

Two

Literature review

In this chapter, the researcher writes some essential studies from the previous research, books, and also journal articles related to this research. In this literature review, it composes writing, writing essay, students' challenges and strategies in writing essay, and review of related studies. In the last of chapter two, the researcher also puts the conceptual framework.

Writing

Writing is related to the students in college or university level. Robertson (2014) mentioned that basically writing is what someone has to do for their own assignment. According to Ahmed (2010), Writing is assigned for someone who is studying or planning to study and has to write essays. Based on the statement mentioned, writing is kind of writing which is done as a tool to learn how to make essay. Writing is a process of putting an idea and using deductive reasoning, formal language, and third person's point-of-view. Writing is a window what students can do in the larger domain of discourse (Darus & Subramaniam, 2009). From the point mentioned, writing is seen as a window for students in bigger field of intellectual communication which students can write their ideas in the form of written document. Writing will be dealt among cognition, the content, the genre, writing strategies and the students' conception of the writing process (Robertson, 2014). Therefore, in writing, the students' critical thinking and analytical thinking

are really needed. As the reason, they must put their idea in the form of writing which is why their critical thinking and analytical thinking are really needed.

Writing is one of important skills in English language skill. According to Eyinda and Shariff (2010), writing is considered as the most important language skill which the students require for their personal development and academic success. The statement mentioned was in line with Farooq(2012) who stated that writing strengthens the students' learning, thinking, and reflecting on the English language in their academic performance. In addition, Ahmed (2010) noted that competence in writing helps the students perform well in their academic programs. Moreover, being proficient in writing English will enable the students to be professional to take the action as the researchers in the future. Regarding the statement mentioned, it implies that the learners should be helped to acquire skills that will enable them to express their ideas clearly and effectively in writing. Besides, writing is divided into three parts such as descriptive writing, expository writing, and narrative writing. For more detailed information, each part of writing is explained in the following paragraphs.

Descriptive writing. The primary purpose of descriptive writing is to describe a person, place or thing in such a way in which a picture is formed in the reader's mind. Capturing an event through descriptive writing involves paying close attention to be detailed in using all of your five senses. Descriptive writing has a unique power and appeal as it evokes the sight, smell, sound, texture, and taste.

Expository writing. Expository writing is a type of oral or written discourse which is used to explain, describe, give, or inform the information. The creator of an expository text can not assume that the readers or listeners have prior knowledge or prior understanding of the topic being discussed. One important point to keep in mind for the author is to try to use words which clearly show what they talk about rather than blatantly telling the reader what is being discussed. Clarity requires strong organization, and one of the most important mechanisms which can be used to improve everyone's skill in writing in exposition is to provide directions to improve the organization of the text.

Narrative writing. A narrative writing is the story (fiction or non-fiction) told and the order in which it is told. There is a narrator, a character or series of characters, and the one who tells the story. Sometimes, most non-fiction Narrative writing is important in people's day-to-day life. For the rest of people's life, they will write texts, e-mails, cover letters, or blogs. Narrative writing is fiction and non-fiction (and even poetry) which tells others the stories of everyone's personal experiences and allows other people to gain empathy and sympathy about the world around the life.

Writing Essay

Writing essay is one of academic product which emphasizes in one subject. According to Oxford dictionary (2011), essay is "a short piece of writing on one subject" (p.150). Muriungi (2013) stated that an essay is an organized discussion of subject in series of paragraph. That way, the researcher can conclude that essays are short pieces of writing which contains organized discussion of the

subject in the academic writing. Manian (2010) stated that an essay is a piece of writing consisting of few extensive paragraphs, and it discussed about one topic. Basically, essay is a part of academic writing. In essays, the writer discusses one topic in the writing context. In writing essay, there are some kinds of essay such as argumentative essay, comparison or contrast essays, and cause and effect essay. For more detailed information, each kind of writing essay is explained in the following paragraphs.

