

Chapter One

Introduction

This chapter presents the background of the study. Then, identification of the problem is also stated to specify this study. Additionally, the limitation of the problem, research questions, and objectives of the research are described in this chapter. Lastly, the significance of the study and outline of the research is added to the completion of this study.

Background of the Study

Every level of education in Indonesia has a test standard to be able to complete that level. At the university level in Indonesia, there are special requirements for completing studies, with students required to make scientific work (Turmudi, 2020). A thesis is the main requirement in completing education at the university level.

The undergraduate thesis referred to in this research is the skripsi (thesis). According to Tiwari (2019), skripsi (thesis) is a term used in Indonesia to illustrate a scientific paper in the form of an explanation of the result of undergraduate research that discusses a problem or phenomenon in a particular field of science by using applicable rules. Skripsi (thesis) as final project is a term used in Indonesia to obtain a Bachelor's degree from a university. A thesis is a work to produce science or something that can be scientifically responsible and done according to certain rules and procedures. Generally, the purpose of a thesis

is to develop knowledge from various knowledge that has been learned during the lecture period. Undergraduate students are required to write a thesis, apart from the requirements for graduation, the thesis is also used to provide knowledge and skills in analyzing, describing, and explaining the knowledge they are writing (Lestari, 2020).

Based on the explanation above, the meaning of the undergraduate thesis in the title of this research is skripsi (thesis). Writing a thesis differs from other types of writing such as personal, literary, and journalistic (Turmudi, 2014). The thesis focuses on a theme that can have great benefits in the form of academic writing. Oshima and Hogue (1998) said that writing; especially academic writing is not easy. Study and practice are needed to develop these skills because in this thesis students are required to present their arguments in a logical order to conclusions (Harmer, 2002).

According to Mertens (2010), thesis writing is a complex activity and demands a lot of attention from the writer where the writer is required to think hard about grammar, choice of words, punctuation, capital letters, spelling, vocabulary, and unity between paragraphs to create a scientific work that is according to the university's guidance. According to Harling (2004), thesis writing is an activity carried out by a researcher to report an invention in written form. Budiharso (2020) also added that the purpose of writing a thesis is to conduct a research exam and practice writing research results.

According to Farrel (2019), three skills are particularly important when writing a thesis; they are summarizing, paraphrasing, and direct quotation. Summarizing means writing a sentence using own words about the main ideas, issues, and general meaning of the text. Each reference helps the writer to more easily determine the point and the academic writer has the responsibility to cite all sources used in writing. Then in paraphrasing the thesis writing, the writer must quote the original author by including the author's name and the sentence which is paraphrased written using his own words. When doing direct quotes, these words need to be identified by quotation marks or indented blocks and are entirely the words of the original authors that you have chosen to use. And the quotation itself aims to indicate that the writer did a good quote in which the author included the origin of the quote taken in writing his thesis.

Hayes and Flower (1980), process thesis writing consists of three major processes at planning, translating, and reviewing. The first and most important thing for the writer is the planning process. In this planning process, the first thing the writer needs is to get a topic or theme that will be discussed in the thesis. According to Alves (2009), generating ideas is an approach that can help students to predict the type of information they want, finding and interpreting texts can help students to stimulate their imagination to produce certain ideas before they write. During writing a thesis, students will find the problem; students will do translating and reviewing to be able to write a thesis by doing a search for sources, reading previous research that is relevant to support thesis writing.

English Language Education Department (ELED) students in university write a thesis using the English language. This makes the thesis writing process a bit complicated for students. University students in Indonesia are included in the English for Foreign Learner category so that English is used as learning and not as an everyday language of instruction. Writing in a foreign language has greater challenges for the students (Zimmerman, 2000). The process of writing a thesis in English has been established by the National Curriculum for Higher Education English Programs. Based on the previous study that the title *The Problem Faced In Writing Thesis By Eighth Semester Students Of English Education Program FKIP-Umm In Academic The Students' Problems In Writing An Undergraduate Thesis: A Case Study At English Language Teaching Program Of Muhammadiyah University Of Mataram* written by Irwandi (2019) showed that the problem in writing an undergraduate thesis is because the internal factors consisted of 33 % of students have a problem in deciding the title of the thesis, 20 % of students did not understand about how to write organization of their thesis, 20 % of students have a problem in finding appropriate theories to support their thesis, 13% of students have a problem in deciding methodology which is suitable. In this case, the researcher found that students who cannot finish their thesis on time include not only the students who are facing difficulties in writing a thesis but also students who found that working a paid job is better than writing a thesis.

