THE DIFFICULTIES OF STUDENTS IN WRITING A THESIS AT STKIP PGRI PACITAN IN ACADEMIC YEAR 2022/2023

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Abstract: This study aims to identify students' difficulties in writing a thesis at STKIP PGRI Pacitan and examine the strategies that the students employ to overcome the difficulties. The study used qualitative research with a descriptive method. There were 46 respondents from eight semester study in STKIP PGRI Pacitan as the research subject. The data were collected by questionnaires. The research instrument was questionnaire sheet. The process used data analysis techniques are data reduction, data display, and draw the conclusion. The results showed that the students have the difficulties in determining the topic and title, identifying and formulating research problem, writing the literature review, determining the research method, collecting the research data, analyzing the data, processing and displaying the data, publishing the research article, doing the thesis guidance, managing the time in writing a thesis
Key Words: Difficulties, Students, Thesis Writing

INTRODUCTION

Many undergraduate students experience a number of difficulties when writing a thesis. Some of these difficulties include concepts, structures, lack of vocabulary, and rewriting or paraphrasing are some examples of challenges that students often face when writing a thesis (Dwihandini, 2013). According to Asmawan (2016), there are two factors that prevent students from finishing the thesis namely internal factors, such as motivation graduating on time is something that students to immediately fulfill their graduation requirements. Meanwhile, external factors, such as the environment and the bureaucratic system. An example of an environmental factor is whether or not the student often meet or share with friends who are both working on a thesis. Then, an example of bureaucratic system is the thesis management system by the faculty means the steps that students must take to be able to complete the thesis. This of course refers to the thesis writing guidebook.

Based on observations in preliminary research on the difficulties of students in writing a thesis at STKIP PGRI Pacitan, some students experience difficulties in internal factors such as difficulty determining research titles, difficulty writing literature review, difficulty determining research methods, and difficulty collecting the data Then, for difficulties from external factors such as difficulty getting relevant journals.

This research is focused on ensuring that there was difficulties when undergraduated students writing the thesis. As a result, will help the undergraduate

students in the future when writing thesis. Therefore this problem is very important to be investigated. Based on the description of the problems above, the researcher conducted research entitled "The Difficulties of Students in Writing A Thesis at STKIP PGRI Pacitan in Acaddemic Year 2022/2023".

LITERATURE REVIEW

Definition of Thesis

According to Mutakien (2015) a thesis is a student-prepared scientific work that is according to the rules of scientific logic and proper technique and is based on the findings of research utilizing primary or secondary data. Then, Damayanti (2020) defines thesis as a scientific paper resulting from the research of undergraduate students (S1) that discusses the results of their research according to the rules of writing and thesis rules. Based on the definitions mentioned, it can conclude that thesis is a scientific work of undergraduate students (S1) based on research on a particular subject according to scientific principles and correct writing techniques.

The Purpose of Writing Thesis

The purpose of writing thesis for students is to solve and to describe a problem in a systematic way, so they must be able to think logically and scientifically. According to Aisiah (2018) the purpose of thesis writing is compiled as a prerequisite for obtaining a degree in accordance with the study program pursued. Through the preparation of the thesis, students are required to carry out a research activity which begins with the writing of a research proposal.

The Difficulties in Writing Thesis

Most students of any college have some difficulties while they faced the tasks in writing thesis. They will face some difficulties in writing a thesis, whether in the concepts, structures, and so on.

Asmawan (2016) stated that there are some difficulties in writing thesis faced by the students while writing a thesis that mentioned in the following paragraphs. (a) Internal factors, are the motivation and understanding of students in writing a thesis. (b) External factors, are environments such as supervisors and bureaucratic systems that support students to immediately complete the thesis.

According to Musa (2019), There are four difficulties in writing a thesis including technical factors, internal factors, external factors, and non-technical factors.

(a) Technical factors or problems are caused by difficulties in determining research titles and topics, difficulties in identifying and formulating problems, difficulties in determining the type and design of research, difficulties in finding journals, books and reviewing literature, difficulties in pouring ideas or ideas into scientific writing, and also difficulties in collecting, processing and presenting data. (b) Internal factors include motivation, interest and enthusiasm of students, level of self-confidence, intellectual ability or intelligence, and laziness. (c) External factors because they do not understand the flow, steps and procedures of the thesis well, the influence of peers, the guidance process with the supervisor, feeling pressured and the surrounding environment. (d) Non-technical and non-academic factors are caused by damage to the laptop used to work on the thesis, having problems with friends or girlfriends, lack of expertise in using Microsoft word software, mood or feeling conditions, clashing thesis schedules with class schedules, not passing certain courses as a condition for taking thesis courses and also suffering from illness.