Argumentative Essay. Argumentative essay is the students' argument which needs expert support to defend their argument. Negari (2011) mentioned that an argumentative essay is an essay in which the writers agree or disagree with an issue using the reasons to support their own opinion. The aim of this essay is to convince the readers that someone's opinion is right. Argumentation is a kind of common essay because it makes the students think on their personal argument. Besides, they should take a defense on an issue, support their defense with understandable reasons, and support their reasons with strong evidence. The example of this essay is like in writing a thesis. In thesis, the students need to write their own words, and it will be supported by experts' word to depend and support their writing well.

Comparison Essay. In comparison essay, the students sometimes compare both similarities and differences. Pineteh (2014) found that the following comparison shows how the people or things are the same. A contrast paragraph shows how people or things are different, and it is usually to evaluate both of them. Besides, the comparison-contrast paragraph discusses both similarities and

differences. Comparison and contrast paragraph are very common model in the academic fields. Comparison and contrast essays aim to explain the similarities and the differences between two items. The example of this essay is like in writing a *skripsi* as well. In writing *skripsi*, the researchers compare the similarities and differences of their research with other researches.

Cause and effect essay. In this essay, the students want to know the causes of something. According to Robertson (2014), in a cause and effect essay, someone discusses the causes (reasons) for something, the effects (results), or both causes and effects. Cause and effect essays aim to identify why something happen and what happens as a result of the research. The cause and effect essay sometimes talks about the cause of something. Hence, the cause and effect essay is the writing on the scientific articles which talk about the triggers that cause something happen.

Students' Challenges and Strategies in Writing Essays

In writing the essay, the students also face a lot of challenges but also the students will find the proper strategies to overcome the challenges.

Formal language. The use of formal language sometimes makes the problems in writing essay because some students feel difficult to do it. In writing essay, the students must use formal language rather than informal language. Some students may feel hard to distinguish it. According to Pineteh (2014), the students often struggle to change from informal writing style which they often use to the formal academic style structurally. Besides, the students sometimes feel confused

how to write essay because they do not know how to change it. Robertson (2014) asserted that in writing essay, the students should make their logical thinking to be easy going, so they will not be confused to write in formal language.

In addition, reading book can be the strategies to overcome these challenges. By reading many kinds of literature, it can help the students to find out the best topic for their essay. Ghabol (2012) stated that by reading a lot of books, the students can find more topics to write an essay. Reading also can provide a lot of materials for writing some essays. Besides, the students could look through the textbook, course slides, handouts, and current periodicals for possible ideas. Therefore, the books become a source for the students to get a lot of word, so the students can learn more about formal words. Then, they can choose formal words to write the essay in formal way.

Grammar. The students who cannot master grammatical knowledge which sometimes cannot convey the meaning well. According to Weisi (2012), the lack knowledge of English grammar and unfamiliar word are assumed to be the deficiency of students to grasp overall message conveyed in the sentence. Considering to the essential of grammar leads to the important of writing strategy and metacognitive knowledge. The highest number of learners is the writing errors which were made in grammar in to their research (Fareed, Ashraf, & Bilal, 2016). In their study, the authors mentioned that grammatical errors included the errors of subject-verb agreement, tenses, forms of singular and plural, and others. The students who have bad grammatical knowledge will be difficult to differentiate between past tense and present tense, so they cannot write the essay

with good grammatical knowledge properly. Ahmed (2010) stated that in doing writing essay, the students who have good grammar can write essay whether they are not good enough students or not. Technical writing error and grammar mistake also become the common problems which are faced by students in writing academic essay. Alşabaeva (2011) said that one of the common mistakes that every student does is about grammar problems such as errors in grammar use and punctuation. Additionally, the students of the study expressed that their grammar of English is inadequate to make a good piece of writing (Sermsook, Liamnimitr, & Pochakorn, 2017). Besides, most of the students ignore the rules and instructions when they write the essay assignment. Therefore, the inappropriate grammar leads to misunderstanding communication when the readers read their work on writing.

In addition, the learners not only have grammatical problem but they also have problem of sentence structure. Fareed (2016) found that the students faced problems in writing including the incorrect use of preposition, articles, tenses, verb, and sentence structure. Besides, the students have less ability in structure organization because they often make a mistake in the content and comprehension of the paragraph. Also, the students do not know how to create a paragraph with well-structured sentences. In addition, what was meant by the students might differ with what they wrote. The statement mentioned was in line with Alfaki (2015) who stated the students who have the problem of writing in good structured sentences are unable to produce longer sentences requiring subordinate and coordination.

