In (2) the word *buah* is a noun classifier. *Buah* may go with nouns such as *rumah* (house), *mobil* (car), *hadih* (present), *gedung* (building). But it is not suitable for *orang* (man), *anak* (child), *dokter* (doctor) and for them the noun classifier is *orang*. Moeliono (1988) presents the examples of noun classifiers in Indonesian as follows:

orang for *manusia* (man)  
ekor for *binatang* (animals)  
buah for *buah-buahan* (fruit)  
batang for *pohon* (tree), *rokok* (cigarette) or other things with long circular shape  
bentuk for *cincin* (ring), *gelang* (bracelet) and other things which are elastic and can be bent.
bidang for tanah (land), sawah (rice field)
helai for kertas (paper), rambut (hair)
and other thin, soft materials
bilah for pisau (knife), pedang (sword)
and other sharp things
ulas for benang (thread), tali (rope) and
other thin, long items
potong for baju (shirt), celana (trousers),
and other pieces of items
tangkai for bunga (flower), pena (pen)
bulir for kelereng (marble), telur (egg),
and other small round items
pucuk for surat (letter), senapan (rifle)
carik for kertas (paper)
ruppun for padu (rice), bambu (bamboo),
or other plants in groups
keping for uang logam (coin)
biji for mata (eye), jagung (corn)
kuntum for bunga (flower)
patah for kata (word)
laras for senapan (rifle)
keras for roti (bread), daging (meat)

The notion of indefiniteness in Indonesian is among others expressed by
forming se plus a noun classifier for examples sebua, seorang, setangkai,
sepatah, sepucuk, sebutir, etc. Another
way of expressing indefiniteness is by
using satu which is quite close to a or an
in English. Satu is very suitable to use
with abstract nouns such as opportunity,
problem, question, event, kagalan,
etc. Satu cannot go with persons and
animals.

In usage, the indefinite articles in
Indonesian is frequently dropped without
changing the meaning of the sentence. In
(6) for example dekat danau can also be
expressed into dekat sebua danau
where sebua is an indication of indefin-
iteness. The articles are also frequently
deleted when there is the sense of ge-
neric reference in the sentence:
(9) Ikan suka caeing
Fish like worm
(10) Harimau suka daging
Tiger like meat

In the sentences above the use of
indefinite articles sebua before daging
and seekor before ikan, caeing and har-
mau are not common. Close, R.A. (1975:
129) writes that in "(11) A cat is a small
domestic animal" the presence of indef-
inite article a is obligatory. In Indonesian,
the sentence is expressed without any
article at all in
(12) a. Kucing binatang piaraan kecil.
Cat animal domestic little
It will even sound funny when indef-
inite articles are added:
(12)b. *Seekor kucing seekor binatang
piaraan kecil
A CLASS cat a CLASS animal do-
mestic little
or
(12)c. *Kucing seekor binatang piaraan
kecil
Cat a CLASS animal domestic little
or
(12)d. *Seekor kucing binatang piaraan
kecil
A CLASS cat animal domestic small

According Close, R.A. (1975:129) a in
(11) with the noun refer to a class of thing
as a whole. In (12) kucing (cat) does not
refer to one or a certain kucing either. It
is of similar structure to:
Anjing suka tulang
dog like bone
(Moeliono,1993:313) and in this case no
article is needed.

A very common word to express in-
definiteness is suatu which means a and
one in English. Suatu is frequently sub-
stituted by satu meaning one. The phrase
pada satu hari meaning one day can be
expressed alternatively as pada satu
hari. But suatu does not always express
the same meaning as satu. In the
phrases satu jam lagi meaning one more
time, satu cannot be replaced by suatu.

In English the definite articles are
more clearly defined. A is used before
a word beginning with a consonant or
a vowel sounding like consonant, while
an is used before words beginning
with a vowel (Woods and McLeod,1990:160).
Thompson and Martinet (1980:1) state
that an indefinite article is used before
a singular countable noun and certain
numeral expressions.

