

**Investigating the Difficulties of Writing an English Paragraph
Faced by the 5th Semester Students of English Education Study
Program of UIN Raden Fatah Palembang**

A Thesis

By

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English Education Study Program

Language and Arts Education Department



FACULTY OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION

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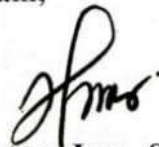
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I hereby declare that the thesis entitled:

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Was conducted independently and prepared without unjustifiable assistance. All quotes written and/or thoughts of others used in the thesis, either from published sources or not (including from books, journal, articles, lecture notes, assignments other students, and others), have been cited properly in accordance to the rules of academic standard and regulations.

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However, the writer realizes that this thesis is far from being perfect, so any criticisms, ideas and suggestions for improvement are greatly appreciated.

Palembang, April 2020

The writer,



Naurah Nazhifah

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**Investigating the Difficulties of Writing an English Paragraph Faced by
the 5th Semester Students of English Education Study Program of UIN
Raden Fatah Palembang**

ABSTRACT

This present study discussed about writing and the difficulties. There were 70 students of English Education Study Programs of UIN Raden Fatah in Palembang who participated in this study. This study was a quantitative-qualitative study. The data were collected by using writing test and interview. The method used in this study was mixed methods research. The findings showed that the ability of the 5th semester students of UIN Raden Fatah was average and there were aspects of writing which the students have difficulty with grammar, diction, organization, and mechanics. The findings also revealed that there were several causes why they encountered these difficulties such as lack of knowledge about grammar, limited vocabulary, less motivation, and etc.

***Keywords:** Writing Skill, Difficulties, Factors/Causes of Difficulties in Writing*

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes (1) background, (2) the problems of the study, (3) the objectives of the study, and (4) the significance of the study.

1.1 Background

English, as one of the international language, has been a bridge that connects people in the world through communication. Communication takes place not only orally, but also in writing. Writing has a great importance for a language because it plays an important role in the preservation of language realities (Sirbu, 2015). Through writing, someone can express something about themselves, explore and explain ideas (Sharples (1999) as cited in Fajri, Hambali, and Jaya (2015)). It lets people communicate through reading a written works such as; books, novels, magazines, comics, theses, papers, articles, newspaper, and more.

Written works that people have made will remain in the future especially works that are saved in libraries or digital libraries. Through written works, people will know a lot of information regarding everything that happens in the past, nowadays, and in the future (what will happen tomorrow, next month, or next year). The sources that the writer gets are mostly from journals and theses.

There are lots of journals and articles which are written in English by native speakers/non-native speakers of English. As the writer mentioned, it is a fact that people used written communication a lot by using English as a medium in presenting their ideas. Lots of people are known from their written works. They are David Crystal, William Shakespeare, Charles Dickens, Mark Twain, and Agatha Christie. In Indonesia, they are Hamka, Sutan Syahril Alisjahbana, Habiburrahman El Shirazy, and Ahmad Fuadi.

Leaving that aside, writing in English is not really common among most students except writing a thesis for the students who major in English study program to complete their study such as the writer herself and writing as a skill of English that students learn in senior high schools and junior high schools because “in Indonesia, English’s role is defined primarily by means of a conscious process

of language planning, rather than by linguistic evolution” (Crystal (2003) as cited in Lauder (2008, p.11)). English is learned as a foreign language and as a compulsory subject in senior/junior high schools but at the higher education like universities it is only taught to as an option lesson for other study programs other than English. English, in English study program, is taught focusing on four skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing). Each skill is taught specifically in series in different semester. Writing skill, at the English department of UNSRI, is taught at 2nd, 4th, 5th, and 6th semesters. In those semesters, lecturers in each class differed in the 2015 academic year, when the writer was registered as a student.

The writer as a student who major in English at the faculty of teacher training and education of Sriwijaya university has experienced the learning of writing in those semesters and the writer feels that while learning the skill in those semester because the skill is not taught by the same lecturer when she was learning the skill, the writer feels that it is not clear for her how to write well. The writer often feels reluctant in writing something because it seems that the writing might not be good in terms of the aspects of writing (grammar, diction, organization, and mechanics).The writer feels that writing skill is really tough to be mastered because it is not as simple as it seems.