Based on the results of the preliminary study conducted by the researcher through the interview process with ELED students, it was found that they

experienced problems in writing their thesis. Some of the problems they experienced were problems in finishing their thesis on time, problems in contacting their thesis advisor, and difficulties in correcting the revisions given by the thesis advisor.

According to the problems presented above, the researcher in this study considers they need to manage their time while writing their thesis so they can finish it on time. They also should get in touch with their thesis advisor so they can discuss their thesis and get feedback as soon as possible. Thus, the researcher conducts this research to know further about the challenges of ELED students in writing an undergraduate thesis. Then, the researcher wants to investigate how ELED students overcome their challenges in writing an undergraduate thesis.

Identification of the Problem

Based on the researcher's experience, ELED students at one of the private universities in Yogyakarta had a different kind of challenge in writing an undergraduate thesis. ELED students' challenges in writing a thesis could be influenced by internal or external factors. Internal factor is factor obtains from students themselves and external factor is a factor that comes from the environment. The researcher conducted an informal interview with some ELED students and found the assumption that the challenge of them in writing a thesis is due to a lack of their language mastery. The researcher also found that the ELED students had no interest and motivation in writing an undergraduate thesis.

Based on the description of the problems above, the researcher wants to find out what challenges are faced by ELED students in writing an undergraduate thesis. Furthermore, the researcher also wanted to investigate how ELED students overcome their challenges in writing an undergraduate thesis.

Delimitation of the Problem

In this research, the researcher limits this research to discover what are the challenges of ELED students on writing undergraduate thesis and how do ELED students overcome their challenges on writing undergraduate thesis. Thus, the center of this research aims to know the challenges and the strategies that are used by the students in the process of their thesis writing. These problems were chosen because of the efficacy and considered as an interesting challenge that reasonable to be discussed. This study was conducted by collecting interviews by ELED students at one of the private universities in Yogyakarta. The result of this research might be different if it is conducted in other universities or institutions. Thus, the result of the research only generalized or applied to the target population, specifically to the ELED students at one of private universities in Yogyakarta.

Research Questions

Based on the background above, this research was the aim to answer the following research questions. Those are :

1. What are the challenges faced by English Education Department students in writing an undergraduate thesis?

2. How do English Education Department students overcome their challenges in writing an undergraduate thesis?

Research Objectives

Based on the research questions, this research has some purposes as follows:

1. To find the challenges faced by English Education Department student in writing an undergraduate thesis
2. To find how the English Education Department students overcome their difficulties in writing an undergraduate thesis

Significances of the Research

The result of the study was expected to give some significances not only theoretically but also practically go to :

Researcher. This research helps the researcher to develop knowledge about the challenges in writing an undergraduate thesis for ELED students at one of the private universities in Yogyakarta. Also, the researcher can explain how do ELED students overcome their challenges in writing a thesis. Then, the result of this research might become a reference for other researchers who wants to conduct further research on a similar problem.

Students. The result of this study will give information to the students about the challenges in writing an undergraduate thesis. Then the students can learn from that information to anticipate the challenges and help them in writing an undergraduate thesis.

Lecturers. This research helps the lecturer to know the challenges in writing an undergraduate thesis faced by ELED students at one of the private universities in Yogyakarta. Then, the lecturers also knowing about how do ELED students overcome the challenges in writing a thesis. Additionally, as an advisor, the lecturer could know what is the problem in writing an undergraduate thesis. After knowing the problems, the lecturer can guide and motivate the students to write their undergraduate thesis based on problems faced by students in the future.

Institution. This research helps the institution to know further about the challenges of writing undergraduate thesis for ELED students. After knowing that, the institution can conduct or propose some programs to enhance students' motivation who are finishing their undergraduate thesis, for example, thesis seminars, motivation building, etc.

Further Researcher. This research helps the further researcher to have references related to the difficulties in writing an undergraduate thesis and how to overcome them. Then, this research can be the previous study for the next future researchers who want to research a similar topic.

Organization of the Chapters

The research consists of three chapters. The first chapter presents the introduction. Besides, it includes the background of the research, the identification of the problem, the limitation of the problem, research questions, the objective of the research, and the significances of the research. The last of the first chapter explains the organization of the research. The second chapter is about the

literature review of the research. It reviews writing, undergraduate thesis, difficulties factors on writing a thesis, and strategies in overcoming problems on writing a thesis. Thus, a review of related studies and conceptual frameworks is explained in this chapter as well. The third chapter is about research methodology. This chapter, includes research design, research setting and participants, instruments of the study, technique of data collection, and analysis of the data. The fourth chapter explained about findings and discussion that are found in this research. Meanwhile, chapter five as the last chapter in this research explained about conclusion and recommendations of the research.