

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **A. Background of Study**

In the college, the thesis is a requirement for students to earn a master's degree or bachelor. Thesis writing is the final exam for students at the end of the study period. According to Paul Oliver (2004, p.5), the briefest definition of a thesis is a formal academic writing, which reports the result of a research study. The thesis is a scientific paper made with scientific procedures and follows the guideline scientific principles. In writing a thesis, students have to do research. Research does to solve problems, prove theory, develop material, and etc. But, before writing a thesis, the students have to make research proposal.

The proposal is an outline that contains various activities with systematic steps that will be conducted by a researcher. According to Daniel W Kasomo (2011), a research proposal is a plan that points out the strategy the researcher that purpose to use in search of answer to the main research problem and specific research questions. All students who will finish their study will definitely face the making of a research proposal. The research proposal is the first step of a long research phase that will be conducted by students. In making a research proposal the students should have an interesting title, important for research, and useful to others. A good proposal will be easier for researchers to conduct the research. But,

writing a good proposal is not easy; the students have to think about content, method, and also language.

A researcher has to show that the research problem which pointed out in the research proposal, interest to investigate and give a contribution in the academic field and social society. If the research is not conducted then, will be an imbalance in the social life of society. Otherwise, if the research is conducted, then will be give contribution to various parties to make a better life. In this research, the researcher wants to give a contribution in an academic field, especially English department, because this research can give information and knowledge that related to students' problems in making research proposal.

In making research proposal, the students have to show that they have competences to do the research. It is can be shown with a good understanding about the problems and theme of the research. The students also have to understand about literature, method, and theory. Therefore, the students that will be conducting the research; they must absolutely understand what will be investigated.

Research proposal consists of several parts; title, introduction, literature review, methodology, and references. In the introduction, there are; background of study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of study, and definition of key terms. In literature review, there are; theoretical framework and previous study. In methodology, there are; research design, research setting, population and sample / subject and

object, the instruments, data collection procedure, and data analysis procedure.

In the English department, there are two courses that must be taken by students in learning research proposal. Those courses are Research in ELT and Seminar (Linguistics/Language/Teaching). In these courses, students are taught about methods, approaches, and steps to make research proposal. These courses absolutely can be students' preparation in writing a research proposal.

The course Research in ELT taken in sixth semester, this course taught about methods, approaches, and also parts in the research proposal. The final exam in this course is the students have to make a research proposal. This course is required to take the course in next semester i.e. Seminar (Linguistics/Language/Teaching), so if the students don't pass in this course, they cannot take the course Seminar in the seventh semester. Therefore, they have to pass this course.

In the seventh semester English department, the students take course Seminar (Linguistics/Language/Teaching), this course taught the students how to make a good proposal. It means, in this course, students have to make research proposal and then their proposal will be presentation and discussion, they will get comment and advice from the lecturer, so that they will know their mistakes and then can make a good proposal.

The researcher decides to choose subjects in this research, i.e. the students in the seventh semester English department of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin due to the following the reasons: First, the researcher chooses the students in the seventh semester because they are learning to make a research proposal. So, this is the appropriate time to explore the problems that they have in making research proposal. Second, the researcher themselves think that make a research proposal is difficult to do. Based on the experience of researcher from sixth semester until now, make a research proposal is not easy. Third, some students in English department said that they are still confused and some students even do not know about what elements should be included in the research proposal. Therefore, this research expected can give information about the problems that students have in making research proposal. The researcher conducts this research in two month, from October until December.

According to Darmono & Hasan (2002, p.4), the problems that usually students have in making research proposal are difficult to find literature, rarely writing, especially in a scientific paper, limited funds, less accustomed to a scheduled work system with the tight time setting, and problem with an academic advisor.

The researcher limits the problems in this research only in the academic field that related to the research proposal, because if not limited, students' problems can be in many fields like psychology, economics, and etc. For example, if the students have problems with limited funds it is in

the economic field. If the problem is lazy to read the book it is in the psychology field. The problems in the academic field are literature, the courses, lecturer, and etc. So, the researcher focuses to explore the problems only in the academic field.

