

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the study

Writing is one of the language productive skills, where there will be the output from the process which has been produced in written form. The process of producing the written comes from idea, knowledge, information, opinion which is shared by a writer to reader. Nunan in Rohananingrum (2015:6) states that writing is the mental work of inventing ideas, thinking about how to express them, and organizing them into statements and paragraphs that will be clear to a reader. Writing is beneficial to cognitive skill because it requires focusing of attention, planning forethought, organization of one's thinking, and reflective thought, among other abilities. Thereby, sharpening these skills through practice and reinforcement.

In writing, the writer should know what kind of writing that will be made. There are various types of writing, such as academic writing, journalistic writing, business writing, personal writing, etc. Academic writing is formal writing which is usually used in university or college. Academic writing has many forms, the most commonly used in university or college are note, project papers, essays, reports, dissertations, or thesis. From these forms, a thesis is a kind of academic writing that becomes requisite for an undergraduate student for having a bachelor's degree. A thesis is writing made by an undergraduate student from their research toward their scientific field.

In writing a thesis, undergraduate students must pass some precesses. The student must fulfill some requisites from their University or College. The institute of IKIP PGRI Pontianak also has some of it for their students to write a thesis. Before the students are allowed to write a thesis, the students need to submit an outline of the writing thesis. But, the students must have completed a minimum of 120 sks and subject of study requisite that has been settled by the study program first (Panduan Penulisan Desain dan Skripsi IKIP-PGRI Pontianak, 2016:6). After past it, the students are allowed to write a thesis start from consulting the thesis title.

As a matter of fact, in writing a thesis the undergraduate confront factor difficulties of writing it. Slameto (2010:54) explains that "factors cause learning or studying could be divided into two categories, namely, factor internal (bodily, psychology and tiredness factor) and factor external (family, academic, and society factor)". Based on the explanation by Slameto, it could be said that internal and external factors are the difficulties confronted by undergraduate students in writing a thesis. Internal factor is a factor that comes from the students self. Whereas, an external factor is a factor that comes from the students' environment. So it can be said that a lot of students do not finish their studies on time because of the difficulties experienced by students which consist of factors internal and external.

Based on the pre-observation that has been done by the researcher, the same case also occur to the Tenth-semester students of IKIP PGRI Pontianak. The researcher found there were a lot of undergraduate students do not finish their studies on time. Then, based on the Tenth-semester students' opinions which is have been seminars and have not been seminars yet. They said that writing a thesis is so complicated. Finally from the observation, the researcher assumes that undergraduate students experience difficulties in writing a thesis.

Students difficulties in writing thesis consist of factor internal and external. Undergraduate students confront the difficulties without knowing what the exact factor from internal and external factor affect them difficult in writing thesis. Based on pre observation, the researcher can conclude that a lot of undergraduate students do not finish their study on time and do not know what the exact factor difficulties from internal and external affect them in writing thesis. Because, it is not only information about students difficulties in writing thesis but also as a prevention for the next undergraduate students to not do the same case. For this reason, the researcher is interested to investigate the issue about the actual factor internal and external students difficulties in writing thesis.

There are related studies that have been done by the other researcher which comes references for this research. Firstly, Cyntia Puspita in 2019, conducted research entitled "Factors Affecting Students' Difficulties in Writing Thesis (A Mixed-Methods Research at Tenth Semester of English Study Program in IAIN Curup)". In this research, the result shows that the students confront three factors of difficulties in writing a thesis. The first is from personality factors, where they are lack confidence in deciding the thesis topic and in writing a proper literature review. The second is from the sociocultural factor. The students do not understand the culture department of the university about the format of thesis writing. The third is from the linguistic factor. In another word, the students have difficulties in paraphrasing sentences from the reference to the thesis writing. Based on those factors, linguistics is the most difficult factor which is confronted by students. Where linguistic factor data show that is 86% of students have difficulties in this factor. Whereas, socio-cultural factor the data show that is 83% of students difficult toward this factor. Also, personality factors show that 82% of students have difficulties in this factor.

