

Chapter One

Introduction

This chapter elaborates on the researcher's purpose to conduct this research. The first point is background of the research. It discusses the reason why the researcher wants to investigate students' perception in the use of writing English short story. Secondly, this chapter explains about statement of the problem and limitation of the research. Then, this chapter tells about the research questions. Also, there will be the research objectives as well. Research objectives presents about the specific things that the researcher will investigate. In the last part of this chapter, the researcher mentions the organization of the research.

Background of the Research

In the English language, there are four basic skills divided into two categories which are namely receptive skills and productive skills. Reading and listening are considered receptive skills whereas speaking and writing are considered as productive skills (Javed, Juan & Nazli, 2013). However, writing is always the last to master after speaking, listening, and reading skills. Although writing is always the last, it does not mean that writing is not important in English. Writing all the elements of language skills needs concentration in order to achieve a really good result. If students practice writing often, their writing knowledge will increase. They will decrease their errors and their structure in writing. Students should practice more to increase their writing skills.

In general, especially for Indonesian students, writing is probably the most difficult skill to master in language learning. Not only difficult to understand, but

writing skill in English is also more complicated than speaking, reading, and listening skills. Consequently, students will identify the skill of writing as more difficult than listening and reading (Cole & Feng, 2010). Writing is the skill that most students are least proficient in when acquiring a new language (Nesamalar, Saratha & Teh, 2001).

In writing skill, students have to understand spelling, vocabulary, sentence structure and grammar. Students may face problems in writing every sentence if they do not understand about spelling and grammar. Sometimes students can speak English fluently but they did not understand how to write a short story. Elander, Harington, Norton, Robinson, and Reddy (2006) stated that in the process of writing, students should be well organized to manage a story to be meaningful. If they have a lack of grammar, the story that they make will be hard to understand. Furthermore, writing short stories can discipline the writing that they create, and acts as a practice to organize sentence structures to harmonize the spelling and grammar.

One of the ways to increase writing skills is to write English story. Some kinds of short story are narrative, and story about their experiences or weekly journals. When writing English short stories, students need the imagination to find the idea. Tuan (2010) stated that writing can assist students to develop their creativity (as cited in Spaventa, 2000, p.168). Students could write short story based on their creativity and write anything about their feelings. Writing short story helps students to think creatively because when making a story they would need to exercise their creativity.

In writing short story students should consider other aspects such as settings, issues, resolutions, and points of view. In reality, some were less interested in writing. Students think that writing short story makes them bored and consider it as a waste of time. In the other hand, writing English short story help them to give their opinion and their feel on the story. They can share the story on the blog or website on the internet, then they can entertain the readers.

Based on the researcher observation, many students of the English Language Education Departement of an Islamic Private University have been writing English short stories. There were lecturers who use short story in teaching activities to increase students' writing skills. In the English Language Education Departement of an Islamic Private University, a lecturer used story bird to give the score for students. Story bird is web page to write stories, read the stories, and students can choose kinds of story such as short story and long story. In story bird, students can create short or long stories based on their creativity. This is proven by the students who took the course "Innovative Technology". In that course, a lecturer will ask the students to make English short stories through the storybird. Zakaria, Yunus, Nazri, Shah (2016) indicated ttory bird is one of digital storytelling applications or sites which have gained milliions users to write and read the story. Storybird allows its users to collaborate and share literacy talent across the globe. Therefore, the researcher wants to find out students perception in the use of writing English short stories.

One of the most common problems is to find the content of writing short story. In short story, students have to think about the elements that should exist in

the story. The elements such as setting, characters, and conflict. Students should develop their ideas to become an interesting story. Based on a researcher's observation, sometimes students do not finish their story and decided to make another story. The researcher has to observe this problem from the application "Wattpad". Rehora and Fianzola (2018) defined wattpad is a community for readers and writers to publish the stories in different genres, including classics, general fiction, historical fiction, non-fiction, poetry, fanfiction, spiritual, humor, and teen fiction. It is web and as mobile app on which people can add comments in the story. Some authors do not focus on one story or they deleted their story and make a new story because they stop on some paragraphs. The implementation of writing English short stories may involve benefits and difficulties. With the background, the purpose of the study is to determine students' perception on the use of writing English short stories.

