

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the six-terms of subchapters of the study. Those are the background of the study, the problem of the study, the objectives of the study, the significance of the study, the limitation of the study, and the definition of the key terms.

A. Background of the Study

Writing English is a good skill for the students. It allows the students the opportunity to improve their motivation and critical thinking to learn some aspects of academic writing such as using effective word expression and strong vocabulary. They can arrange the paragraphs using a strong word structure style, paraphrasing, and corresponding conjunctions. The students face various problems such as spelling words correctly or how to develop their arguments to create a good academic journal.¹

Some of the students think that writing is a difficult skill to learn. Several components that caused the students to think that writing is a difficult skill to learn such as hold spelling and punctuation, comprehensive grammar commands, usage of the right vocabulary, the style that is suitable for meeting the expectations of the reader and expected organizational capability.² It makes most of the students have little interest in writing, especially in academic writing.

Nunan explained that writing can be the most challenging skill needed by language learners.³ Most of the EFL students have a challenge in writing skills. Thus, Daoud & Al-Hazmi claimed that non-English speakers must be adapted the processes, elements and features such as formality, objectivity and using the appropriate and accurate language.⁴

Academic journals are room to explore a lot of ideas, opinions, and knowledge in academic words in where this is a reason for the scientific community to find that academic journal is a significant role in the eighteenth century. ⁵Therefore, academic

¹ Iman, Muwafaq Muslim. Baghdad, "Helping EFL Students Improve Their Writing", *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, Vol 4 No 2 (2014), 105.

² Botley & Hakim, "Argument Structure In Leaner Writing: A Corpus-Based Analysis Using Argument Mapping", *Kajian Malaysia*, Vol. 32 No 1 (2014).

³ Nunan, *Practical English Language Teaching*. Singapore : McGraw Hill. , (2003).

⁴ Daoud & Al-Hazmi, "Teaching Writing Through Reflection and Thinking", *Paper present at the Tesol Arabia Conference*, (2002).

⁵ Sureepong Phothongsunan, "Thai University Academics' Challenges of Writing for Publication in English", *Theory and Practice in Language Studies*, Vol. 6, No. 4, (2016), 683.

publications are an important one in language education to write journal articles to publish to ensure and maintain academic position.

Publishing article writing is assigned to the students to settle their degree or their lecturer's assignment. Some universities in Indonesia have a regulations regarding publishing the students' writing articles. Therefore, the students should understand more and have good knowledge about how to create a high-quality article to publish. This is a big challenge for native and non-native students, especially for the students of English as a foreign language. It is possible for EFL students getting difficulties in learning and exploring their idea in writing. They may feel hard to write a paragraph that is the basis for competency in writing.

The students have to publish research articles to accomplish their degree. Moreover, academic writing is important for current need and their future career.⁶ Therefore, they should learn more about writing for publication. It is because writing for publication is a different skill than writing a good course paper.

According to Moldovan, academic writing for publication is a different skill from writing a good course paper. Some of the students assume that they know how to write as many writes well enough for high school purposes.⁷ The way they have been writing at high schools is different from the way they are expected to write at university. Sometimes, it makes them lose their confidence in their ability in writing. Although academic writing at a university is a difficult task, it plays a critical role in socializing students into the academic discourse of subjects and disciplines.⁸

Research and academic publication are the most important criteria for university ranking. We know that many universities have determined the pressure of publishing on their academic staff, especially the publication journal of a research article in international peer-review journals. Academic writing for research publications takes place throughout the world, involving, according to a recent account, 5.5 million scholars, 2.000 publishers and 17.500 research / higher education institutions leading to

⁶ Ratnawati, didih, F & Syafiul, A, "Exploring Academic Writing Needs of Indonesian EFL Undergraduate Students", *Arab World English Journal (AWEJ)*, Vol 9 No 4 (2018), 421.

⁷ Moldovan, C, "Writing A Scientific Paper in English-Challenges and Common Errors", *Revista Romana de Medicina de Laborator*, Vol 19 No 4, (2011). 391.

⁸ Tuck, J. "Feedback-Giving As Social Practice: Teachers, Perspectives On Feedback As institutional Requirement, Work And Dialogue", *Teaching in Higher Education*, Vol.17 No 2 (2012), 211.

many scholars whose first language is not English, which now uses English for publication purposes.⁹

Research that conducted by Ummu Arifatul finds that some of the postgraduate students have low competence in their English language skill. The quality of their article writing is sometimes poor. Some of the students have a lot of problems when they do their academic assignments like critical review, paraphrase exercise, summaries, papers, scholarly articles, journals etc. The other aspects that make it difficult are literacy perspective, knowledge, and technical aspect of writing, characteristic of language and the difference of linguistic and cultural background. Moreover, the other challenges are discursive challenges and non-discursive challenges. Discursive challenges are language and context as like paragraph, grammar, vocabulary, citation, making references. Non-discursive related exclusive factors, as plagiarism, motivation, emotion, and psychological factors. Thus, the students must have a good understanding and knowledge of scientific publications such as books, research articles, and academic journals.¹⁰

There are some strategies to improve the students' writing skills. The students should be improved their knowledge. The teachers have to train the students to be a critical thinker. The teachers teach the students how to brainstorm ideas to minimizing their problems in academic writing. They may use outlines before writing their topic, and apply three main stages (planning, writing, and editing). It can help the writers to be successful in academic writing.

The learning of academic writing skills can be done by reading in one's subject areas and developing awareness of how various types of texts are structured. During classes, students need to write to learn, take notes, study, think and process their ideas to integrate new ones. Moreover, students need to do writing tasks because this is how they are assessed. In order for students to succeed in academic writing and to immerse themselves in a language learning environment, they have to be equally competent in academic reading and writing.

