

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consist of background, research question, objective of the research, significant of the research and key terms definition.

1.1 Background

Academic writing is a writing activity people, especially students, often carrier out, either to fulfill assignments or to report the results of an activity. According to Karim and Mursitama (2015:6), academic writing was a product that showed the quality of one's learning. Meanwhile, Nugraheni (2017:121) argued that academic writing is a written work that contained the presentation of a scientific discussion. Writing academic texts was an academic activity that aimed to produce academic writing.

Writing a research proposal is a concise and coherent summary of the proposed research. It described the main issues or questions it intended to address. According to Sugiyono (2013), writing a research proposal was a guide that contained various activities and systematic steps that a researcher would follow to examine an object. Meanwhile, Hasnun Anwar (2004:73), defined proposal writing as a plan aimed at carrying out a certain activity. Keraf (2001:302) stated that writing a research proposal is a request or recommendation addressed to another party to carry out an activity or work.

The research title is the main element that determined the content of the proposal, so it was important to make the proposal title relevant and interesting to ensure a positive impact on the submitted proposal. According to Alfian Rokhmansyah et al. (2018), the title of the proposal was the subject of discussion in a scientific work that could cover the entire content of the writing and answer questions about the problems to be discussed. Meanwhile, Haryanto (2000) stated that the research title was the head of the essay that would be written. According to Anas S. Machfudz (2010), the research title is a description of the level of depth and coverage of the research to be discussed or a description of the quality of the writing that would be worked on.

UKI Toraja students in the eighth semester followed a series of courses, one of which is the Research proposal. The Research Proposal is a compulsory course that last semester students had to take to properly train in research proposals for research activities needed to complete the course (Daniel et al., 2019: 80). The English education research proposal course was designed to train students and encourage them to innovate in writing scientific papers. This was indicated by the fact that most students in the English study program at UKI Toraja still had difficulty finding titles, writing their own ideas, and tended to quote existing proposals or those obtained from the internet, which impacted their ability to defend the proposal ideas they made.

From the results of observations that the researcher conducted by interviewing several students about the obstacles they faced, there were internal obstacles in the form of lack of motivation and enthusiasm to complete the final project promptly, such as delaying revisions to the proposal immediately after completing guidance with the supervisor. Obstacles resulting from external factors included the difficulty of finding literature or reference books. Students experienced difficulties if these obstacles could not be overcome.

The results of preliminary research showed that in the eighth semester of the UKI Toraja English study program, 20 students of the 25 total students still experienced obstacles. These obstacles needed to be analyzed to determine what difficulties occurred. The information provided in preparing a research proposal could help overcome the problems that caused students difficulty in finding a title. This research aimed to make it easier for students to compile research titles and identify the types, factors, and obstacles in determining research titles among students of the UKI Toraja English study program.

1.2 Research questions

Based on the background provided, this research aims to analyze the obstacles encountered by students in determining research titles. The research question is formulated as follows:

What are the obstacles faced by students of the English Study Program at UKI Toraja in determining research title?

1.3 Objective of the research

The objective of this research is to identify and analyze the obstacles faced by students of the English Study Program at UKI Toraja in determining their research titles.

1.4 Significance of the research

1). For researcher:

This research added to the scientific understanding of the obstacles in determining research titles, providing insights that could inform future studies and academic inquiries.

2). For the academic field:

The research served as a valuable contribution to the body of knowledge in the English Study Program and the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education at UKI Toraja. It offered insights that could enhance the academic discourse and improve support structures for students.

3). For students:

The findings provided useful information about the challenges students faced in preparing their final projects and theses. This information could help students anticipate and address these obstacles, allowing them to better prepare and plan before starting their research projects.

1.5 Research Methodology

In the research, the writer used a quantitative descriptive method to analyze the data. Quantitative data were presented in the form of numbers or extrapolated quantitative data (scoring), as described by Sugiyono (2015:23). The quantitative data for this study were collected using a questionnaire that contained a series of statements answered by respondents. The aim is to determine the obstacles faced by the English Study Program in determining the research title.

1.6 Key terms definition

The key terms definition are:

1. Obstacle is everything that hindered or obstructed individuals in their daily lives, causing challenges for them to achieve their goals.
2. Academic writing is a type of writing used in academia to present one's research or thoughts to the scientific community. Academic writing was usually written for publication in scientific journals or for presentation at scientific conferences.
3. The research title is a reflection of the content and purpose of the research being conducted, which was formulated from the research problem and was sufficiently clear and interesting to provide a global picture of the direction, purpose, objectives, and scope of the research.