

# Definite and Indefinite Use in Ronaldo's Interview

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## Abstract

This qualitative research aimed to find out the errors of definite and indefinite in Ronaldo's interview. The result of this research was displayed descriptively. The researchers used qualitative method for this research. The observational method and technique was a non-participant used to collect the data. While analyzing the data, identification was used as the method and competence in comparing was used as the technique. The script of Ronaldo's interview was taken as the data and were analyzed narratively. Ronaldo as the speaker used "the" which he was not referring to a specific noun. He also used to talk about something that referred to a wide range of things then he suddenly used "the" when "the" only referred to something specific thing or a single thing or noun. This research used the theory of Hewings (2013). The results showed that 20 data errors of definite and indefinite use. It showed the errors of definite with 15 data and indefinite with 5 data.

**Keywords:** Analysis; Definite; Error; Grammar; Indefinite.

## Abstrak

Penelitian kualitatif ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui kesalahan definite dan indefinite dalam wawancara Ronaldo. Penelitian ini mengidentifikasi kesalahan tata bahasa secara lisan dan tertulis. Hasil dari penelitian ini ditampilkan secara deskriptif. Para peneliti menggunakan metode kualitatif untuk penelitian ini. Metode dan teknik observasi non-partisipan digunakan untuk mengumpulkan data. Sementara untuk menganalisis data, identifikasi digunakan sebagai metode dan kompetensi dalam membandingkan digunakan sebagai teknik. Naskah wawancara Ronaldo diambil sebagai data dan dianalisis secara naratif. Ronaldo sebagai pembicara menggunakan kata "the" yang tidak mengacu pada kata benda tertentu. Dia berbicara sesekali tentang sesuatu yang merujuk pada berbagai hal kemudian dia tiba-tiba menggunakan "the" ketika "the" hanya merujuk pada sesuatu yang spesifik atau satu benda atau kata benda. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori dari Hewings (2013). Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa 20 data mengimplikasikan kesalahan penggunaan definite dan indefinite. Ini menunjukkan kesalahan definite dengan 15 data dan indefinite dengan 5 data.

**Kata Kunci:** Analisis; Definite; Indefinite; Kesalahan; Tata Bahasa.

## 1. Introduction

English is not Ronaldo first language as English is as his English Foreign Language. He has been playing and living in the United Kingdom where English is the first language. He is not fluent in English but he can communicate with English in which the hearers understand easily. He speaks English by showing incorrect grammar. However, as a public figure, he must show the correct grammar while speaking English.

The researchers found out grammatical error in a conversation about the favourite movie. This conversation was held in an interview on Teams Meeting to finish English class personal assignment. The assignment was about the students' personal life. They involved in a small conversation. And the student experience the incorrect grammar use. It was a coincidence that the conversation is related to this research.

Student : He studied in **an** university.

The sentence above shows the use of article "an" incorrectly because the word "university" starts with the letter "u" the pronunciation begins with a "[j]" sound (/ju:nɪ'vɜ:rsɪti/). Since the "[j]" sound is considered a consonant sound, Use "a" before "university". The correct sentence is "He studied in a university".

In fact, some English speakers experienced the grammatical error use. There was an interview between a professional basketball player and a journalist in YouTube channel NBA Europe on April 28th, 2023. The utterance is as follows.

Player : You work towards a goal, it's not **a** failure.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9mXSjnUvSM>)

The utterance above is grammatically incorrect. The indefinite article "a" is used

before singular countable nouns that begin with a consonant sound. However, in this sentence, "goal" and "failure" are both singular countable nouns that begin with a consonant sound. The correct sentence is "You work towards a goal, it's not failure".

The issue of grammatical error was identified in the interview between Christian Ronaldo and Piers Morgan. This conversation was held in Piers Morgan Uncovered YouTube channel on November 16th, 2022. The utterance is as follows.

Ronaldo : It's always different not just these two coaches when it was Mourinho when **the** Ferguson.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ckMj575nEGo&t=2215s>)

The sentence above is grammatically incorrect because "the" is an article used before nouns to indicate specificity or singularity. In this case, using "the" before "Ferguson" implies that "Ferguson" is a specific or singular noun. To correct the sentence is "Sir Alex Ferguson".