The researcher conducts this research using case study approach. It means the researcher wants conduct the research in-depth investigation. So, the researcher collects the data using questionnaire and interview techniques, because these techniques are indispensable and influential in the process of collecting data in this research. After the researcher get the data, then will be analysis by using case study analysis based on Creswell.

Every problem has a solution; one of the ways to solve the problem is finding out the causes. Hence, this research wants to explore the problems in making research proposal, so that by knowing the causes can think the ways to overcome it. This research expected can help students to avoid the problems that will explore.

In Holy Qur'an surah Ar-Ra'd/13 verse 11 reveals:

لَهُ مَعْقَبَتٌ مِّنْ بَيْنِ يَدَيْهِ وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِ يَحْفَظُونَهُ مِنْ أَمْرِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُغَيِّرُ مَا بِقَوْمٍ حَتَّى يُغَيِّرُوا مَا بِأَنْفُسِهِمْ ۖ وَإِذَا أَرَادَ اللَّهُ بِقَوْمٍ سُوءًا فَلَا مَرَدَّ لَهُ ۚ وَمَا لَهُمْ مِّنْ دُونِهِ مِنِّ وَالٍ ﴿١١﴾

Based on the verse above, Allah implies that He will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves. It means

that the problem that person or people have, cannot solve without effort from themselves. Therefore, the conclusion of the verse is every problem cannot solve without effort from ourselves.

The correlation the verse and this research is the problems that students have in making research proposal, cannot solve if they don't effort. So, by exploring the problems that students have in making research proposal, they will know their problems and then they will learn and think how to solve the problems that they have known.

There are some previous studies that related to the research proposal. The first researcher is Muh Yusuf. His study is to investigate difficulties English Education students of IAIN Surabaya in writing skills. The objectives of study were to investigate the students' problem in writing research proposal and to investigate the possible causes of the problems in writing research proposal. The result showed that the problems that students have in writing research proposal were in the methodology, review of literature, and introduction, whereas the causes of problems were the lecturer transferred unclear explanation, students are lazy to read books, and the time learning is limited. The similarity of this research with the present study is both of them investigate students' problems in writing research proposal. The difference of this research with the present study is this research focus on the problems in writing and causes, whereas the present study focuses on academic problems.

The next researcher is Diana Zuriati. She also investigates the problems in writing research proposal. Her study is to find out students' difficulties in writing a research proposal in STIBA Persada Bunda Pekanbaru. The objective of study was to find out the students' difficulties in writing a research proposal. The result showed that for the study of linguistics in chapter I of 65.3%, in chapter II of 60.7%, and in chapter III of 68.7%, whereas for the study of literature in chapter I of 69.4%, in chapter II of 61%, and in chapter III of 52.2%. The similarity of this research with the present of study is both of them investigate students' problems in writing a research proposal. The difference of this research with the present study is this research focuses on the problems of writing, whereas the present study focuses on the academic problems.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher wants to explore what are the students' problems in making a research proposal, so the researcher purpose to conduct the research with the title "EXPLORING ENGLISH STUDENTS DEPARTMENT'S PROBLEMS IN MAKING RESEARCH PROPOSAL"

## **B. Statement of Problem**

Based on the background of study above, this research conduct to answer the following questions:

What are students' problems in making research proposal?

### **C. Objective of Study**

Based on the problem of study above, the objective of this research is:

To explore students' problems in making research proposal.

### **D. Significance of Study**

Theoretically, it is expected that the result of this research could enrich knowledge that related in students' problems in making research proposal.

Practically, there are some advantages to some parties as follow:

1. To English Department students, the result of this research is expected can give them knowledge about students' problems and they can avoid it when making research proposal.
2. To other researchers, this research is expected to provide reference and evidences to guide them to conduct a further research which is related to students' problems.
3. To lecturers, it is expected that the result of this research can give information about students' problems and they can help students when making research proposal.



## **E. Definition of Key Terms**

### **1. Exploring**

Find out, identify and investigate students' problems in making research proposal.

### **2. Problems**

The problems that students have in making research proposal.

### **3. Research proposal**

A research proposal is a written plan for a project that will be submitted to others for evaluation.

A research proposal is nothing more than a written plan for conducting a research study.