Based on the definitions mentioned above, there are some difficulties in writing a thesis, namely internal factors, exsternal factors, technical factors, and non-technical factors.

METHOD

The researcher chose qualitative research in this study. The population of this rsearch were the eight semester students of STKIP PGRI Pacitan of academic year 2022/2023. The population of this research were 183 students from eight semester from seven study programs who were writing a thesis. According to Arikunto (2017) samples are part of the number and characteristics possessed by the population. According to Arikunto (2017) said that if the subjects are less than 100, then the entire population becomes a research sample. But if the subject is more than 100 then it can be taken 10-15% or 15-25%. The researcher collected the data from 46 students as a sample, which constituted 25% of the total population of 183. This reseach carried out at eight semester STKIP PGRI Pacitan. The institution located at Jl. Cut Nyak Dien No.4-A, Kebon, Ploso, Pacitan sub-district, Pacitan district, East Java. The instruments of collecting data used in this study is questionnaire sheet. The researcher use questionnaire as techniques of collecting data. The researcher delivered the questionnaire link for eight semester students at STKIP PGRI Pacitan on May 23rd, 2023 by Whatsapp chat. To analyze the

data, the researcher used data analysis techniques namely data reduction, data display, draw the conclusion.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Students Difficulties in Writing A Thesis at STKIP PGRI Pacitan

Difficult to Determine The Topic an Title

According to the data, 14 students from 46 students found it difficult due to the limitation of knowledge. Based on the questionnaire result, respondent no 6 said, "kesulitan saya saat menentukan judul ketika objek atau topik yang diteliti tidak relevan atau belum sesuai." Respondent no 7 mentioned that, "beberapa sumber literatur yang masih kurang, dan topik yang belum banyak dibahas terutama dalam perkuliahan", and respondent no 45 said that "menganalisis kemungkinan judul tersebut mampu untuk diteliti atau tidak, serta relevansi judul yang saya pilih dengan ilmu pendidikan bahasa". On the other hand, 10 out of 46 students found it challenging to pinpoint a specific focus due to the vast scope of their field. Based on the data, respondent no 17 said, "sejarah memiliki cakupan topik yg cukup luas sehingga bingung dlm pemilihannya." Furthermore, 3 out of 46 students encountered difficulties in precisely arranging the title due to limited language ability, which posed a hindrance in effectively conveying the research's essence. According to the data, respondent no 44 mentioned, "menyusun kata perkata dari judul tersebut." Lastly, 6 out of 46 students faced difficulties in finding a suitable thesis advisor, as this critical mentorship could significantly influence the study's direction and success. Based on the data, student no 9 said, "sulit memahami keinginan dosen pembimbing, padahal sudah interest di topik tertentu sehingga meskipun kita sudah menentukan topik sejak awal, namun tidak sesuai dengan interest pembimbing, maka perlu putar otak lagi untuk mencari topik dan judul." Overcoming these obstacles required careful consideration and perseverance, ensuring that the chosen topic and title aligned with the researcher's interests and academic objectives.

Difficult to Identify The Problems and Make The Formulations of The Problem

There were 5 from 46 students felt difficult due to the limitation of knowledge. Based on the data, respondent no 37 said that "kurangnya pemahaman". This hindered the comprehensive understanding of the problem landscape and potential solutions. Secondly, there were 15 from 46 students felt difficult due to task of determining the problem itself proved to be quite challenging. Based on the data, respondent no 26 said

that "mengidentifikasi masalah yang ada di sekitar dan menentukan metode penanganan masalahnya". The complexity of the subject matter and the availability of various perspectives made it difficult to narrow down and articulate the problem statement precisely. However, through thorough research and analysis, these challenges were eventually addressed, allowing for the successful identification and formulation of the research problems.

