

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Introduction is the first chapter of this study. This chapter introduces the importance and objective of research. This research is about the use topic sentence on thesis. This chapter consists of background of study, research question, objectives of study, significances of the study and definition of key terms.

A. Background of Study

Nowadays, English become an international language which use by people around the world including Indonesia. In Indonesia, English has a major position especially in educational system. Learning English is a must for students in Indonesia, learning English will help student if they want to go further studies or get a great job and it will helps people in contact to all people around the world not only in Indonesia. Allah said in Al-Qur'an surah Ar-Rum verse 22:

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ خَلْقُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاخْتِلَافُ أَلْسِنَتِكُمْ وَأَلْوَانِكُمْ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

“And of His signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth and the diversity of your languages and your colors. Indeed in that are signs for those of knowledge”

Based on the verse above Allah created human in different languages besides Allah created English language. To know each other people learning English as a tool for communication but if people want to know each other people around the world they need to learn how to speak and write in English.

Abu HurairahRadhiallahu 'anhu related:

مَا مِنْ أَصْحَابِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ أَحَدٌ أَكْثَرَ حَدِيثًا عَنْهُ مِنِّي، إِلَّا مَا كَانَ مِنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عَمْرٍو، فَإِنَّهُ كَانَ يَكْتُبُ

وَلَا أَكْتُبُ

“There is none among the companions of the Prophet who has narrated more Hadiths than I except 'Abdallah bin Amr (bin Al-'As) who used to write them and I never did the same” (HR. Al-Bukhari no. 113)

Besides knowledge is important for our life, we as human also need to write. Writing is an important things to do for human, through writing human can write down their feeling, idea and expression so if there is a people who cannot speak they can read. Because of that knowledge can be spread widely.

Writing is one of four skills that have to be mastered by English Foreign Language Learner besides writing are very useful for people. Through writing the learners can improve their ability in imagining something to be their inspiration and changes it into the great words and sentences composition that can read by any other people in this world. Allah said in The Holy Qur'an Surah Al-Qalam verse 1:

ن وَالْقَلَمِ وَمَا يَسْطُرُونَ

“Nun. By the pen and by what they (angles) write (in the Records of men) (Al-Qalam:1)”

From the verse above, Allah SWT explained that He taught human being by pen (Qalam). The researcher concludes that pen has important role in writing. Using pen people can write knowledge. So, they can transfer their knowledge to the next generation and writing can be used as a tool of communication,

because writing produces a sign or word using pen and paper, people who can read it will understand what the writers want to say.

Writing is a system of human communication. By writing, people can share their idea, feeling, or anything that exists in their mind. Writing requires learners to focus on making ideas, organizing, and coherently revisiting it into a good composition, using good punctuation, and editing text into a good grammar (Batubara, 2017, p. 13).

In academic writing, a paragraph has a topic sentence that directly tells the reader what paragraphs discuss about. A paragraph usually consists of 6-12 sentences in a group which focused on one topic, every sentence in a strong paragraph is focused to develop on one main idea or topic sentence (Zemach and Islam, 2005, p. 9).

Topic sentence is the surface manifestation of an element at the “top” or “macro”) level in the semantic hierarchy of a paragraph or group of paragraphs (Popken, 1987, p. 432). Topic sentence covers the other contents of the paragraph in one way or other. Paragraph like a hamburger, the top bun is topic sentence, the meat and vegetables as well as supporting ideas and the bottom of the bun is closing sentence (Teguh, 2013, p. 2). The top and bottom bun cover the meat and vegetables on hamburger as topic sentence covers supporting sentences and closing sentence keeps paragraph's point.

The placement of the topic sentence in the paragraph not only on the first paragraph. The topic sentence not always stated explicitly in the paragraph, it may be stated in a brief sentence near the beginning of the paragraph or the end of the

paragraph. It may also canbe stated at the beginning and repeated at the end toconsider the importance(D'Angelo, 1986, p. 432).

Since then, one of many definitions of topic sentences have been discussed. For example, in writing effective paragraph, Cohan states that “the topic sentence is that sentence which implies a question to be answered by the rest of the paragraph”(Chen, 2011, p. 7).

Braddock choses 25 professional articles from the following five publications: The Atlantic, The New Yorker, The Reporter, The Harper’s Weekly and The Saturday Evening Reviewas primary data; a total of 889 paragraphs. Braddock concludes that only 37% of those paragraphs begin with an explicit topic sentence (Braddock, 1974, p. 301). In this case, the researcher also found that not all paragraphs consist topic sentence, it is so bad for education if the writers didn’t have writing their topic sentence in their paragraph.