When compared with the use of in-
definite articles in Indonesian, the pre-

Humaniora III/1996
In English | In Indonesian
---|---
(13) He is a teacher | (13a) Dia guru
he teacher (No article)
(13b) Dia seorang guru,
He aCLASS teacher

(14) Two dollars a kilo
(a means one) | (14a) Dua dollar seekilo
two dollars a kilo
(se means one)

(15) They live in a village | (15a) Mereka tinggal di desa
they live in a village
(With article)
(15b) Mereka tinggal di satu
desa
they live in a village
(15c) Mereka tinggal di suatu
desa
they live in a village

(16) Mother gave me advice | (16a) Ibu memberi saya sebuah nasihat
mother gave me a CLASS advice
(No article allowed)
(Article and classifier may be used)
(16b) Ibu memberi saya nasihat,
mother gave me advice
(without article)
(16c) Ibu memberi saya suatu
nasihat,
Mother gave me an advice

mother gave me a CLASS advice
(with indefinite article)
(16d) Ibu memberi saya satu
nasihat,
mother gave me one advice
(with a numeral, advice is considered countable)

The comparison indicates that in English the deletion of articles in (13), (14), (15), and the addition of an article an in (16) is unacceptable. In Indonesian the omission of articles of seorang as can be seen in (13a) and satu or suatu in (15a) will not change the meaning. It is possible to use an indefinite article and a numeral before nasihat (an abstract noun), where in English no article may be put before advice. The word se before kilo which means one cannot be omitted, though satu also meaning one can be used instead.

4. Definite Articles

Moeliono et al. (1993:340342) explain the three different kinds of articles expressing definiteness in Indonesian. They are articles referring to singularity, referring to groups and plurality, and referring to neutrality.

Articles which refer to singularity are sang, sri, hang (old use), dang (old use), all of which have the equivalent of the in English. Interestingly sang is used to show the high position of the noun, but also sometimes used to mock the noun it precedes.

(17) Sang raja telah tiba
ART king has arrived
may refer to the real situation where the king has arrived, or a situation in which when a chair of the student council enters the classroom, for example, others may mockingly say "Sang raja telah tiba". Sri is used to denote high respect to someone, e.g. Sri Paus (the pope), Sri Sultan (the sultan), Sri Ratu (the queen), Sri Paduka (Your highness), Sri Baginda (the king). In old Indonesian, Dang for woman and Hang for man is commonly used to show their very high position, and these are found mostly in literature.

Para is the article used to denote plurality or group. This para is for human only. Animals and plants cannot be preceded by para. So para cannot be used with nonhuman nouns such as dog, table, buku, tree. The plural noun in Indonesian is formed by repeating the singular form. Guru (teacher) is singular and guruguru is plural. When para is used the nouns must not undergo repetition to show plurality. Para guru is right but para guruguru is wrong, because it contains two plural expressions.

The definite article which has reference to neutrality is sī (Moeliono et al.,1993:342). Moeliono et al. (342) ex-
plain that "Di samping artikel yang men-
yatakan makna tunggal dan kelompok,
da dengan artikel yang sifatnya netral. Ar-
tikel SI dapat mengacu ke makna tunggal
atau generic, berberguna pada konteks
kalimatnya" (Besides the articles which
refer to singularity and group or plurality,
there is also an article which refers to
neutrality. This article SI may be used to
express definiteness and generic refer-
ence depending on the sentence con-
text). The use of SI is limited as it should
only be used with human nouns. This
article can be used with both singular
and plural nouns. The examples are Di dunia
ini si kaya seharusnya membantu si
miskin (In this world the rich should help
the poor), SI anak ini sungguh murid yang
rajin (This child is really a hardworking
pupil).

Sang, Sra, Dang, Hang, are not exten-
sively used. Para, and si also have their
limitations. The widely used and ac-
cepted forms to denote definiteness are
itu (that), ini (this), tadi (mentioned just
now), tersebut (as previously mentioned),
nya (possessive forms : his, her, its)
which are not originally articles. Ini and
itu are demonstrative pronouns, tadi and
tersesbut are adverbs meaning previously
mentioned. There are no limitations, in
both oral and written discourse, to what
nouns should come with itu, ini, tadi,
tersesbut, ...,nya. The examples are:

(18a) anak itu
child that

(18b) anak-anak itu
children those

(18c) kambing itu
goat that

(18d) kambing-kambing itu
goats those

(18e) kambing tadi
previously mentioned
goat previously mentioned goat

(18f) kambing-kambing tadi
goats previously men-
tioned

(18g) ibu itu
mother that

(18h) ibu-ibu itu
mothers those

(18i) keterangan tersebut
previously mentioned ex-
planation

(18j) keterangan tadi
previously mentioned just now

(18k) keterangan itu
explanation that

(18l) keterangan ini
explanation this

In Indonesian a noun can be definite
even without the introduction of definite
articles or words functioning as definite
articles. The underlined definite articles
in the English sentences below are not
necessarily expressed with definite arti-
cles in Indonesian. The nouns after the
underlined are considered definite based
on the context in the sentence.

