

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer presents the background, the problems, the objectives, and the significances of the study. The writer also provides scope and limitation of the study and the definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Study

The core of communication of all people over the world is language. This is evidenced by people that use language to interact in daily activity. The major language that has become global language and widely used around the world is English. Crystal (1997) stated that language can be made the official language of a country, to be used as a medium of communication in such domains as government, the law courts, the media, and the educational system. In Indonesia, students have Indonesian as mother tongue/the first language. However, the importance of English as the global language is recognized since it has become the primary subject at school and become the second language in Indonesia.

As foreign learners, this is difficult part of Indonesian students to master another language that is rarely used in their daily activity. The process of students to acquire the second language is studied in the field of second language acquisition. In studying the second language, students will experience some undeniable obstacles. As mentioned by Ellis (1992), students tend to produce errors in both comprehension and production. That

is a normal condition, if students make errors while learning the second language especially learning English. Those errors performed by students show the process of acquiring the second language, so that the errors should be analysed carefully. Moreover, this condition will provide the teacher's assumption of how far students progress in learning English as the second language.

The difficult part for foreign learners such as Indonesian students is to master four skills engaged in learning English. One of the most complicated skills to learn is writing. Nunan (2003) defined writing as the process of thinking to pour ideas, thinking about how to put the expression into good writing, and arranging the ideas into statement and paragraph clearly. In accordance with the definition, students are expected to be able to explore and represent their ideas by describing them into a good paragraph. As a tool of communication, the written language also plays the important role to connect people over the world. To create good grammatical and meaningful texts, it certainly requires great skill of writing. However, writing skill cannot be acquired constantly as stated in Elhabiri (2013), it is one of skill that needs to study and practice a lot because writing needs longer time in process, deep thought, and understanding to develop interesting idea.

Some studies (Maley, 2009; Chappel, 2011) explained the importance of writing sustainably which can help to express someone's

personality. Furthermore, students' communication skill can be improved by writing. Writing provides students the directions to learn all the rules of their language and the ways students are able to arrange their thoughts more comprehensible using the language. Moreover, writing is assumed to be able in enhancing students' creativity. It means when students express the ideas which exist on their minds and reflect them through writing, students can create free and productive ways of exploring the situation around them. The third reason of the importance of mastering writing skill is because writing is essential to academic success. Teaching and learning writing remains so important for all stages that writing has become the subject in language major. The output of learning writing during learning will be portrayed on the final assessment after finishing the study. It is regarded as one of the most important requirements that student must be able to earn excellent grades, to finish study, and to fulfill the requirement of getting certain degree.

Writing product which is popularly known in the field of language learning is essay. Essay is a piece of writing several paragraphs long, not just one or two paragraphs (Oshima and Hogue, 1991). Essay is usually written based on someone's point of view in arguing something. In university level, students are taught intensively to create good essay in Essay Writing course. Essay writing course is the best stage for students in learning process and to increase their ability in writing. This is also a good

stage to evaluate students competence in writing and to see the development of their ability.

Making errors is common for the foreign students. Errors that are performed by students in writing are also various in kinds. Dulay (1982) stated that students may not put the compulsory part, or they may add the unnecessary item to the sentence. Furthermore, students sometimes misform the items and write linguistics part in wrong order. Many studies proved that students often made errors in four linguistic components; those were error in morphology, syntax, lexicology, and semantic. (Yuliana, 2017; Sari, 2020; Nuraini, 2020).

A study of learners' errors is part of the systematic study of the learners' language which is necessary to an understanding of the process of second language acquisition. Teachers need to have such a knowledge if they want to make the development and improvement of the materials and techniques of language teaching. They have to know students progress in writing and looking from the errors that students made. Based on the reasons, the writer was motivated to do the research by exploring the errors made by students in order to see the development of students' essay writing during a semester. Therefore, the writer decided to conduct the research entitled *The Analysis of Students' Writing Development of English Department Students of IAIN KEDIRI*.

B. Problems of the Study

Based on the background stated above, the writer formulated one problem of study to be discussed, that is “How is the development of students’ writing skill in the third semester of English Department Students in IAIN Kediri?”

C. Objectives of the Study

The objective of study was aimed to answer the problem of the study. Based on the problem, this study was intended to describe and explain the development of students’ writing skill in the third semester of English Department Students in IAIN Kediri.

D. Significances of the Study

This study was conducted to explore the development of students’ writing in the third semester of English Department Students in IAIN Kediri by observing the errors occurred in their essays during a semester. The findings were expected to give some contribution in education field theoretically and practically as described below :

1. Theoretical Significance

This study was expected to give clear explanation to the readers about error analysis strategy that was used by the writer to explore the errors made by English Department students of IAIN Kediri in writing essay during a semester. Knowing the theory of error analysis is

necessary to give understanding of the process of second language acquisition.

2. Practical Significances

a. For the students

Through the analysis process of this study, students are expected to be more careful in doing writing assignments. Students can evaluate themselves after they know what errors they have made. The outcome of this study can be used to examine the students' development in writing essay during a semester, therefore the students can improve their writing skill by evaluating the errors made in every essay.

b. For the teachers

This study will give teachers insight and may help them to understand students' writing competence. Teachers can realize whether their teaching in writing is totally applied by students or not. As an evaluation, they can improve their teaching in writing, motivate and assist students to improve their writing.

c. For the next researchers

The study is expected to be able to give understanding in the field of linguistics especially in the second language acquisition area. The future researchers can use this study as the reference of

the research they will conduct and develop the research by observing other objects.

E. Scope and Limitation

Based on the background of the study, this study was arranged to explore the development of students in writing essay during a semester. The object chosen in this study was the essays written by English Department students of IAIN Kediri in the third semester during the school year of 2021-2022. In order to focus on the specific problem, the writer limited the study in analysing the grammatical errors made by students in writing four essays during a semester and also in classifying the categories of errors found in the essays.

F. Definition of Key Terms

In order to avoid the misunderstanding about the definition of unfamiliar words, the writer presented a brief definition of key terms which were related to this study as follows :

- Development

Development is the process of growing or changing and becoming more advanced. It can also be defined as the improvement of a skill, ability, and quality.

- Error Analysis

Error analysis is a technique for identifying, classifying and systematically interpreting the unacceptable forms produced by someone learning a foreign language, using any of the principles and procedures provided by linguistics.

- Writing

Writing is a process of representing the ideas or thoughts by using the symbols, letters, and words which are combined as the medium of communication.

- Essay

Essay is a written piece that is designed to present an idea, propose an argument, express the emotion or initiate debate.