In university, especially at UIN Antasari Banjarmasin, writing a research paper as academic writing product called thesis or skripsi is a mustfor student to completing their last examination scientific project before graduating from sarjana degree. Thesis consists of some chapters, one of them is the introductory section as first chapter. The introductory section as the main section of the thesis. Bathia in Astuti states that introduction is the key role in presenting the connection of the research to be reported (Astuti et al, 2010, p.2).

While writing thesis, people should understand how to write a good and correct paper, scientific paper is a distinct advantage for the learner. It is explained by Artkinson and Curtis in Astuti that “academic writing at an advance level is

more than just getting down own ideas on paper and being sure that they are in ‘good English’”. It is a fundamental ways of getting across our thoughts to develop our understanding. (Astuti, 2010, p. 2)

On thesis there are background of study that becomes crucial part which delivers the reader to reading whole of the research thesis. Background of study is covered in most of detail in the chapter of literature review. This background of the research thesis should be explain what is being researched and why should do the research. That is, the background chapters should lead to the space (or gaps) in the field that the thesis or dissertation is aiming to fill (Paltridge, 2007, p. 100). It is exposes the reason why researcher want to do this research, because of combining theories from reference and our writing sometimes make us difficult to make a good topic sentence concern on a paragraph.

The researcher has analyzed the background of study from one thesis from English Department student, the researcher found that writer has less attention in constructing topic sentence on paragraph. Not all paragraphs has topic sentence as we know that topic sentence is the important sentence on paragraph. It may be caused by unknown about writing a good paragraph. Unfortunately, this is the important thing that missing in our writers.

Based on research from Teguh about the analysis of topic sentence in research background from five thesis. There are 26 (70,3%) paragraph consist topic sentence both inductive and deductive, from 26 topic sentence there are 22 (84,6%) topic sentences appeared on beginning paragraph or deductive paragraph and the rest are inductive paragraph. From 117 sentences on all thesis except topic

sentences, there are 67 (56,3%) supporting details that support topic sentences in many ways (Teguh, 2013, p. 2).

The research explained above, show us not every paragraph has topic sentence which controlling the ideas on paragraph, it can be not effective paragraph on their thesis. Based on those reason, the researcher was interested to investigate the existence of topic sentence in every paragraph in background of study on thesis.

The difference of this study with previous research is where researcher use just one instrument in this research, there is document collecting. Kind of this research is content analysis the finding will appear descriptively. The researcher chose twenty five (25) thesis from 2015-2019 academic years. The sources of data in this study were the thesis made by the English Department students which were taken from idr.uin-antasari.ac.id (UIN Antasari website). The researcher had reasons why choosed English Department because the researcher want thesis writers to increase their writing ability, with the increase writing ability the researcher hoped their thesis will be good enough to examined. Consequence, the reader will be more understant what the research about.

B. Research Questions

Based on the title **“the use of topic sentence on background of study of thesis”**, the problem of this study can be formulated as follow:

1. Do writers use topic sentence in each paragraph on their background of study research thesis?

2. What types of paragraph based on topic sentence placed by writers on paragraph of background of study research thesis?

C. Objectives of Study

1. To find out whether students using topic sentence in each paragraph on their background of study research thesis.
2. To find out what types of paragraph used by students on their background of study research thesis.

D. Significances of Study

1. The finding result of this study will certainly elevate the researcher's basic knowledge on more linguistics aspects of English in topic sentence domain.
2. The result of this study will contribute student be able to make a topic sentence in each paragraph on their thesis writing.
3. For other researcher, The result of findings on this study are expected to give contribution to other researcher which can develop their knowledge about writing a good paragraph with topic sentence and the researcher hope this research will be used as reference on future research.

E. Definition of Key Terms

This research is to analyze topic sentence on background of study research thesis, to avoid misunderstanding of definition of key terms, the researcher describes several terms as follows:

1. Topic sentence

A topic sentence indicates what the paragraph in thesis of English Department UIN Antasari is going to discuss, usually topic sentence appear on the first sentence on a paragraph. But, often found on the last sentence of paragraph.

2. Paragraph

On thesis writing of English Education Department UIN Antasari, background of study always found on first chapter as introduction. In this introduction, paragraph has important part to develop background of study.

3. Thesis

Thesis is a scientific paper made by students from English Education Department of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin who taken Bachelor (S1) education to obtain an academic degree as a graduate.