The other previous study is from Irwandi and Merlin Arisanti. The research title is "The Problem Faced in Writing Thesis by Tenth Semester Students of English Education Study Program FKIP-UMM in Academic the Students' Problems in Writing an Undergraduate Thesis: A Case Study at the English Language at English Language Teaching Program of the Muhammadiyah University of Mataram". The finding of the problem faced by the students in writing a thesis is decided into two factors, namely internal and external factors. In internal factor, there are 33% of students have a problem in deciding the title of the thesis, 20% of students do not understand how to write organization of their thesis, 13% of students have a problem in finding appropriate theories to support their thesis, 20% of students have a problem in deciding methodology. The external factor is from the facility in the college to support their students in writing a thesis. It is 33% of students say that there is no representative library of college that does not provide enough books that could help students to write their thesis. However, the previous study students difficulties in writing thesis is limited. Therefore it makes the researcher attracted to investigate the factor that affects students in writing a thesis. This research is a kind of descriptive qualitative research design that is used to find out students' difficulties in writing a thesis. The differences between this research with the previous research are the use of its research design and using some different experts. It also has a different focus on problem and subject. Where this research found factors of students' difficulties and the most difficult factor in writing a thesis. However, some of the focuses problem, tools of data collection, and theories have similarities with the previous studies. But, the subject of this research is different where it is the biggest gap of this research. Because, the condition, environment, and experience of this subject research with the other subject of the previous study is different. It makes the researcher assume that there might be a dissimilar result of this research with its previous study.

Finally, in finding it, this research conducted on the Tenth-semester students of English Education Study Program IKIP PGRI Pontianak.

B. Research Questions

Based on the background of this study, where the study implemented to the Tenth - semester student of English Education Study Program IKIP PGRI Pontianak. Thus, research questions formulated as follow:

1. What are the difficulties confronted by students in writing a thesis?
2. What are the most difficult factors between internal and external in influencing students in writing a thesis?

A. Research Purposes

According to research questions, this study aimed to explore the Tenth-semester student of English Education Study Program IKIP PGRI Pontianak. Thus, the researcher described two purposes of the study as follow:

1. To find out the difficulties confronted by students in writing a thesis.
2. To find out the most difficult factors between internal and external in influencing students in writing a thesis.

B. Significance of the Research

Making this research is not only a fulfillment of the last project in bachelor of education but also as an enrichment of knowledge for the researcher. By doing this research, the researcher hopes this study has an important benefit for the researcher self and the other. There are two kinds of significances of this research, namely:

1. Theoretical Benefits

For theoretical benefit, it is as a contribution in finding new theory or strengthening previous theory. So it can be concluded that, except find new theory, strengthen and test a theory that has been existed. It is also as a reference for the other English Education Department student to do the next research.

2. Practical Benefits

In implementing the research, the researcher hopes this study have a worthy contribution toward the student of the English Education Study Program, the lecturers of the English Education Study Program, the other researcher.

a. To the Students of English Education Study Program

Writing a thesis is a must for undergraduate students, including English Education Study Program. When writing a thesis, it is impossible if the students do not face any problems. Whether there are internal or external factors. Hence, the students will know what the problem of the internal and external factors are faced by the undergraduate students in writing a thesis. Then the students could anticipate what the difficult probability will confront them while writing the thesis.

b. To the Lecturers of English Education Study Program

In supervising, a supervisor will confront various characters of their student who is in process of writing a thesis. Commonly, the supervisor confronts the student who is writing a thesis quickly and slowly. But there are also much of students who are slow in writing a thesis. In doing this research, the lecturer or supervisor will know what are the factors confronting their students who are slow in making thesis.

c. To the Other Researchers

The result of this research can be used as support for further research. Research about difficulties in writing a thesis, including internal and external factors may give information to the other researcher in researching a similar issue. Then the next researcher could add the lack part of this research.

C. Scope of the Research

The scope of the research must be stated by a researcher to get the clarity to avoid ambiguity and misunderstanding toward this research. Thus, there are two matters of scope from this research.

1. Research Variable

In research, there must be a variable as a concern that needs to be explained and explored by a researcher. Kumar (2011:50) explained that a variable is an image, perception, or concept which can be measured on different values. According to Cresswell & Poth (2018:163) stated that variable is the characteristic of an individual or an organization that can be observed and measured and will be different for each individual or organization. Based on the statement above, it can be concluded that a variable is a thing that will be studied and measured in research. Whereas, a variable of this research is students' difficulties in writing a thesis.

2. Terminology

To avoid misconception and interpretation, the researcher provides the following explanations which are used in this research. The terms are bellows:

a. Students' Difficulties

Students' difficulties can be defined as a problem faced by students during their studying or learning. There are two factors of students' difficulties in studying or learning, namely: factor internal and external. Internal factor is a factor that influences someone from themselves. Whereas an external factor is a thing that influences someone from their surrounding.

b. Thesis Writing

Writing a thesis is the last project of undergraduate students. In this kind of project is the students must research their scientific field. In making research the students need to determine what kind of research will be done by the students. In the English Education Study Program of IKIP PGRI Pontianak, there are three kinds of methods of research that are taught, namely: qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-method.

c. The Tenth-Semester Students

The students are the Tenth-semester of the English Education Study Program IKIP PGRI Pontianak in the academic year of 2020/2021. Commonly the Tenth-semester students have completed a certain number of tasks to start writing a thesis.