According to the phenomena, the researchers selected some articles used for comparing and referencing. (Wulandari et al., 2023) analyzed an error analysis of students understanding of basic grammar of definite and indefinite article. The method of this research is descriptive qualitative. The observational method and sampling technique was used to collect the data. The result of this study is a lot of participants were mistaken to spot the main situation by using definite and indefinite articles.

Withakurnia (2019) analyzed an error analysis of definite and indefinite articles in students writing. The method of this research is qualitative. The observational method and participatory technique was used to collect the data. The result of this study is the dominant of student's grammatical errors in using "the" article.

The similarities found in the previous studies and present study were the same topic discussed and method. The difference found in the previous studies and present study was the data source. This present study used the interview between Christian Ronaldo and Piers Morgan.

From the two phenomena and previous studies above, the researcher is interested in conducting this research. Definite and indefinite are important in English grammar because they help specify the level of specificity or generality of nouns. By understanding and using these articles correctly, The English speakers and writers can enhance our language skills and effectively convey your thoughts and ideas. Then, this study purposed to reveal the use of

definite and indefinite use in Ronaldo's interview.

## 2. Literature Review

Hewings (2013) stated the word "the" is considered the definite article. It is used before a noun to refer to a specific or previously mentioned person, thing, or idea. The definite article "the" is used to specify and identify nouns in various contexts. Such as, it is used to refer to a specific or particular noun that is already known or has been mentioned before. For example:

"I passed the test" (Yule, 2006)

The definite article "the" is used before the noun "test" to indicate that it is referring to a specific test. It implies that there is a particular test which is taken and it is successfully completed the test. Using the definite article "the" in this context helps distinguish the test he/she passed from other possible tests or exams that may exist. Also, it is used before singular and plural nouns.

"The book is organised" (Murphy, 2003)

In this case, The definite article "the" is used with singular nouns when he/she wants to refer to a particular or specific noun that is known to both the speaker/writer and the listener/reader. It helps specify and identify a specific object or entity, distinguishing it from others of the same kind. In this case, "the book" refers to a particular book that is being discussed or referenced. It suggests that there is a specific book in question, possibly one that has been previously mentioned or is known within the shared context. By using "the," he/she is indicating that both he/she and the person he/she is communicating with are aware of which book is being referred to.

For plural example is "The cats" (Poutsma, 1904)

In this example, "the" is used before the plural noun "cats" to indicate a specific group of cats. It suggests that there are particular cats in question, known or previously mentioned. The definite article "the" helps to specify and identify that specific group of cats, distinguishing them from other groups of cats. In both cases, the usage of the definite article "the" indicates that there is a specific noun or group of nouns being referred to, and it helps distinguish them from other possible nouns of the same kind.

Hewings (2013) said the indefinite article is a grammatical term used to describe the words "a" and "an" in English. It is used before a noun to indicate that the noun refers to a non-specific or unidentified person, thing, or concept. The indefinite article is used when he/she wants to refer to any one of a group or categories, rather than a specific or known entity. It suggests that the noun he/she is referring to is not previously

mentioned or known to the listener/reader. "A" is used before words that begin with a consonant sound. For example:

"I saw a cat in the garden" (Ahlgren, 1946)

The indefinite article "a" is used before the noun "cat" because the word "cat" begins with a consonant sound ([k] sound). The choice between using "a" or "an" is determined by the sound that follows the article, not the actual letter that starts the word. In this case, "cat" begins with the consonant sound [k], as in "kæt," so it is used "a" before it. "An" is used before words that begin with a vowel sound.

"An animal needs a regular supply of food" (Azar, 2002)

The indefinite article "an" is used before the noun "animal" because the word "animal" begins with a vowel sound ([æ] sound). The choice between using "a" or "an" is determined by the sound that follows the article, not the actual letter that starts the word. In this case, "animal" begins with the vowel sound /æ/, as in /æniməl/ so it is used "an" before it. Indefinite articles can also be used to introduce something or someone for the first time.

