

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with the background of the research, identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, statements of the problem, objectives of the research, and significances of the research.

A. Background of the Research

Writing skills are very important nowadays because people not only use verbal communication to communicate with each other but also non-verbal communication. In other words, writing is an important form of communication and is used as a communication tool to connect people. According to Kellogg (2001) writing is a cognitive process that tests memory, thinking skills and verbal commands to successfully express ideas; being proficient in composing a text indicates successful learning of a second language. As a second language learner, good writing skills enable students to convey thoughts and communicate ideas so that they can be well understood by others. Therefore, writing is one of the most prominent skills that English language learners must master. In addition, writing ability is also important because it determines students success in learning English.

On the other hand, writing ability is one of the indicators that can be used to measure students English proficiency. This idea is supported by Kingston et al (2002:3) who state that students achievement in learning English is measured by their productive abilities, especially their writing performance. Students of English Education Study Program as a foreign language are therefore required to

be able to write in English in order to internalize the English they are learning. Ferris (2004) says that students learning English will not be able to succeed outside the English second language classroom until they were able to produce good writing products and learn how to reduce errors in writing.

Writing academic research papers is expected to be structured in a manner that is defined by particular norms, standards, conventions and rhetorical moves that make it different from writing for other purposes (Cargill & O'Connor, 2013). The structure of the undergraduate project report consists of an abstract and five sections which are introduction, literature review, method, results and discussion, and conclusion. The role of the Introduction in general is to convey the topic or argument that authors highlight in their manuscripts. Introduction as an opening, and captures the reader's attention while introducing the significance of the study. It conveys a lot of information to readers (Claremont, 2017).

The problems and difficulties faced by students in writing academic research reports have been an interesting issue for several previous researchers. The results of the previous research revealed that students make grammatical errors, have a lack of vocabulary and face problems in structuring and organizing sentences, ideas and paragraphs. Problems and difficulties in writing the Introduction section of research papers in various fields such as social sciences, scientific and technical fields have attracted the attention of researchers (Cheung, 2012; Fudhla, Rozimiela, & Ningsih, 2014; Khadijah, 2020; Samraj, 2005). The problem also faced by STKIP PGRI Pacitan students, especially fourth semester

of English Education Study Program in the Academic Writing course. The students have difficulty in making an introduction in a research article.

Therefore, this research stands on the argument to investigate undergraduate students difficulties in writing introductions in research articles, especially those majoring in English Education Study Program. The analysis of students difficulties is defined as an attempt to reduce the possibility of recurrence of students difficulties in writing introductions in research articles. They can reflect on themselves through this research before conducting research. In addition, this analysis is also believed to be an evaluation of students understanding and ability to conduct research which will lead to an improvement in the quality of students in the future.

From the discussion above, the researcher is interested in analyzing students difficulties in writing introductions in research articles at the fourth semester academic writing course with the title "A Study of Undergraduate Students Difficulties in Writing Introduction for Research Article".

B. Identification of the Problems

After collecting information from several sources, researcher found several problems in writing introductions in research articles faced by fourth semester in Academic Writing course. Students have several difficulties such as in choosing topics, titles, creating research concepts. Students also got difficulty to find relevant journals, word choice, sentence structure and grammar. Students have various problems in writing research from simple problems to complex

problems. Students difficulties in writing research must be overcome because students must be able to write research correctly.

By knowing how the writing quality from students worksheet and collecting data from questionnaire, this research aim to analyze the difficulties faced by fourth semester of English Education Study Program students in writing the introduction for research articles.

C. Limitation of the Problems

To get an in-depth analysis, the researcher focused on analyzing the quality and difficulties in writing the introduction section for research articles that have been carried out by fourth semester students in Academic Writing courses in the English Education Study Program of STKIP PGRI Pacitan in the academic year 2022/2023. Researcher analyzed the students writing quality in introduction for research articles and look for student responses related to student difficulties in the field so that researcher can get conclusions in knowing students difficulties in writing the introduction section for research articles.

D. Formulation of the Problem

Based on the research background, the identification of problems and limitation of the problem, the research problems were formulated as follows :

1. How are the students writing quality in writing introduction for research article in fourth semester of English Education Study Program in the academic year 2022/2023?

2. What are the students difficulties in writing introduction for research article in fourth semester of English Education Study Program in the academic year 2022/2023?

E. Objective of the Research

The purpose of this research based on the formulation of the problem is :

1. To identify the students writing quality in introduction for research article in fourth semester of English Education Study Program in the Academic year 2022/2023.
2. To analyse the students difficulties in writing introduction for research article in fourth semester of English Education Study Program in the Academic year 2022/2023.

F. Significance of the Research

The results of this research were expected to be useful for :

1. Theoretically

The result of this research is expected to contribute to the development of knowledge in the field of education especially in learning English and its expected to be a reference in conducting similar research on writing introduction for research article.

2. Practically

This research is expected to be useful for :

- a. English Teachers

This research help the teacher to find out what are the students difficulties in writing introduction for research article especially in fourth

semester of English Education Study Program in the Academic year 2022/2023.

b. Students

This research can be useful for students to enlarge their knowledge about writing introduction in reserch article.

c. Readers

The research results provide an explanation about students difficulties in writing introductions in research articles.