(19a) It was dark in the room. So, he turned
on the light.

(19b) The nuclear protesters sailed across
the Pacific ocean.

(19c) The students of La Trobe University
work hard even during the semester
break.

(19d) The prime minister will visit Mel-
bourne next week.

(19e) The sun sets at nine in the summer.

(19f) The Australians like sport and music.

(19g) The United States will have a new
president in 1997.

(19h) The Amazon is the longest river in the
world.

(19i) The United Nations help developing
countries solve their problems.

(19j) My friends prefer the Herald Sun to
the Age.

The definite article in English, the, is
the same for singular and plural and for
all genders (Thomson, 1983: 3). It is
used with nouns of which there is only
one (the Pacific), nouns which are made
definite by a phrase (the man in the blue
Volvo), made definite by a previous sen-
tence (The city was struck by a hurri-
cane; the destruction was so devastating) (Thomson, 1983:3). The is also used with nouns made definite by reference forward with superlative and ordinal number (first, second, next, same) (Close, R.A., 1975:134). examples are:

(20a) Beijing is now the largest city in the world.
(20b) The same car accident happened to me yesterday.
(20c) This is the second time he has lost the book he borrowed.

Certain comparisons with adjectives also use the (Close, 1975:135136) as in the sooner the better. The is also used to refer to a class distinct from the other (Close, 1975:135), (Thompson and Martinet, 1963:4) as in The housewife has a harder life than the office worker.

The is used in sentences such as John is in the garden, watering the flowers because the speaker refers to some object or person that he assumes the hearer can identify in the environment that they share.

The is also used as part of a name of a country, seas (oceans), rivers, mountain ranges, ships, hotels, newspapers, organisations (Thomson, 1960:4) (Close 136137). Examples are: (20a) The United States of America (20b) The Atlantic (20c) The Yarra river (20d) The Andes (20e) The Jakarta Lloyd (20f) The South Cross Hotel (20g) The Age (20h) The United Nations

The usage of the definite article in Indonesian and English can be roughly contrasted as shown in the figure below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indonesian</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. To refer to singularity:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sang, srī, hāng (old use), dāng (old use)</td>
<td>the + noun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. To denote plurality or group:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>para (+plural human noun)</td>
<td>the + plural noun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. To denote neutrality</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>si + noun (Human + non human)</td>
<td>the + singular/plural noun</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4. To denote definiteness:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>inā, itu, nya, tadi, yang + noun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the + noun (plural, singular)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Zero definite article the to denote definiteness based on context in the sentence where the noun appears.

5. Discussion

From the viewpoint of position, the indefinite articles in Indonesian and English are relatively similar. They are placed in front of the head nouns. The meaning carried by the indefinite articles are also identical, e.g. a and suatu both mean (one). The function of the articles a and suatu is basically expressing the notion of definiteness. The form of the articles are different. The Indonesian article takes the forms of se plus a suitable noun classifier, while in English the article used is a or an depending on the first sound of the noun.

Understanding the definite articles in Indonesian and English is not easy. Indonesian definite articles can be put both before the head noun such as sang, hang, srī, dāng, para, sī; and after the head noun such as tadi, tersebut, yang, nya, ini, itu. In English they are placed only in front of the head noun.

Understanding the underlying ideas behind the value of indefiniteness and definiteness in both languages may reduce the errors in using them. The report of the Commonwealth Department of Education writes that (1983:22) "the nearest approach to a definite article is the use of itu (that); satu, is sometimes used in places where English would use the indefinite article". Quirk et al. describe the eight usage types of the (1985: 265-272). For the Indonesian learners, the
The greatest problem when comparing the articles in Indonesian and English is perhaps the fact that when definite articles are used in English frequently zero articles are used in Indonesian. It is possible however to grasp the concept of definiteness in the Indonesian language, as can be seen in the following comparison:

(21a) Dalam ruangan gelap, maka dia menyalaikan lampu. In room dark so he/she turned on light

--->
It was dark in the room. So, he turned on the light.