"A dog came in" (Heim, 1988)

When he/she used the indefinite article "a" before a noun, it signifies that he/she is referring to a non-specific or unidentified instance of that noun. In the example sentence, "A dog came in," it suggests that a dog entered, but it doesn't specify which dog or provide any further information about it. The use of "a" in this context implies that this is the first mention of a dog in the conversation or narrative. It introduces the concept of a dog as a new and unspecified element.

### 3. Research methodology

In this research, the researchers used qualitative method. The observational method and the non-participant technique were used to collect the data. The steps in collecting the data are watching the video, listening to the speakers, and identifying the use of definite and indefinite. The method of grammatical identity and the technique of competence in comparing were used to analyze the data. The steps in analyzing the data by identifying the error of definite and indefinite. The errors were compared to the theory. The researchers must have the ability to hear the grammatical errors use in the conversations.

### 4. Result and Discussion

The researchers collected 20 data grammatical errors of definite and indefinite use from Ronaldo's Interview. It was found that the grammatical errors were about the use of definite in term of article "a" and the use of indefinite in term of article "the". The results

showed that 20 data errors of definite and indefinite use. It showed the errors of definite with 15 data and indefinite with 5 data. From the research of Ronaldo grammatical errors that he uses a lot of addition proven by the statistics of addition of the article "a" with 3 data, and the addition of article "the" showing 15 data and "an" with 1 data compared to, elision with 1 data in the usage of "a"

#### Data 1

Ronaldo : But it was conscious decision.

"A" is used to express the noun decision and spoke because he is talking about the past. The correct sentence is "but it was a conscious decision".

#### Data 2

Ronaldo : It's was a my first.

"It" refers to a specific event or experience, and "my first" indicates that it was the first time you encountered or participated in something. The correct sentence is "it's was my first".

#### Data 3

Ronaldo : It's always different not just these two coaches when it was Mourinho when the Ferguson.

"The" is an article used before nouns to indicate specificity or singularity. In this case, using "the" before "Ferguson" implies that "Ferguson" is a specific or singular noun. The correct sentence is "Sir Alex Ferguson".

#### Data 4

Ronaldo : When they they change or they sell or they buy a players.

The word "players" is plural, so it does not require the indefinite article "a" before it. The correct sentence is "they buy players".

#### Data 5

Ronaldo : Only it's only the way that you can improve yourself in terms of an individuals.

The word "individuals" is already plural and does not require the article. The correct sentence is "terms of individuals".

#### Data 6

Ronaldo : I have millions and billions but the most important thing it's a family.

The indefinite article "a" is not necessary in this context. Instead, the noun "family" should be used in its general sense without an article. The correct sentence is "the most important thing it's family".

**Data 7**

Ronaldo : I'm always one of the best professionals this is why I'm still playing the high level.

The use of "the" is only for noun. "High level" is adjective, it describes Ronaldo is playing at a high level. The correct sentence is "playing at a high level". Use "at a" because it is emphasizing that Ronaldo is still playing at a high level.

**Data 8**

Ronaldo : You know first of all its the talent helps a lot of course but of course the ethic of work you have to put in your mind ethic of work when you are professional"

The usage of "the" is completely unnecessary. the correct sentence is "You know, first of all, talent helps a lot, of course. But, of course, work ethic is something he has to put in his mind when he is a professional. "By removing the unnecessary "the" before "talent" and "work ethic," the sentence reads more smoothly and maintains its intended meaning. The correct sentence is "You know first of all its talent helps a lot of course but of course the ethic of work you have to put in your mind ethic of work when you are professional".

**Data 9**

Ronaldo : I read a lot and I do extra trainings to improve my you know my skills dribbling's and the everything

The phrase "and everything" is used to elaborate all other aspects or components related to the skills being discussed. The correct sentence is "I read a lot and I do extra trainings to improve my you know my skills dribbling's and everything".

**Data 10**

Ronaldo : I'm good to do and I'm still playing the high level.

The phrase "the high level" should be revised to "at a high level." When referring to a level of performance, it is better to use the indefinite article "a" instead of the definite article "the." The correct sentence is "I'm good to do and I'm still playing high level".

