

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

Now days English is the language that has become trend among young people. It is become culture in daily environment such as family, schools and society, even social media. Besides English as a universal language, it has important aspects in human life such as in the scope of education, business, technology, and science. English in scope of education has been taught in all level of schools starting from elementary up to university of our country. Moreover, the students require to learn and practice their English fluently.

Therefore, there are four basic skills in learning English, those are speaking, reading, listening and writing. According to Javed and Nazli (2013) English language skills are divided into two categories such as productive and receptive skills. Reading and listening are considered receptive skills, where the students able to receive good messages in part of spoken and written language. Whereas speaking and writing are known as productive skills. The writing is most sophisticated skill that need to be mastering. Writing is an effective way to reinforcing what the students have already been studying for example finding new or unfamiliar words in writing form. Writing is a language skill that is difficult to learn because it is not only about grammar and vocabulary it is also about how to write. That is the reason writing is important for students in academic writing communication, as supported by Richard and Renandya (2002:303).

Writing is crucially essential for EFL (English as a Foreign Language) learners, particularly for the students at the tertiary level as suggested by Bulqiyah et al. (2021). In an academic setting, enhancing writing skills for students is the primary objective of education (Al Khazraji, 2019). Despite the importance of writing courses for college students, it has still become onerous skill for them (Toba et al., 2019). This phenomenon has occurred in many different contexts around the world with several aspects of writing

problems committed by students in the following areas: (1) structural, (2) grammatical, (3) mechanical, and (4) vocabulary (Ariyanti & Fitriana, 2017; Ginting, 2019; Sabarun, 2019; Toba et al., 2019). The EFL believes writing is hard work, but writing is also an opportunity to convey something about yourself or feelings, to communicate ideas to people beyond your immediate vicinity, to learn something you did not know. Meanwhile, writing proficiency is the writing ability of researcher to demonstrate writing skill and grasp the essential with the ability in selecting appropriate language for audience. Supported by Syam and Sangkala (2014:97) states that writing is one of the language skills that plays important role in human communication.

However, Fareed, et al. (2016:81), they have little different statement about writing, which writing is an important skill for language production, it is considered a difficult skill particularly in EFL context where students face many challenges in writing. The students are requiring to be able to perform good writing for their opportunity, such as; letters, essays, and articles. Equally important, besides writing as an object of study it also communication system where the students can express their feeling and share their experiences, knowledge, and ideas. Furthermore, the students have to concern on the aspects of writing such as spelling, capitalization, grammar, and word-choice in order the students can deliver good writing. Moreover, Pineteh (2013: 202) also asserted that academic writing is crucial in socializing students into the discourse of subjects and disciplines in universities. That means the lecturer has important role in the class to help students gets their goals in writing. The lecturer and the students should be team work in achieving students writing proficiency where the lecturer gives them feedback and revision.

Indonesian EFL students' encounter problems in writing aspects including content, organization, vocabulary, grammar, and mechanics (Toba *et al.*, 2019:70). Consequently, they could not produce their ideas in well-written paragraphs or essays. Their reasons in experiencing these problems were not only limited knowledge of writing aspects and comparison and

contrast essay itself, but they had own personal reasons; lack of writing practice, writing dislike, writing anxiety, negative writing perception, low writing motivation, insufficient time given in writing test, and also inadequate teaching writing process taught by their lecturers.

In addition, college students found the conditions where they hard to conveying the idea also lack of language ability into written paper when the lecturer require them to make an essay. Those factors might due to the students' lack of vocabulary store or might not engage with writing class and the worse pat they might not interest on writing. Ceylan (2019: 153) adds the highest percentage most of the students do not write because they think they would not need such writing in future. Moreover, they were not interested in the topics. Other result showed that the students lack basic writing strategies such as pre-writing, drafting, editing and setting goals when they started to write. These were could be the reason why the researcher wanted to know college students' problems in academic writing.

By those explanations the researcher found it fascinating to figure out what issues the students on their writing proficiency in college. To collect required data that could provide an explanation to the problem focused on this research, the researcher would like to conduct a survey with a quantitative method. The data has been collected by using a questionnaire adopted from Bulqiyah et al. (2021). The result of this research would give more information and help the readers and lecturers to encourage students' confidence and motivation in writing practice. That being said, this research aimed to described the analyzing factors causing problems faced by students in writing.

B. Research Question

Based on the research background above, the research problems could be formulated as what were college students' problems in writing?

C. Research Purpose

Based on the research problems above, this research aimed to figure out college students' problems in writing regarding to students perceives.

D. Research Significance

1. Theoretical Significance

The findings of the research expected to add beneficial theory and give a problem solving to the college students' writing proficiency on essay writing in foreign language writing. This research analysis theoretically aimed to gain more knowledge for further research that can be done in the future by other researcher. Furthermore, the research findings of this research added another theoretical value not only for the researcher but also the readers' references for their research on the same particular area of college students' problems in academic writing.

2. Practical Significance

By completing this research, the researcher expects to give the useful information and positive contribution related to the process of teaching and learning English especially for the lecturers, the students and the researcher. The result of this study expects to give some contribution for teaching process of writing classes as follows:

a. For the Lecturer

By conducting this research, the information of this research could help the English lecturer in designing the process of teaching English, especially in writing English as a foreign language in college. The lecturer would be able to apply a suitable strategy in teaching and learning process especially in academic writing course. Furthermore, the lecturers could define the differences of students' level proficiency in English and the effects that influence the students writing proficiency.

b. For the Students

The study is expected to be useful and it can reduce the writing problems for students in college. They can improve their writing in the future and make them easier to write thesis in final semester. This study can be references for the future research and hopefully can give the readers essential information about language learning that would provide guidance also direction on better English language skills development, for more improvement language performance specifically in writing.

c. Other Researcher

This research expects to help other researcher to enrich the theories by giving the information also it can be a useful resource for further research.

E. Scope of Research

1. Research Variable

This research which entitled “College Students’ Problems on Writing Proficiency” has purpose to describe how college students perceive English writing as a foreign language and students’ problems on writing. In addition, this research also gains more about students in using linguistic features, develop and conveying the ideas into well paragraphs. This study has single variable, the variable on this study was students problems on writing proficiency. This research deals with problems of English Education Study Program students who already passed essay writing as a subject. This research has conducted to the students who have passed essay writing as a subject. More information in this research has sample focus on the students that already passed the academic writing subject. Ceylan (2019: 153) found that most of students do not write because they think they would not need to write in the future and the students were not interested in the topics. Which means the researcher has to found out other reasons why the students not into the subject.

2. Terminology

a. College Students'

College is time where the students are developing high level emotional and getting more pressure. College is also time of transition where the students as advanced class rank accepting alternative of viewpoint and uncertainty, also more aware through the process of making decision and more reflective. This phase where the students are awareness in differing opinions and problems which serve as a considerable source of stress for college students. College students are individuals who enrolled in a university or college for a particular course. College students' means individuals are part-time or full-time students attending an institution of higher education. They also expected to be hardworking, dedicated, disciplined, and goal-oriented.

b. Students' Problems

Problems are uniquely individualized experienced which difficult to deal with. Students' problems are the students unsatisfactory and causes difficulties students itself.