According to Nunan (2003), writing is a physical and mental act in the matter of discovering ideas, thinking about how to communicate, developing them into statements and paragraphs that are easier for the reader to understand. Nunan (2003) also mentions that there are two purposes of writing which are to express and to impress. Writers must select the most advantageous medium for their writing. Each type has a different level of difficulty which is determined by its objectives. Writing, itself, is a process and also a product. The writer creates, plans, writes various drafts, revises, edits and publishes. Ploeger (2000) adds that “Writing is discovering what you know and feel about something, and writing is communicating that knowledge to your audience. Writing can be one of the hardest things you ever attempt to do, but writing can also be exhilarating and illuminating and rewarding” (p.xiii).

Besides, Klammer (1984) states that writing demands attention to details, careful organization, the correctness of language, and interesting and appropriate language. White and Arndt (2000) state that writing is not a simple matter of transcribing language into written symbols but it is a thinking process in its own rights. Therefore, there is a lot of thing that the writer needs to consider when writing something.

Valette (1997) claimed that out of the four language skills, writing might be considered the most complex. Judging from that statement, the writer agrees because based on her own experience in writing class. The writer is not good at almost every aspects of writing. Supported by two other statements which are stated by Humphreys (2003) and Richards (1990) as cited in Al-Gharabally (2015) that read “learning to write in L1 or L2 is extremely difficult. Even educated native speakers have difficulty on writing, hence the abundance of books on the subject” and “learning to write well is a difficult, lengthy process, one that induces anxiety and frustration in many learners.” (p.44)

Furthermore, based on many researches, there are findings which show that there is a difficulty in writing. The study done by Habibi, Wachyuni, and Husni (2017) showed that the students’ dominant problems were word choice and poor organization/illogical sequence. Keong and Mussa’s study(2015) show that the students were lacking vocabulary, making excessive grammatical mistakes and unable to paraphrase, poor in referencing, weak in organization and weak in expressing the ideas. Ibnian (2017) with the study entitled “Writing Difficulties Encountered by Jordanian EFL Learners” found that “lack of ideas” topped difficulties faced by Jordanian EFL students in writing, followed by “the incorrect use of mechanics of writing”, “lack of clear assessment instruments and marking schemes”, “time restriction”, “the unsuitable methods of teaching writing”, “vocabulary restriction”, “topic inappropriateness”, “lack of materials for consulting”, “grammar difficulties” and “lack of teacher's help”.

Hence, the writer is interested in conducting a research to know the difficulties faced by university of UIN Raden Fatah Palembang.

1.2 The Problems of the Study

A problem is considered to be a task, a situation, or a person which is difficult to deal with or control (Seel, 2012). The study is attempted to answer the following questions:

1. What is the ability of the 5th semester students of the English education study program at UIN Raden Fatah Palembang in writing?
2. What are the difficulties faced by the 5th semester students of the English education study program at UIN Raden Fatah Palembang in writing a paragraph based on the four aspects of writing?
3. What are the causes/factors that influence the capability of the 5th semester students of the English education study program at UIN Raden Fatah Palembang in writing a paragraph?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

Based on the problems above, the objectives of this study are

1. To investigate the ability of the 5th semester students of the English education study program at UIN Raden Fatah Palembang in writing.
2. To find out the difficulties faced by the 5th semester students of the English education study program at UIN Raden Fatah Palembang based on the four aspects of writing.
3. To find out the causes/factors that influence the capability of the 5th semester students of the English education study program at UIN Raden Fatah Palembang in writing a paragraph.

1.4 The Significance of the Study

The results of the study were expected to benefit writers, undergraduate students, and institutions. They were; it was hoped that the writers and undergraduate students can be more cautious with the aspects of writing and helped them overcoming the difficulties of writing. It was also hoped that the institution would be able to help the process of teaching and learning of writing for undergraduate students and the results of the study would benefit the lecturer and anyone who wanted to teach writing skills to know the problems and helped them made a better accomplishment in improving the English education study program undergraduate students of UIN Raden Fatah Palembang's skills in writing.

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