**Data 11**

Ronaldo : When I arrive in Manchester United, I always be available to help the team to do the

good things to put in the right spots to compete with the best teams.

The sentence "to do the good things", "the" is not required before "good things." It is more natural to say "to do good things" without the definite article. The correct sentence is "When I arrive in Manchester United, I always be available to help the team to do good things to put in the right spots to compete with the best teams".

**Data 12**

Ronaldo : But it is what it is the life is it's completely difficult we have obstacles in our lives.

The phrase "the life" does not require the definite article "the" unless you are referring to a specific life.

**Data 13**

Ronaldo : I will keep running to fight against the people who don't believe me and the life is a challenge.

The phrase "the life" suggests a specific or particular life, which may not be what Ronaldo meant. Or is referring to life in a general sense as a challenge that applies to everyone, it is more common to say "life is a challenge" without the definite article "the."

**Data 14**

Ronaldo : Well uh it teach me in the both ways.

The phrase "in both ways" refers to two different methods or approaches of teaching. it doesn't refer to a specific way, "the" is not required. The correct sentence is "Well uh it teach me in both ways"

**Data 15**

Ronaldo : Well basically uh when the universal coming to me and to my team.

Universal is a movie company that offered Ronaldo to want to make a movie about his story. In the sentence "The" is unnecessary because Universal already emphasizes its company name. "The Universal" is exaggerating too much. The correct sentence is "Well basically uh when universal came to me and to my team".

**Data 16**

Ronaldo : I have grandfather grandmother have support of my family yeah great of course it's it will



be like why don't open  
 listen some points in the  
 life it's private.

The phrase "some points in life" refers to general or unspecified aspects or experiences in life. Since it doesn't refer to specific or particular points, the definite article "the" is not required. The correct sentence is "I have grandfather grandmother have support of my family yeah great of course it's it will be like why don't open listen some points in life it's private".

**Data 17**

Ronaldo : but it is what it is the life is  
 it's completely difficult we  
 have obstacles in our lives.

Life meant here isn't referring to a specific or particular way so "the" is unnecessary. The correct sentence is "But it is what it is life is it's completely difficult we have obstacles in our lives".

**Data 18**

Ronaldo : All the teams they are  
 more prepared all the  
 teams they are waiting if  
 you see and you give the  
 example of the World  
 Cup only team that won  
 the Champions was  
 Saudi Arabi.

In this sentence, "the" is not needed before "example" as it refers to a general example of the World Cup, not a specific one. The correct sentence is "All the teams they are more prepared all the teams they are waiting if you see and you give an example of World Cup the only team that won the Champions was Saudi Arabi".

**Data 19**

Ronaldo : I'm a unique players so  
 it's good to coming here I  
 beat the all records.

"the" is placed before "records" to indicate a specific set of records that the player has beaten. The definite article "the" is used to specify a particular group of records. The correct sentence is "I'm a unique players so it's good to coming here I beat all records".

**Data 20**

Ronaldo : I come in here to win to  
 play to enjoy to be part of  
 the successful of the  
 country.

"the" is not needed before "successful" because it is used as an adjective describing the noun "country." Similarly, "the" is not needed before "success" because it is used in a general sense rather than referring to a specific success. The

correct sentence is "I come in here to win to play to enjoy to be part of successful of the country".

**5. Conclusion**

The first goal of this study is to find out error use of definite and indefinite in Ronaldo's interview. The definite article "the" is used to refer to a specific noun or noun phrase that is already known or has been previously mentioned. On the other hand, the indefinite articles "a" and "an" are used when referring to a non-specific or generic noun. The interview video contains some error of definite and indefinite. Sometimes non-native speakers have problems when they are having a conversation with native speakers, because the lack of vocabulary studies. The results showed 20 data errors used of definite and indefinite. Showing Ronaldo's errors of definite with 15 data and indefinite with 5 data.

The researchers would suggest that people should practicing Definite and Indefinite by communicating with one another to not only train to speak fluent English but also to communicate clearly with other people

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