

ABSTRACT

Lilik Vinaya. **A STUDY OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS DIFFICULTIES IN WRITING INTRODUCTION FOR RESEARCH ARTICLE.** Thesis. English Education Study program STKIP PGRI Pacitan

This research aims to identify students writing quality in writing introduction for research article and to describe the students difficulties in writing introduction for research article in fourth semester students of English Education Study Program in the academic year 2022/2023.

This is descriptive quantitative research. Data on the quality of students writing was obtained from document analysis which was assessed using a rubric and the data for students difficulties obtained from a questionnaire. The rubric consists of aspects such as purpose, content, organization, feel, tone, sentence structure, grammar, spelling & writing mechanics, word choice, length, use of references and quality of references. The questionnaire consists of 13 questions that contain students' difficulties in writing an introduction for research article. The data was taken in May 2023. The subjects of this research were 33 fourth semester students of the English Education Study Program in the 2022/2023 academic year. Data analysis techniques for student writing quality were 1) intensively read the student worksheets, 2) identify the parts of the writing according to the assessment rubric, 3) record the assessment results according to the assessment using the rubric, 4) make code using initials for student identity, 5) data tabulation stage, 6) provide an interpretation of the percentage value obtained. The stages in analyzing the questionnaire results in this research were 1) checking the completeness of the answers obtained from students, 2) reading carefully the answers in the questionnaire to understand the meaning of the students' answers, 3) making a code for respondents who answer the questionnaire, 4) organizing the results of the answers according to the students' answers related to the difficulties faced in writing the introduction of research articles, 5) drawing conclusions from the results of the questionnaire answers.

The research identified students writing quality in eleven aspects. The students writing quality in aspects of purpose, tone, grammar, spelling & writing mechanics, and quality of references were good. Furthermore, for aspects of content, organization, feel, sentence structure, word choice, and use of references, the students writing quality were sufficient. While for aspects of length, students writing quality still poor. Then nine difficulties were found that faced by students in writing research articles. These difficulties were determining the topic and title of the research article, identifying and formulating the problem in the research article, citing and using references in the research article, determining the research gap in the research article, using the sentence structure in the research article, grammar, spelling & writing mechanics, motivation, anxiety, and time management.

Keywords: Academic Writing, Writing Difficulties, Writing Quality.