

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction parts of the research with the elaboration as follows; the background of the research, the statement of the problem, the objective of the research, the significance of the research, the scope of the research and the operational definition.

1.1 Background of the Research

Writing has largely attracted the attention of researchers as being a crucial skill that contributes in learning any language, and without which further education may be largely impossible (Shangarfan, & Mamipour 2011). However, people consider writing as the hardest skill among the other skills even though it is writing in their mother tongue, means the difficult of writing is also faced by the native of the language itself. As what stated that hundreds of second or foreign language learners, even natives, have their difficulties in writing skills, since it is one of the most significant problems that faced by them (Jimenez, Mira & Rodriguez, 2013).

The difficulty of writing is also faced by Indonesian EFL students. Before conducting this research, the researcher conducted preliminary interview with some students in order to know a brief of students' proficiency in writing. Based on the interview, it is known that they actually feel difficult to produce a writing. Most of students are doubting their grammar and vocabulary mastery. When they are asked to make a writing, they really concern about grammar and word choices. This condition is also proven when some of them still have to write in Bahasa first, before translate it into English. It is quite apprehensive, because translating from another language to English may trigger the errors. As what has been researched by Phuket (2015, p. 99) in Thai university that "the mostly frequent types of errors were translated words from Thai, word choice, verb tense, preposition, and comma". Some students also told about their other difficulty which is bringing out the idea in to a paragraph.

It is important to recognize the difficulties faced by the students, so that they can fix it to improve their writing skills and achieve better achievement of writing. Being well in writing matters a lot, since it can lead to the better academic performance in education (Abderraouf, 2016). Besides, students' achievement in writing contributes very well to the development of English Language Teaching (ELT) in Indonesia (Abbas, 2017)

Therefore, the main point of this study is finding the difficulties faced by the EFL students, particularly students of English Education Department of Muria Kudus University, and the errors they usually made. The researcher conducted the research in paragraph writing class, as it can be used to see the writing of the students which then be analyzed to know the two points above.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the research above, the statements of the problem can be formulated as follow:

1. What are the difficulties faced by the second semester students of English Education Department 2018/2019 in writing English?
2. What are the errors found in the English writing performance of second semester students of English Education Department 2018/2019?

1.3 Objective of the Research

Based on the statements of the problems written above, this research aims to:

1. Find out the difficulties faced by second semester students of English Education Department 2018/2019 in order to make English writing.
2. Identify and analyze the errors made by second semester students of English Education Department 2018/2019 in their English writing.

1.4 Significance of the Research

By conducting this research, the researcher hopes that this research will be beneficial theoretically and practically.

Theoretically, it is hoped that this research can be used as one of the references by the future researcher who will conduct the research related to English writing.

Practically, the researcher hopes that this research can give information to the teachers or lecturers about difficulties in writing English faced by EFL students, so that they can recognize the difficulties of their students earlier, or anticipate if the difficulties will also be faced by their students, by finding the solution. Besides, for the students who may read this research, particularly EFL students, the researcher hopes that it can give them a lot of information related to the problem discussed, and if they have the same difficulties, hopefully this research will help them to find the solution.

1.5 Scope of the Research

This research took place in University of Muria Kudus, particularly in English Education Department, during the even semester period of 2018/2019 (around February to June 2019). The participants of this research is the second semester students of English Education Department, who got the Paragraph Writing course in this even semester.

Moreover, this research discusses about the difficulties in writing English faced by the students and the errors that the students made on their writing.

1.6 Operational Definition

Avoiding misunderstanding, some terms are defined as follow:

1. EED Students means the second semester students of English Education Department who are currently registered in Paragraph Writing class.
2. Passages means the writing performance of the students who are registered in Paragraph Writing class.