To overcome the challenges in writing essay, the students should have more strategies. Two of those strategies are reading books and having good grammatical knowledge. By reading many kinds of book, it can help the students to find out a lot of words and learn about grammar for their essay writing. Ghabol (2012) stated that the students can find more vocabularies and grammar by reading a lot of books to write an essay. Reading also can provide a lot of materials for writing some essays because if the students do reading books, they will get more knowledge in vocabulary size or grammatical knowledge. Therefore, the students can look through the textbook, course slides, handouts, and current periodicals for possible ideas. Those sources can provide the students to overcome the challenges in writing essay.

Paraphrasing. In writing, the students need to support their ideas with other theories, but it is also a problem for some students to do paraphrasing properly. According to Al-Shabanah (2005), the lecturers always complain about the lack of knowledge and particular skills which are needed for academic writing related to non-native speakers of English such as outlining, paraphrasing, and summarizing. Improper paraphrase can become a plagiarism. Norris (2016) mentioned that by doing wrong paraphrasing, it can be plagiarism, so plagiarism is considered as a terrible crime within the academic field. Thus, to avoid the plagiarism in writing essay, the students should pay more attention in taking someone's idea in their writing essay.

This challenge sometimes appears when students have decided to write or paraphrase citation. Besides, the students will need a lot of reading book, good

grammatical, good vocabulary size and high motivation in writing. By reading many books, the students can find out a lot of words and also learn about grammar for paraphrasing their essay. Ghabol (2012) stated that paraphrasing needs good grammatical knowledge and vocabulary, so the students can write the essay. Reading can provide good grammar and vocabulary, so the students will have source to do paraphrasing.

In addition, the students who have good grammatical knowledge and good vocabulary are external factors. There is another internal factor such as the strategy of writing which is about having high motivation. The students find motivation to start writing without any purpose like doing brainstorming on the paper. Meanwhile, motivation is one important aspect that students should have the most. Robertson (2014) stated that positive attitude and motivation are crucial for development in literacy and numeracy. The motivation does not always arise from internal, but the teachers who involve in teaching on writing should encourage the students' motivation by all means and on how teachers handle unmotivated students. Pineteh (2014) stated that in good strategy for writing, the students should have motivation to start writing without any regret.

Vocabulary. According to Norris (2016), the difficulties of writing often occur even the people who always do writing. Besides, the students who get difficulty in writing the essay lead to have the problem in vocabulary mastery. Farooq (2012) revealed that foreign language learners dislike the writing in the foreign language for having joy because of the language problem in short of lack fluency and vocabulary. Without mastering vocabulary, the students cannot

understand what they will write on the paper. The word choice is one of students' writing problem included in linguistic problem which inhibits the students' effective writing in English (Alfaki, 2015). The students usually find a lot of new words and they do not understand what the meaning of them. Furthermore, vocabulary is the most important aspect to understand the text because it can be the point of the text in understanding the difficult words. Adas and Bakir (2013) found that most of the students face the difficulty in organizing their ideas well because several the problems are the lack of both the adequate stock of English vocabulary and creativity in writing. Without knowing the meaning of word, the students are difficult to make the purposeful sentence for writing essay. In other word, it is hard for the students to put appropriate words in the appropriate place as well. If the students can carry out the proper diction for their writing task, the writing might be different from the others. Besides, it can measure the students' skill in writing performance. On the other hand, if the students have mistaken in selecting the words, their teacher as the reader might not have the impression in reading the students' work.

To avoid the challenges in writing, the students may need to improve their vocabulary size and reading books. Besides, the students should have reading habit in order they get knowledge about writing ability. For the reason, reading has beneficial for the students to learn how the writers put their idea into writing (Ahmed, 2016). Actually, reading literature in English such as newspapers or some academic books is suggested for the students in developing their writing skill. Also, it is used to enrich the vocabulary mastery so that the students are able

to improve writing skills by applying the new words in the book which they have read. Besides, Charles (2015) stated that reading back on the journal or assignment related to the courses can help the students to share their thought when joining the classroom activity.

