

Chapter One

Introduction

This chapter provides the introduction of the research. This chapter includes several parts. The first part is the background of the study; it describes the researcher's interest in this research. The second is the identification of the problem that explains the issues toward this research. The third is delimitation of the problem which discusses the limitation of the issue from this research. The fourth is research questions; it includes several questions that the researcher tries to find in this research. The fifth is research objectives explains the purposes or aims the researcher would like to seize from this research. The next is the significance of the research; it explains the advantages of this research for specific people. The last is the outline of the research presenting the content of each chapter.

Background of the Study

Writing is one of the basic skills of English language. Writing always becomes an important skill in English language acquisition compared to the other skills such as reading, listening, and speaking skills. Ismail (2011) found that writing is a necessary skill in English production. Therefore, EFL and ESL students need to master the writing skill to help them communicate using writing form. Writing is important skill to be mastered. According to Imani and Habil (2012), there is several importance of writing such as students need to write their final project, write an essay to apply work application, etc.

Writing has two categories such as non-academic writing and academic writing. Non-academic writing focuses on non-academic setting such as experience essay. Besides, academic writing more focuses on writing paper, thesis, dissertation, and essay. Students usually face academic writing during teaching and learning process. Students need to write their academic writing as the requirement for success in their academic setting. Students also require writing a lot in their school especially essays and paper. Academic writing is something that must be mastered by students. Moreover, for the students who will face the final task as the requirement for the graduation, they must be able to produce academic writing.

Students who do not use English as their first language believe that writing becomes the hardest skill because they need to write an essay based on their idea, memory, and their critical thinking. According to Fareed, Ashraf, and Bilal (2016), writing is a cognitive process where the students are required to use their ability to think in expressing their idea in the form of a paragraph. Fareed., et al (2016) added that students face various problems in their writing process. These problems include linguistic, psychological, pedagogical, and cognitive categories.

There are several problem in academic writing as well as essay writing. Based on Chou (2011), the first challenge for the students in doing their essay writing comes from the different backgrounds of English language of every student. The students who have low English proficiency will obstruct their essay writing. In writing English essay, it requires students to write the whole essay in English, and it becomes the main challenge for them.

Besides language background, there is another challenge in writing essay. Al Fada (2012) stated that the challenge for students is difficult to distinguish written and spoken words and phrases. Fareed et al., (2016) said that the use of spoken and informal word also found in every problem of writing sample. Al Khairy (2013) claimed that the challenge of writing including grammatical error, inappropriate of vocabulary, incorrect punctuation, and grammar. Moreover, the students face difficulty to use the appropriate grammar including subject-verb in the sentence to make a perfect paragraph. Grammar is the component that the student should notice in their English essay.

Based on the problems above, the researcher is interested in doing this research to find out the perception of essay writing based on non-English department students. Then, the researcher not only explored their difficulties in English essay writing, but the researcher also explored their strategies in English essay writing.

In one private university in Yogyakarta, there are lots of faculties and departments. Most of the departments in this university are non-English department. Non-English department students are the majors who do not use English language as their general classroom instruction. Despite this situation, the university supports their English skills by providing Language Training Center (LTC) to make the students learn English. The students go to LTC twice a week to attend the course. While joining the course, the students will face several tasks to evaluate their English ability such as essay writing. Here, non-English department students face difficulties while they have to write their essay writing.

The difficulties in essay writing probably because the students only attend language training twice a week. They also have the opportunity to leave the course four times. Besides, the students who join the language course think that the material in LTC is enough for their English language ability without following any other exposure after it. Furthermore, the materials that they face in their course are in Indonesian language which becomes the difficulties for non-English department students to organize essay writing. They will be unfamiliar with English essay. Furthermore, the limitation of vocabulary and language become the biggest challenges for them. The last difficulty is non-English department students do not make English language as their priority compared to the other main courses. Hence, the researcher is interested in conducting a research under the title, “Non-English Department Students’ View on English Essay Writing”.

Identification of the Problem

There are several problems usually faced by EFL students during essay writing. Based on previous research, the first problem is language background. The students who have low of language proficiency always face the difficulty in essay writing especially the students who do not use English as their first language. EFL students faced the difficulty of grammar structure and they also have limited vocabulary which cannot help the students in writing process. The limitation of vocabulary affects the spelling of every vocabulary used in writing script.

The next problem in English essay writing is the student does not understand teacher’s feedback. The students sometimes misinterpret the feedback

given by the teacher so their writing does not improve. The next problem is about topic and idea in writing. Determining the topic sometimes becomes the first problem before doing writing, then the students do not know how to write introduction and they are stuck because the topic and their introduction do not match well.

Delimitation of the Problem

The limitation of this research is to discuss the difficulties of English essay writing based on non-English department students. Moreover, the researcher also investigated the strategy in English essay writing based on non-English Department students' perception. Since there are many non-English departments in a private university in Yogyakarta, the researcher chose International Relation students become the participants of this research. The reason why the researcher chose International Relation students because they went to LTC to get an Essay writing course.

Research Questions

The research questions of this research are formulated as follows:

1. What are the **difficulties of English essay writing** faced by the non-English department students in one private university in Yogyakarta?
2. What are **the strategies to solve the problem in English essay writing** based on the non-English department students?

Research Objectives

Based on the research questions, the purposes of this research are presented below:

1. To find out the difficulties of English essay writing faced by the non-English department students in one private university in Yogyakarta.
2. To explore the strategies to solve the problem in English essay writing based on the non-English department students.

Significance of the Research

This research hopefully gives some of the advantages for a particular group of people such as students, teachers, and other researchers. The explanation of the significance is presented below:

Students. Students can take several advantages from this research especially for non-English department students in one private university in Yogyakarta. They can avoid the problem of English essay writing by mastering vocabulary knowledge, learning grammar, and reading some book. Furthermore from this research, they can use the strategies in this research to solve the difficulties in essay writing.

Teachers. Teachers are the facilitator of teaching and learning process having big responsibility in teaching writing skill. By reading this research, teachers can understand the problem faced by the students in English academic writing. Later on, teachers can help and support the students by give several strategies of English essay wrting.

Other researchers. The finding of this research is expected to give the benefit to other researchers who interest in exploring EFL students' problems and strategies toward English essay writing. Other researchers can use the result of this research to support future research.

Outline of the Research Proposal

The title of this research is non-English Department students' views on English essay writing. This research contains of five chapters. The first chapter is the introduction of the research. In this chapter, there are background of the study, identification of the problem, delimitation of the problem, research questions, and research objectives. Both significance of the research and outline of the study are also in this chapter.

The second chapter is the literature review. This chapter represents all information and basic theory about writing, academic writing, difficulties in English academic writing, and strategies in English academic writing. The last part in second part is conceptual theories which explained the summary of the concept of literature.

The third chapter is methodology. The researcher used qualitative research design as an approach and descriptive qualitative design to collect the data. The research was conducted in International Relation Department in one private university in Yogyakarta at the end of December 2019. The participants of this research were four students from International Relation Department in batch 2018. The researcher used interview to gather the data. Transcribing, member checking, and coding also used by the researcher to analyze the data.

The Fourth chapter discussed the finding of this research. There are two finding of this research including the difficulties and the strategies of English essay writing. The difficulties are limited vocabulary knowledge, lack of grammar and structure knowledge and difficulty in determining a topic. The strategies of English essay writing are using dictionary, consulting with lecturer, drafting, reading some books, and writing in first language to be translated in English.

The fifth chapter showed the conclusion and recommendation of this study. The conclusion provided the whole summary of this research including background of the study, objective of the study. Furthermore, the recommendation also provided to give suggestions for this research.