Students' Difficulties in Writing Academic Essays at English Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta

A Skripsi

Submitted to Language Education Faculty as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of Sarjana Pendidikan

Umi Hani
20130810021

English Education Department
Language Education Faculty
Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta
2017
STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY OF THE WORK

I honestly certify that the skripsi entitled "Students’ Difficulties in Writing Academic Essays at English Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta" is purely my own work, which I have written and does not contain the work of other people. Some quotations included in this skripsi use the standard rules of scientific research.

Yogyakarta, May 8th 2017

The writer

Umi Hani
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All praises be to Allah, king of the king, the Lord of the world, and the master of the day after, who has given us blessing and guidance. Because of His graciousness and mercifulness, the researcher can write well. The researcher expresses her highest gratitude to Allah subhanahu wa ta’ala for blessing, love, opportunity, health, and mercy to complete this undergraduate thesis. This undergraduate thesis entitled “Students' Difficulties in Writing Academic Essays at English Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta” is submitted as the final requirement in accomplishing undergraduate degree at Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris, Fakultas Pendidikan Bahasa, Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta.

In arranging this undergraduate thesis, a lot of people have provided motivation, advice, and support for the researcher. In this valuable chance, the researcher intended to express her gratitude and appreciation to all of them. First, the researcher’s deepest appreciation goes to her beloved parents; her mother for the endless love, pray, and support, and her father for the phone call every single time in order to remind her to keep going and never give up. Also for her beloved brothers, Gunawan Akbar and Teguh Pangestu, for support to their sister in order to complete this undergraduate thesis.

The researcher presents her sincere appreciation to Mrs. Mariska Intan Sari, S.S., MA. This paper would not have been possible without the help, support and patience of my beloved advisor for her supervising, advice, and guidance from the very early stage of this research as well as giving me extraordinary experiences throughout the past few months. Once again the researcher wants to say thank you
to Mrs. Mariska Intan Sari who has helped her patiently finishing this undergraduate thesis by giving suggestion, guidance, and correction until the completion of this thesis.

The researcher greatest appreciation also goes to first examiner Mrs. Sri Sudarsi, S.S.,M.In.T and second examiner Mr. Andi Wirantaka, S. Pd., M.Hum for their advice, and crucial contribution in the improvement of the result of this undergraduate thesis.

I am very grateful to have some close friends who always support me. The researcher greatest appreciation goes to Litia, Venna, Alfiyah, Tias, Fara, and Aldo. You are always a good listener for every problem I faced, especially when I had to revise this thesis and re-start over and over again. Your opinions never stop surprise me and also allow me to see my problem from a different angle.

Last, but far from least, the researcher very sincerely thanks to all the participants of this research who helped the researcher complete this undergraduate thesis. Without their contribution and cooperation, this paper could have never been written.
Finally, I would like to say thanks to who not mentioned personally here, without their patience, guidance, support and cooperation this undergraduate thesis could have never been written. This undergraduate thesis is far from perfect, but it is expected that it will be useful not only for the researcher, but also for the readers. For this reason, constructive thoughtful suggestion and critics are welcomed.

Yogyakarta, May 8th 2017

The writer

Umi Hani
Abstract

Writing skill is one of the important skills on academic performance. However, sometimes the students find some difficulties in writing academic essays. The researcher has also experienced the difficulties in writing academic essay. Therefore, this research aims at investigating the difficulties faced by EED of UMY students in writing academic essays and indentifies how the EED of UMY students overcome the difficulties in writing academic essays. The researcher used descriptive qualitative design to achieve the purpose of the research. The participants of this research were four students in seventh semester of EED of UMY. The reason was because students in seventh semester of EED of UMY they had already have experienced in writing academic essays at least ten academic essays in last one year, and the researcher chose in-depth interview to elicit information from the participants. The data from the interviews were analyzed by coding which were validated through member checking. The result of this research was found that there were eight major difficulties that were faced by EED of UMY and also there were seven major strategies that were used by EED of UMY students to overcome the difficulties. The result of this research showed that cognitive strategies used by the students to overcome the difficulties are related to lack of linguistic knowledge. Taking note strategy was used by the students to overcome the difficulties regarding to lack of linguistic knowledge, and lack of organization of ideas. Proper quotation and paraphrase were used by the students to solve the problem regarding to inadequate of knowledge for doing proper paraphrasing. Memorizing strategy was used by the students to overcome problem related to lack of linguistic knowledge. Social strategy were used by the
students to solve the problem regarding to lack of linguistic knowledge, literal translation, inadequate of knowledge for doing proper paraphrasing, and lack of references. Revising and editing strategy was used by the students to overcome problem related to technical writing error. Internal strategy was used by the students to solve the problem regarding to problem arising from learners.

**Keywords:** academic writing, academic essays, difficulties, strategies.
Table of contents

Cover page ........................................................................................................................................... i

Approval sheet ...................................................................................................................................... ii

Statement of originality of the work .................................................................................................... iii

Acknowledgement ................................................................................................................................. iv

Abstract .................................................................................................................................................. vii

Table of contents .................................................................................................................................... ix

Chapter One ........................................................................................................................................... 1

Introduction ........................................................................................................................................... 1

  Background of the study ......................................................................................................................... 1

  Statement of the problem ......................................................................................................................... 5

  Limitation of the study ............................................................................................................................. 6

  Research questions ................................................................................................................................. 7

  Purposes of the research .......................................................................................................................... 7

  Significances of the research ................................................................................................................... 7

  Outline of the research ............................................................................................................................ 8

Chapter Two ........................................................................................................................................... 10

Literature Review ................................................................................................................................... 10

  Academic writing .................................................................................................................................. 10

  Academic essays .................................................................................................................................... 15

  Difficulties in writing academic essays .................................................................................................. 17

  Strategies to solve the difficulties in writing academic essays ............................................................... 18

  Review of related study .......................................................................................................................... 20

ix
Conceptual framework ................................................................................................. 21

Chapter Three ............................................................................................................ 23
Methodology ................................................................................................................ 23
Research design ......................................................................................................... 23
Research setting ......................................................................................................... 24
Research participants .............................................................................................. 24
Research instrument ................................................................................................. 25
Data collection method ............................................................................................. 26
Technique of data analysis ......................................................................................... 27

Chapter Four .............................................................................................................. 29
Finding and Discussion ............................................................................................. 29

The difficulties faced by English Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta students on writing academic essays........ 29
Linguistic knowledge ................................................................................................. 30
Lack of background knowledge ............................................................................. 35
Inadequate knowledge for doing proper paraphrasing ......................................... 36
Technical writing error ............................................................................................ 37
Literal translation ....................................................................................................... 38
Lack of references .................................................................................................... 40
Problem arising from learners ................................................................................ 41
How the English Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta students solve the difficulties in writing academic essays........ 42
Cognitive strategy ..................................................................................................... 42
Taking note strategy ................................................................................................. 44
Memorizing strategy................................................................. 46
Social strategy............................................................................. 47
Revising and editing strategy...................................................... 50
Internal strategy.......................................................................... 51

Chapter Five .............................................................................. 53
Conclusion.................................................................................... 53
Recommendation.......................................................................... 54

References.................................................................................... 56

Appendix