

Chapter One

Introduction

There are seven subchapters that are covered in this chapter. The first is the background of the study which describes the reasons why the researcher is interested in choosing the topic. The second is the identification of the problems which describes the important problems related to the topic. The third is delimitation of the study which describes the focus of this study. The fourth is the research questions of this study. The fifth is the purposes of the study which describes the aims of this study. The sixth is the significances of the study which describe the benefits of this study for particular people. The last is the organization of the chapters.

Background of the Study

Writing is a skill that everyone should possess, especially those who are involved in the field of education. According to Iftanti (2016) writing is important and frequently used in people's daily lives either as individuals or members of society such as in a workplace. Writing is also taught in formal education, because having ability and good skills of writing are important. Lestari and Nurhamdah (2019) further stated that writing can be used to articulate, discuss and describe thoughts, feelings and experiences. According to Vadia and Ciptaningrum (2020) the ability to write English is very important for students, especially for students majoring in English. Not only that, for students other than majoring in English, the ability to write is no less important. Usually writing skills are needed for academic purposes such as writing a thesis or research article.

One of writing types practiced by the students in English class is essay writing. Essays are also about writing information, opinions or feelings and presenting arguments about a particular topic. Furthermore, essay writing is the most effective method to practice and develop students writing skills. When writing an essay, students are forced to express their thoughts and opinions allowing students to build critical thinking. Ariyanti and Fitriana (2017) mention that essay writing allows students to build and develop critical thinking skills, preparing them to make their own decisions, choose their writing styles, and select scientific diction for their academic writing task.

Students in writing class struggle to write in English as their second language, especially when they write essays. Sogutlu and Ostrosi (2022) stated that students faced difficulties in writing essay such as difficulties in vocabulary, difficulties grammar and spelling, difficulties punctuation, difficulties in organization and writing. They further stated that students have different strategies when writing essay such as make an outline, plan how to write and take down notes to support their writing. This study was conducted in Albania. The participants of this study were 12 students in 141 non-public high school in Albania.

The previous research was conducted in the country of Albania and on high school students. So there needs to be a discussion in Indonesia, especially in the context of universities and in this research in one of the private universities in Indonesia because of the different characteristics of students and different writing loads that can affect students' difficulties and strategies in writing essays.

Identification of the Problems

Writing is one of the skills learnt by students, especially students majoring in English education at one of the private universities in Yogyakarta. During the process of learning English in one of the private universities in Yogyakarta, students wrote several types of writing to complete assignments related to certain subjects. When working on various types of writing assignments, students often face many problems that can be explained as follows. The first type of writing is writing papers in this type of writing generally students have difficulty analyzing data accurately. Then, the next type of writing is essay writing where students when writing essays are less than optimal and need to be improved which can also contribute to problems in essay writing. The next writing type is literature reviews where students face problems when assessing the quality and relevance of each source. In addition, not all students are used to exploring many strategies in writing. Meanwhile, compared to other skills, writing is considered the most difficult skill to master. This can affect students' motivation in writing. These problems can result in reduced productivity in writing essays.

Delimitation of the Study

This research focuses on students' challenges and strategies in writing essays among English Language Education Department (ELED) students at one of the private universities in Yogyakarta. Firstly, challenges in this study refer to the obstacles or difficulties in writing English essays perceived by English Language Education Department (ELED) students at one of the private universities in Yogyakarta. Meanwhile, strategies in this study refer to the actions or methods used by the students to overcome certain challenges and improve their ability in writing essays in English. In addition, essays in this study refer to essays as writing tasks that the participants worked on as part of the assessment. The researcher also limited this study by using

only a qualitative research approach. The challenges and strategies in this study are based on the students' perceptions and experiences during essay writing.

Research Questions

Based on the background of the study, the identification of the problems, and delimitation, the study questions for this study are:

1. What are the students' challenges in essay writing at a private university in Yogyakarta?
2. What are the strategies implemented by the students to overcome the challenges in essay writing?

Objectives of the Study

Based on the research questions, the purposes of this study are:

1. To explore the students' challenges in writing essays at a private university in Yogyakarta?
2. To find out the strategies implemented by the students to overcome the challenges in essay writing.

Significance of the Study

This study is expected to provide some benefits to several groups of people. They are students, teachers and other researchers.

Students

This study provides the information about challenges and strategies in writing essays. It is expected that students who read this research can understand what the challenges in writing essays are and what strategies that can be used to improve their essay writing skills. By understanding the challenges, it hoped that the students can apply the similar strategies to create better writing.

Teachers

This study describes the students' challenges and strategies in writing essays. It is hoped that after reading this research, teachers have more understanding on the challenges that the students usually face when writing essays. Therefore, the teachers can help their students to apply suitable strategies to improve their students' ability to write essays. By understanding this research, it is expected that teachers can identify possible challenges in writing essays and guide their students to minimize the challenges.

Other researchers

By understanding this research, it is hoped that this study will help other researchers in choosing a research topic. This study is expected to become a reference for their research and motivate them to conduct the similar research more deeply.

Organization of the Chapters

This study report is presented in five chapters. Chapter one discusses the introduction of the study. There are several subchapters that are covered in this chapter. The first is describing

why writing skills are important and why the writer chose this topic and the purpose of this research. The second is identification of the problem describing the important problems related to the essay writing. The third is the delimitation of the study which delimitate the scope of this research. The fourth present the research questions of this research followed by the purpose of the study which explains the aim of this research. The next is the significants of the study, describing the benefits that can be obtained from this research for several people. The last is the organization of the chapters.

Chapter two describes the literature review and conceptual framework. There are several parts discussed in the literature review, namely writing, essays writing, the challenges faced by students in essay writing, the strategies to improve essays writing, review of related studies, and conceptual framework.

Chapter three explains the research methodology used. Chapter three includes the research design, research setting, research participants, data collection methods, data collection procedure, data analysis, and trusworthiness. There are several theories included in this chapter to support the research methodology.

Chapter four presents the findings and discussion based on the data analysis. There are two main findings reported in this study based on the research questions. First, the researcher reports the challenges faced by ELED students related to essay writing. Second, the researcher reports the findings on the strategies in essay writing applied by the students.

Chapter five discusses the conclusions and recommendations of this study. The conclusion provides an overall summary of the study, including the research background, research objectives,

methodology and research findings. In addition, recommendations are provided for students, teachers, and other researchers.