In the English sentence, the in the light is used because of the definiteness quality of the light i.e. its existence is in the room which is dark. In Indonesian, similar understanding of the definiteness value of the light can also be felt by the speakers, and shared by the hearer, and so it is not obligatory to explicitly express the definiteness using any definite articles.

Certain words in English may cause problems for Indonesian learners because of the concept of countability and uncountability. Woods and McLeod(1990:159) list words which are uncountable in English but may be countable in other languages. They are: advice, anger, behaviour, clothing, conduct, courage, education, equipment, furniture, homework, information, machinery, news, parking, photography, poetry, progress, publicity, research, safety, scenery, shopping, sunshine, traffic, transportation, violence, weather. In Indonesian it is absolutely right and acceptable to put the equivalent of a or an before those words, because they are considered countable. As they are considered countable, they can also be transformed into plural nouns, which is not acceptable in English.

Daily observation indicates that Indonesian learners often use the articles when they do not have to, and omit the articles when they are supposed to use them. The examples are the omission of the before the nouns when because of the nouns’ definite uniqueness should be given a definite article, and the addition

use of the definite and indefinite articles in English are problems unless the underlying concepts are well understood. Heafford (1993:56) makes it clear that “while much attention has been given in the past to the presentation and explanation of structures, comparatively little thought has been devoted as to how best to help learners across the semantic barrier” and “the relationship between concepts as indicated by syntax must remain nebulous whenever the concepts themselves are unknown or imprecise”. The deeper problem is not the similarity of form and function, but how the conceptual ideas actually lead the language users to a decision about using a definite articles or an indefinite one.

To grasp the key concept, the description proposed by Hawkins, (1991: 406-407) and Declerck (1985:25-33) may help the students. Hawkins (1991: 406) describes the concept behind the sentence. The professor is drunk includes three claims: (a) Existence: There is a professor (b) Uniqueness: There is only one professor (c) Predication: This individual is drunk. The logical analytical translation of the sentence would be: there is an X who is a professor, and there is no Y such that Y is a professor and nonidentical to X, and X is drunk. The sentence The professor is drunk is different from A professor is drunk because of the uniqueness claim. In A professor is drunk there is a sense of a nongeneric reading, and the analytical translation would be: there is an X who is a professor, and he is drunk. Besides, A professor is drunk implies there should be at least one professor who is drunk. It is logically compatible with there being more than one such, or with one only.

The explanation is repeated in Declerck (1985:30) who proposes two examples: John is the victim of his own generosity and John is a victim of his own generosity. Declerck explains that in the first sentence John is the only victim while in the second sentence it is suggested that at least one other person is also a victim of John’s generosity.
of a or an before uncountable nouns. Forth and Naysmith (1995:80) suggests that in order for learners to have more confidence in grammar they can be asked to: change or modify rules presented in their course books so that they are clearer and more accessible; add their own examples; represent rules in the form of classroom poster displays perhaps with the addition of pictures or diagrams. The suggestion above seems suitable for Indonesian learners. It will be better if the changes and modification are made after the students really understand about the underlying concepts of the two articles. Diagrams and pictures may also make the learners remember more about the rules they have conceived.

Berry (1991:255) states there are incorrect or misleading formulation, unwarranted emphasis on certain usage types and the lack of variety in formats. According to Berry, a formulation that ends up the learners' awareness as "the first time you mention a noun use a, the second time you use the" is incorrect and misleading. He proves this by presenting an example "Johny wants a bike for Christmas, but I am not sure a bike is a good idea". Berry (1991:256) suggests some learning principles. They are among others the need to concentrate on the, make varied exercises, not to rely on rules but use them only as back up activities, give exercises focusing not only on production, but also comprehension. In the Indonesian context, the suggestion proposed by Berry would be suitable, especially in the making of varied exercises and including both production and comprehension aspects in the exercises. By following the above principles, it would be possible for the Indonesian learners to use articles in the varied exercises with better understanding.

6. CONCLUSION

The articles in Indonesian and English differ in form, positio(1991:256) suggests some learning principles. They are among others the need to concentrate on the, make varied exercises, not to rely on rules but use them only as back up activities, give exercises focusing not only on production, but also comprehension. In the Indonesian context, the suggestion proposed by Berry would be suitable, especially in the making of varied exercises and including both production and comprehension aspects in the exercises. By following the above principles, it would be possible for the Indonesian learners to use articles in the varied exercises with better understanding.

References