Statement of the Problem

In this era, students can express their feelings, their stories or experiences and opinions in various ways. They can write on blogs, captions on Instagram or website on the internet to share it. There are two problems when students wrote English short stories. Finding the idea of the paragraph is a difficult problem for students. Students should develop their imagination and attain inspiration to continue the story. Based on the observation of the researcher, when students write stories they face the problem to continue to other paragraphs. Students run out of ideas to explore more of the story because they are stuck in some paragraphs as they experience a lack of imagination when writing short stories.

Another problem that students face is grammar and developing sentences. Students should be able to organize and manage the sentences because the arrangement of sentences in English is different from the arrangement of sentences in Indonesian. If students can organize and understand grammar, their stories can be meaningful and easy to understand. Based on these problems, the researcher would like to investigate the benefits of writing English short stories. Then students would be able to carry out the difficulties that students face when they write English short stories.

Limitation of the Problem

This research focuses on the use of writing English short story. The researcher limited the research as the following: firstly, the researcher wanted to investigate the benefits to use English short stories, and; secondly, the researcher also wanted to find out difficulties that students get from writing English short stories.

Research Questions:

Based on the background of the research above, there are two research questions addressed in this research:

1. What are the benefits of practicing writing English short stories?
2. What are challenges do the students get from writing English short stories?

Objectives of the Research:

Based on the problem stated in the research questions, the objectives of this research were:

1. To investigate the benefits of writing English short stories.
2. To investigate the challenges of writing English short stories.

Significance of the Research

The researcher hopes that this research will give benefits to everyone. There are many benefits of the study in many aspects.

The students. The result of this research gives information, knowledge and ideas for students to use writing English short story. This is can be the opportunities for students who would improve their writing skills. Besides, writing English short story could be a habit for students to improve their writing skill. Students would get more knowledge from the journal articles.

The lecturers. This research helps the lecturers to be more aware of the benefits and difficulties to practice writing English short stories. Lecturers could consider using short stories based on both sides. This research delivers a solution to the problems with using short stories. This study can give benefits for lecturers to make writing English short stories become one of the ways to improve students' writing skills.

Other researchers. The other researchers can use the findings of this research as the theoretical overview of further research on the same topic and might become recommendation of further research. Therefore, by conducting this research, it can also encourage the researchers to conduct the researches related to the same area of this research.

Outline of the Research

This research consists of five chapters and each chapter contains sub-chapters. In first chapter, the researcher would like to elaborate on the introduction which consists of the background, statements of the problem, and limitations of the problem. This chapter also explains about the research questions to aid the researcher to attain data. In addition, this chapter also discusses the objectives of the research, significance of the research and the outline of the research.

The second chapter discusses about literature review and the theories related to skills on writing short stories. There are several contents that are discussed in chapter two. The researcher will explain more about the definition of writing, the process of writing, the problem students get in writing, the definition of short story and the types of short story.

In chapter three, this research presents the methodology for the research. This part explores the methodology to collect data and also discusses the research design, research setting, research participant, data collection method, and data analysis. Chapter four presents the findings and the discussion of the research. There are three findings presented by the researcher. The first is related to the use of writing English short stories on students' writing skills. The researcher explains the first finding from interviewing participants. The second finding is related to the use of writing English short stories on students' writing skills, the researcher obtained this finding from the individual interview with the participants. The last one is related to the difficulties in writing English short stories. The researcher attained this finding from the individual interviews from the participants. Chapter

five will present two parts. Firstly, the conclusion will explain the results of the study. Secondly, the recommendations will elaborate on some suggestions to use writing English short stories to improve students' writing skill.