The students should read some books and journals that are valuable sources to enrich their academic vocabulary and expression knowledge. So, it makes easier for them to apply their opinion and idea to create their article writing. We know that reading

⁹ Lilis, T., & Curry, M. J. [Review of the book *Academic writing in global context: The politics and practices of publishing in English*], (2010).

¹⁰ Umu, Arifatul, A & Asep, Budiman, "Challenges In Writing Academic Papers for International Publication Among Indonesian Graduates Students", *Jeels*, Vol 4 No 2 (2017), 175.

material could be an important role in improving learners' writing. In other words, they will be familiar with different writing style, the structure, and the other various genres.¹¹

And the other way, teacher gives them some samples of excellent journals and guided discussion with the students to increase their critical thinking and how to transfer other word to own word. Some of the students find difficult to transfer other words to their word. They feel unconfident with their capability in writing academic journal. Therefore, the strategy can be a good solution for them to improve their academic writing using their own word.

Then, the other strategy is following some workshops or training of writing for international publication. They can get much knowledge about how to write a good academic journal to publish. The students will have a basic knowledge to write academic writing. They have experience with how to create a good academic journal from professional teachers in academic writing.

Students faced several problems in writing article for publication above to make the researcher choose the topic that talking about EFL Postgraduate students' challenges and strategies in writing article for Publication Postgraduate Students in IAIN Kediri. The researcher wants to know the postgraduate students' challenges and the how best strategies to solve the problem in writing article for publication. It is conducted in English department postgraduate IAIN Kediri because they have published their article writing in a book by the title "Anthology of ELT Research Review".

Umu Arifatul Azizah & Asep Budiman has done research about *Challenges in Writing Academic Papers for International Publication Among Indonesian Graduates Students*. The research reveals that claiming knowledge was the most difficult aspect in writing the article. Moreover, the students agree that writing for publication is considered as a crucial action in the academic field.¹² Academic publications are becoming important for those in language education to write for research article to secure or keep an academic position. Some challenges faced by the student in Academic writing. There are some problems in writing aspects including content, organization, vocabulary, grammar, and mechanics.¹³ Their reasons in experiencing these problems are not only

¹¹ Ibtisam, Ali, "Academic writing difficulties of ESL Learning". *WEI International Academic Conference Proceeding*, (2015), 65.

¹² Ummu, Arifatul & Asep. *Challenges in Writing Academic Papers for International Publication Among Indonesian Graduates Students*. *Jeels*, 4(2), (2017), 172.

¹³ Sarah Al-Mukdada, "Investigating English Academic Writing Problems Encountered by Arab International University Students", *Theory and Praticice in Language Studies*, Vol 9 No 3, (2019)

limited knowledge of writing aspects and comparison and contrast essay itself, but also they had own personal reasons;¹⁴ lack of writing practice, writing dislike, writing anxiety, negative writing perception, low writing motivation, insufficient time given in writing test, and also inadequate teaching writing process taught by their lecturers.¹⁵ Finally, it needs some strategies to solve the problems.

As a result, based on the theoretical explanation and the problem above, the researcher decides to conduct a study entitled “The Challenges and Strategies in Writing Article for Publication of Postgraduate Students in IAIN Kediri”.

B. Research Question

Based on the background of the study, the statement of the research question as follows:

1. What are the challenges faced by the EFL postgraduate students in Writing Article for Publication?
2. What are the EFL Postgraduate Students’ strategies in Writing Article for Publication?

C. Research Objectives

Considering the research question above, the researcher has the objective of the study:

1. To investigate the challenges in writing article for Publication of EFL postgraduate Students in IAIN Kediri.
2. To know the EFL postgraduate students’ strategies in writing article for Publication.

D. Significance of the Study

This study is expected to give the contributions for the teacher, students, and researcher:

1. For teachers

¹⁴ Ibid, 425.

¹⁵ Rostanti, Toba, “The Current Issues of Indonesian EFL Students’ Writing Skills: Ability, Problem, and Reason in Writing Comparison and Contrast Essay”, *Dinamika Ilmu*, Vol. 19 No 1, (2019), 56..

The research finding of this study is expected to be useful to the teachers. The teachers help the students to trained and give them motivation to write academic writing. The teacher can support and guide the student in writing.

2. For students

The research finding of this study is expected to give more knowledge to the students to improve their writing ability. They more understand deeply how to make academic writing and it will benefit for them in their future.

3. For future researcher

This study is expected to give some information and experience related to academic writing to publish, so they are expected to conduct be better research.

E. Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study focused on EFL Students' strategies and the challenges of postgraduate students in Writing Article for Publication postgraduate Students in IAIN Kediri in the fourth semester. The article has been published in a book by Rahmani Nur Indah with the title "Anthology of ELT Research Review". The book was published in Malang, 2020. The researcher uses narrative frame and interviews to find the data. This research is limited to focus EFL students' in Postgraduate' challenges and strategies in Writing article for Publication postgraduate Students in IAIN Kediri.

F. Definition of Key terms

To avoid the misunderstanding of some terms used by the researcher, the key terms are defined as follow:

1. Postgraduate Article Writing, the researcher focuses on the process of the postgraduate student's experience when writing their article for publication process from start to finish.
2. Challenge of writing article is the students' problems when writing their articles to publish.
3. Writing article is conveying information and explore a lot of idea, opinions, and knowledge in academic words.

4. Article for Publication is the act of making an article to distribute to the public in national or international publication which it can be read or otherwise visually perceived.
5. Strategy is a high-level plan or problem solving to achieve one or more goals and achieve success in writing article.