Poor sentence knowledge also always becomes a problem for the students. Norris (2016) maintained that vocabulary mastery can help the students to achieve both reading and writing skills. The texts present outstanding opportunities for discussion and the entire journals can help students advance their writing skills since by mastering vocabulary, the students can look the sample of sentence structure, and perhaps, it can help them to improve their sentence knowledge for their own benefits to write structured essay. In students' writing, the students should have a lot of vocabularies to improve the content of writing. Ahmadi, Ismail, and Abdullah (2012) stated that vocabulary learning not only develop students spelling but also their writing proficiency. That way, expanding vocabulary knowledge of the students will overcome their error mistakes during writing process. Then, they not only use familiar words but also unfamiliar words usage applied in making the sentences to be looked different from the previous experience in writing task. Finding out the suitable journals for the vocabulary mastery to write essays is sometimes hard for students, and it becomes another problem in writing an academic essay. According to Adas and Bakir (2013), the journals exist for varying subject fields. If it is difficult to find a suitable one, the students should try to find out the journals which are suitable to conduct research.

Review of Related Studies

There are three studies related to this research which discuss about the difficulties in writing academic essays. Firstly, a study was carried out by Al-Khasawneh (2010). This research aimed to investigate the academic writing problems faced by postgraduate students of the Arab postgraduate students of the College of Business at University Utara Malaysia and provide the solutions to the problems occurred. This research conducted at the College of Business at University Utara Malaysia. The participants were postgraduate students of the Arab postgraduate students of the College of Business. This research used a qualitative design as methodology. The researcher used semi-structured interviews to the collect data. The result of this research found out that the students faced problems in relation to vocabulary register, organization of ideas, grammar, spelling, andreferencing.

Secondly, the research was conducted by Pineteh (2014). This research purpose was to investigate the academic writing challenges faced by undergraduate students. Besides, the researcher also investigated why the students were challenged by academic writing. This research used qualitative approach to collect the data. The participants came from both students and lectures. The findings of this research revealed that academic writing challenges faced by students were consequences of students' linguistic and general literacy background.

Thirdly, the research was conducted by Nyasimi (2014). The purpose of this study was to investigate challenges faced by the students in learning essay writing

skill in English language in secondary school. This research conducted in Manga district, Nyamira County, Kenya. The research conducted a descriptive survey research design. The target population was English language teachers and three students in Manga district. Stratified random sampling and purposive sampling techniques were used in selecting the sample for the study. Thus, a sample of 180 students and 10 teachers of English language were used as the respondents of the study. The data was collected by using the questionnaire for students, interview schedule for teachers, and an essay writing test for students. The results also showed that most of the students did not frequently use interactive learning strategies. In the view of the finding, it was established that teaching methods and learning strategies used by both teachers and students influenced the learning of L2 writing skill.

The similarity of all researches which have been done about students' difficulties in writing academic essays used qualitative method. Those researches have the same method which is used by the researcher in conducting this current study so that the researcher can adopt the methodology from those researches. The differences between the researcher's study and these three studies are from the participants. The difference lies in the level of education of the students which include in postgraduate, undergraduate and secondary school students. The participants of the first study are postgraduate students, the second participants of the other related study are undergraduate students, and the third participants of other related study are secondary school students.

Conceptual Framework

Writing is aimed to develop the ideas through thinking on how to elaborate them into statements and build the paragraphs which will be received by the readers. This writing activity is usually called writing essay which is one of activity that students have to do and many actions implemented in every different place and situations. At ELED of a private university in Yogyakarta, one of the writing used is essay. Essay has flexible questions which ask the students to describe something clearly. Therefore, before writing essay, the students need to have knowledge about the topic in order to be able to explain the topic using their own words. The contents of every student's essay are different, but the meaning and structure are the same.

The aims of this study are to investigate ELED students' problem in writing essay and the strategies that ELED students will conduct to overcome the problem in writing essay. These problems mentioned are also faced by ELED students of a private university in Yogyakarta. The following chart is to simplify the concept of the research.

Figure 1