Difficult to Write Literature Review

There were 3 from 46 students found it difficult due to lack of reading materials available, which made it difficult to access a sufficient number of relevant and credible sources for the review. Based on the data, respondent no 3 said that "mencari buku referensi yang terkadang tidak tersedia di perpustakaan kampus". The limited availability of reading materials restricted the depth of the literature review and posed obstacles in presenting a comprehensive analysis. Secondly, there were 13 from 46 students found it difficult due to a lack of existing literature on the specific topic under investigation. Based on the data, student no 16 said that "sumber literatur. Ada beberapa sumber literatur diinternet yang tidak bisa diakses". This dearth of previous studies and scholarly works related to the subject made it challenging to build upon existing knowledge and establish a solid foundation for the review. Moreover, there were 9 from 46 students felt difficulty in finding relevant references further exacerbated the situation. Based on the data, responden no 1 said "mencari literatur yang sesuai baik buku maupun jurnal". Despite thorough efforts to search for appropriate sources, it was challenging to identify and obtain references that precisely aligned with the research focus. Nevertheless, with perseverance and resourcefulness, a literature review was eventually crafted, drawing upon the available resources and presenting valuable insights for the research project.

Difficult to Determine The Research Method

There were 3 from 46 students found difficult due to lack of regarding the various research methodologies available, which made it difficult to select the most suitable approach for the study. Based on the data, respondent no 7 said that "masih terbatasnya pemahaman terhadap metode penelitian itu sendiri". This lack of clarity hindered the decision-making process and raised concerns about the validity and reliability of the chosen method. Secondly, there were 8 from 46 students found it difficult because of

lack of confidence in writing a thesis, which further complicated the process of method selection. Based on the data, respondent no 16 said that "mempertimbangkan dari sekian metode mana yang paling tepat". The uncertainty surrounding the thesis writing process made it challenging to commit to a specific research method, as doubts arose about whether it would yield the desired results. Despite these difficulties, efforts were made to address the knowledge gaps and bolster confidence through seeking guidance from mentors and engaging in thorough research, ultimately leading to the successful determination of an appropriate research method for the study.

Difficult to Collect The Research Data

It was difficult to manage the time to conduct data collection activities efficiently. Based on the data, respondent no 1 said that difficult to "pembagian waktu peneliti dengan sekolah". Balancing academic commitments, personal responsibilities, and research demands posed a significant challenge, often leading to time constraints and limited availability for data gathering. Secondly, the process of making the data proved to be labor-intensive and time-consuming. Based on the data, respondent no 3 said that difficult to "melakukan transkrip data dari video YouTube ke tulisan". The meticulous task of transcribing interviews, observations, or other qualitative data required attention to detail, adding to the complexity of the data collection phase. Moreover, there was the issue of a loss of self-commitment during the research process. Based on the data, students no 15 said that "hilangnya komitmen dari diri sendiri untuk memenuhi tanggung jawab profesional yang menekankan pada hasil". At times, enthusiasm and motivation waned, leading to a decline in the researcher's commitment to the study. This lack of dedication affected the data collection process and slowed down progress. Additionally, there was a limitation in accessing primary data, which posed a significant obstacle in the research. Based on the data, respondent no 39 said difficult because of "kekurangan data primer". The unavailability or restricted access to primary sources hindered the acquisition of comprehensive and reliable data for the study. Despite these difficulties, strategies were implemented to overcome these challenges, such as creating a detailed schedule, seeking support from mentors, and exploring alternative data sources, ultimately leading to the successful collection of research data for the thesis.

Difficult to Analyze The Data

There was a lack of understanding about the proper data analysis procedures, which made it difficult to interpret and draw meaningful insights from the collected data. Based on the data, respondent no 24 said that difficult "menentukan menggunakan metode apa untuk menganalisis data ini. Yang menurut saya tidak rumit dan saya juga paham". The complexity of statistical methods and analytical techniques contributed to this difficulty. Secondly, coding the data presented another obstacle. Based on the data, respondent no 5 said that difficult "kerumitan mengolah data". The process of categorizing and organizing the data into meaningful segments required careful attention and accuracy, and any errors in coding could impact the validity of the results. Lastly, the sheer volume of data gathered was overwhelming, which added to the difficulty of analysis. Based on the students no 21 said difficult "menghubungkan banyaknya data". Sorting through extensive data sets and identifying relevant patterns and trends required significant time and effort. Despite these challenges, efforts were made to enhance understanding, seek guidance from experts, and use data management tools to streamline the analysis process and derive valuable conclusions for the thesis.

