

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Antasari State Islamic University Banjarmasin, especially English Department, teaches its students to practice their language abilities: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The focus of discussion in this study refers to writing abilities, and Richard and Renandya (2002) said that this is the most challenging ability to master.

Writing is the most complicated ability that must be possessed by students majoring in English, although this ability is quite difficult to learn. Writing is an activity to collect ideas and conclude them into a statement that the reader can understand. According to Khalik (2021), writing is an activity in the form of pouring ideas with complex abilities through active productive activities in the form of symbols of letters and numbers systematically so that they can be understood by others.

In the Holy Qur'an, Al-Qalam verse 68: 1 Allah Said:

ن وَالْقَلَمِ وَمَا يَسْطُرُونَ (القلم [٦٨]: ١)

According to Quraish Shihab, the term qalam can refer to the result of using the instrument, namely writing.

Writing and reading are an integral part of education. This sentence appropriate with the holy quran, Al-Alaq verse 96: 1-5 Allah Said:

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ (١) خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ (٢) اقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ (٣)
الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ (٤) عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ (٥)

The fourth verse of surah al alaq relates to the core skills discussed in this study. Therefore, Allah informs Islam through the medium of writing so that humans could perhaps acquire knowledge applicable to daily life. This applies to other sciences as well. Writing is a human way to contribute to the expansion of knowledge regarding Islam and other subjects. One example is undergraduate-level academic writing in the form of a thesis.

Lindemann (2001), stated that writing is a process of communication that uses a conventional graphic system to convey a message to the reader. Students can use writing to express the knowledge they have received from their teacher in class and to share their ideas, thoughts, and opinions in their minds. Especially for students of English education who are required to take a writing course and complete writing assignments such as essays but writing ability varies in difficulty between high school and university. Academic writing is more complicated than writing at a school because students must examine the grammar, coherence, and cohesiveness of sentences to create an effective paragraph.

Writing has been taught since students are in semester 2, namely Basic Writing, then continued Paragraph Writing, Essay Writing, and Academic Writing. The students in English Department at Antasari State Islamic University must complete the Research in ELT subject as basic knowledge in writing a thesis proposal. This course is designed to complete the student with

the knowledge and abilities to research the area of English Language Teaching (ELT). The topics selected for this course are the study's purpose, steps in conducting research, and research methodology. The benefits of this research are expanding students' ability to understand the steps in conducting research, applying different research designs, and writing a research proposal and research report correctly.

One of the student's tasks is to write a thesis proposal. A thesis proposal is a formal proposal because it has its terms and conditions. A thesis proposal is a form of design, research design or research proposal that a student will carry out and compile about research material for writing a thesis. This proposal has a form using specific standards such as language, punctuation, citations etc. The content of the thesis proposal is still in draft form and has not been described at length. It also can be said that the thesis proposal consists of an outline of the problem material and research methods that will be described in the thesis. A thesis proposal is submitted after the Advisor approves the title. In a thesis proposal, there are several parts, including the beginning, the central part, and the end. The opening part of the proposal consists of a cover page and a table of contents. Then the main part contains the background of the problem, research question, research objectives and benefits, literature review and research methods. And at the end, there is a bibliography and appendices. Since the first semester, the proposal is to do it since the first semester, which will make it easier to arrange words.

Furthermore, they have to write a thesis in the final year of their study. However, many students are apprehensive about their final assignments. They must survey until they obtain the research. After that, they must write a report based on the findings of their study. They must also complete their projects accurately. It means that the students require to master writing abilities and understand the steps to write them down. The mastery of writing can be seen from the students' competence to analyze the written message.

For graduate students, writing a thesis is challenging steps. The students learn how to do research and communicate their findings as a result of the process. Writing a research proposal is the initial stage for postgraduate students. Zuriati (2017) explained that a research proposal is a plan that contains a research activity plan presented in writing to obtain approval from an authorized party. For the purpose of writing a thesis, a research proposal is required to obtain approval from the Head of Department or Head of Study Program.

This research aims to determine what strategies students can use in writing proposals because most students have limitations in developing ideas or ideas to create problem topics in doing thesis. On the other hand, students also have doubts about applying what strategies are suitable for writing proposals. The benefit of this research is to help students write thesis proposal assignments to do what strategies are appropriate to be applied to themselves.

B. Research Questions

Based on the background of the study, the research question can be formulated as follows:

1. What are the problems of English Department students in writing contents of thesis proposal?
2. What are the strategies of English Department students to solve problems in writing contents of thesis proposal?

C. Objectives of Study

Based on the research question above, there are two objectives of the study:

1. To find out English department students' problems in writing contents of thesis proposal.
2. To Explore English department students' strategies to solve problem in writing contents of thesis proposal.

D. Significance of Study

The result of the study is expected to be used theoretically and practically

1. Theoretical

Theoretically, the researcher is expected that this research can be another source for future researchers as additional information or reference by exploring and analyzing students problems and strategies in writing thesis proposals at the English department of Antasari State Islamic University Banjarmasin.

2. Practical

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

- a. For English Department students, this research is expected to give them convenience for preparing thesis proposals.

- b. For other researchers, this research is supposed to guide them to conduct further research related to students' challenges.
- c. For lecturers, it is supposed that the output of this research can give information about students' problems and help students to write thesis proposals properly.
- d. This research benefits information for the English Education Department to know students' problems and strategies in writing a thesis proposal for English Department Students.

E. Definition of Key Terms

In order to clarify the key terms used in this study, some definitions are put forward:

1. Thesis Proposal

The research that students will carry out must be conceptually planned along with the Supervisor. The first step for preparing a thesis.

2. Problem

The problem is the challenges or the difficulties in writing a thesis proposal. English Education students' concerns for facing thesis proposal.

3. Strategy

Strategy is a way for getting an outlet from Problem. English Education Department Students will gain a strategy for facing the problem or challenge.