Difficult to Process The Data and Display The Data

Establishing a data presentation format was difficult. The task involved deciding on the most appropriate and effective way to represent the data visually, considering factors like clarity, coherence, and relevance. This decision-making process required careful consideration to ensure that the chosen format accurately conveyed the research findings. Based on the data, respondent no 18 said that "saya bingung harus menggunakan tabel, diagram atau model lain dalaam menyajikan data. dalam pengolahannya saya juga kesulitan". Secondly, providing a detailed review of the data presented another obstacle. Based on the data, respondent no 16 said that "memberikan ulasan secara detail". Summarizing and interpreting the data in a comprehensive and coherent manner demanded rigorous analysis and critical thinking. Overcoming these difficulties involved iterative revisions, seeking feedback from peers and advisors, and adopting data visualization techniques that best communicated the research outcomes.

Difficult to Publish Thesis Article Publishing

There was a lack of information about the publication process. Based on the data, respondent no 15 said it difficult because of "minim informasi". Understanding the

specific requirements and guidelines set by different journals or publishing platforms posed difficulties, making it challenging to navigate the submission and review procedures effectively. Secondly, there was a lack of understanding about the necessary steps involved in the publication process. Based on the data, student no 41 said "ketidaktahuan mengenai cara dan metode publikasi dijurnal". Uncertainty about the proper formatting, peer-review procedures, and copyright considerations added to the complexity of preparing the thesis for publication. Despite these obstacles, efforts were made to seek guidance from mentors and conduct research on the publication process, leading to successful submissions and eventual acceptance of the thesis article for publication.

Difficult to Do Thesis Guidance

The students faced difficulties during the thesis supervision process due to challenges in accommodating the schedule of their thesis advisors and managing their time effectively. It was often challenging to find a suitable time to meet with the thesis advisor, as their schedules were busy and varied. This made it difficult for the students to get timely feedback and guidance on their research progress. Additionally, juggling academic responsibilities, personal commitments, and thesis work proved to be demanding. Striking a balance between all these tasks was not easy, and it sometimes affected the students' ability to dedicate sufficient time to their thesis. Based on the data, respondent no 1 said that "sulit menentukan jadwal dengan pembimbing", then respondent no 19 said that "karena saya sambil bekerja sehingga seringkali kesulitan membagi waktu". Despite these obstacles, the students made efforts to coordinate with their advisors and manage their time more efficiently, ensuring that they could benefit from the guidance and complete their theses successfully.

Difficult to Manage The Time

The students encountered difficulties in time management due to the challenges of balancing work commitments and battling procrastination. Working while pursuing their studies posed a significant time constraint, leaving them with limited hours to focus on their academic responsibilities. This often led to time conflicts and hindered their ability to allocate sufficient time for their coursework and assignments. Additionally, the students struggled with feelings of laziness and procrastination, making it hard for them to stay disciplined and focused on their academic tasks.based

on the data, respondent no 7 said that "tentunya masih banyak kesulitan dalam membagi waktu, seperti pekerjaan yang ada di rumah dengan pengerjaan skripsi", then respondent no 9 said that "sebenarnya tidak, tetapi karena faktor kemageran yang sangat mempengaruhi lambat / tidaknya penulisan skripsi". These factors combined made it challenging for the students to effectively manage their time, resulting in occasional struggles to meet deadlines and accomplish their academic goals. Despite these challenges, the students attempted to implement better time management strategies and sought support from mentors to overcome the hurdles and strike a healthier balance between work and studies.

CONCLUSSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclussion

In conclusion, the process of writing a thesis presented various challenges for the students. Some of the difficulties encountered included determining the appropriate topic and title, identifying and formulating research problems, writing the literature review, selecting the suitable research method, collecting research data, analyzing the data, processing the data and displaying the data, and finally, publishing the research article. Moreover, the guidance provided by their thesis advisors played a significant role in overcoming obstacles and ensuring the successful completion of their theses. Lastly, managing time effectively was a crucial aspect that required meticulous planning and dedication. Despite these challenges, the students persevered and sought help from various sources, enabling them to overcome the difficulties and achieve academic excellence in their thesis writing endeavors.

Suggestion

I hoped that my research would be able to assist fellow students, institutions, and other researchers. Throughout the research process, I dedicated my time and efforts to ensure the quality and significance of the findings. With the aspiration to contribute to the academic community, I conducted meticulous data collection, rigorous analysis, and comprehensive documentation of the results. My aim was to offer valuable insights and information that could be utilized by students in various institutions and researchers in related fields. The completion of the research marked the culmination of my endeavors, and I sincerely hoped that it would prove to be a valuable resource and contribute

positively to the advancement of knowledge and understanding in the respective domain.

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