

STUDENTS' UNDERSTANDING OF ARTICLE WRITING PROCESS IN THE FOURTH SEMESTER OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT OF UNIVERSITY OF ISLAM MALANG

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Abstract : Writing is a form of communication besides spoken form that should be mastered by the students, especially writing article. Writing article can help the students to think critically. But, before writing article, students should understand the article writing process first. This research was about the students' understanding of article writing process in the fourth semester. This research was conducted at University of Islam Malang with two students from English Department who had finished Writing IV course and had a high score in Writing IV course. The research design was descriptive qualitative. The data was obtained by conducting a group interview session with 16 open-ended questions that were adapted from previous research, then the data was analyzed qualitatively using thematic analysis. The result of this research showed that the participants had a good understanding of article writing process. It was proven by their clear and detailed explanation about article writing process. However, the participants still faced some difficulties in article writing process in terms of making indirect quotation and limited time in learning. From this study, there were some suggestions about several things that should be improved. For future researchers, it is suggested to conduct the same research that more focused on the students' difficulties on article writing process and how to solve it

Key Words: Writing, students' understanding, article writing process.

INTRODUCTION

Writing is an important skill in English. Nunan et al., (2003) stated that writing is a process of how to express and organize ideas into statements or paragraph to make the readers understand the ideas clearly. Writing is important, especially in writing article. By writing articles, students can contribute directly to science. Writing articles is also important to measure the knowledge possessed by students and develop students' ability to think critically. In addition, writing articles is also important to generate new theories and refine the existing theories (Jatmiko et al., 2015). Recently, new regulation regarding graduation

requirements have been changed. According to the rector's decree no. 585/G152/U.AK/R/L.16/XII/2019 about Penghargaan atas Karya Ilmiah Mahasiswa Universitas Islam Malang, students who have not programmed a thesis and can publish scientific articles indexed by Sinta 2 and Sinta 3, can graduate from university without having to make a thesis. This certainly makes article writing mastery even more important for students.

In Unisma, especially English major, the activity of writing article is done in semester four and the final article will be used as a final project in Writing IV course. Therefore, the researcher was interested to do a research focused on academic writing article. The hypothesis of this research is "How was students' understanding of article writing process in the fourth semester of English Department of University of Islam Malang?". Based on the research problem, the purpose of the research is to describe the students' understanding of article writing process in the fourth semester of English Department of University of Islam Malang.

METHODS

In this research, descriptive qualitative approach is used. Ary et al., (2010) explained that the purpose of qualitative research is to understand the phenomenon, process or particular point of view from the perspective of those involved.

These participants of this research were two English students in the sixth semester at University of Islam Malang who have experienced in writing article to fulfill the final project of Writing IV course.

The instrument used was a semi-structured interview with 16 adapted questions, so that the researcher has guidelines when conducting the interview. After the interview conducted, the researcher collected and analyzed the data to gain deeper information from the result of interview. The analysis followed the procedures proposed by Miles and Huberman (1994) consisting of data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Based on the research, the two participants showed their processes in writing article. Based on the finding of the research, in general, the writing article that was done by the participants was already in conformity with the process. The processes were making abstract, determining keywords, arranging introduction, result and discussion, conclusion and references. In determining the title, participants made the title by observing the current situation and choosing the

topic they were interested in. Then, they also read the other article to search the gap and they concluded what they have found to make a new title for their article. Next is arranging the abstract. The participants making the abstract by summarizing the background, objective, introduction, method, result, and discussion. In determining the keyword, participants determined the keyword based on the main topic they discussed, then they made it as the keyword. The next is arranging introduction. The participants arranged the introduction by reading some literature to get inspiration and to find the reason or background, then combining them with their ideas. The participants also added necessary questions to strengthen their statements.

In arranging the results, the participants provided the results of their research which answered the question in the introduction. After arranging the result, the next stage was arranging discussion. The participants wrote the discussion based on the summarized finding and linked it with related literature. The next process was making conclusion. All the participants concluded their article by summarizing the main point of the result and discussion and explained it in short. After the conclusion was done, the last step of article was making references. Participants understood how to arrange the sources that they used which contained the name of the author, title of the article, publisher, the identity of the publisher, and year of publication. These processes were appropriate with the process explained by Khoo (2006). Khoo (2006) stated that the article writing process consisted of title, author, abstract, keyword, introduction, method, result, discussion, conclusion, acknowledgment and references.

Although the process of writing an article that has been done is in keeping with the theory that given by Khoo (2006), there are still some processes that are not in line with that. The processes are, determining author, determining method, and making acknowledgment. In determining the author, Khoo (2006) stated that there were some authors who write the article and the first author means he contributed the most to the study and wrote the majority of the article. Meanwhile, the participants were not doing that activity of determining the first author since they wrote the article individually. The way students determining the method also did not appropriate with what Khoo (2006) said. It was stated that writers should describe the methodology in detail which included the research design, settings, population, inclusion and exclusion criteria, the period the study was conducted, the instruments used, and the procedure of collecting the data. Meanwhile, the participants determined their method by only reading the related references and adjusted the method to the title of the article they wrote. The last was about making acknowledgment. The participants stated that they did not make the acknowledgment since they did not know how to make it. Khoo (2006) stated that acknowledgment normally includes all those who have helped with and

contributed to the study apart from the authors of the paper. Some journals included acknowledgments in their article form, but the others were not. It depended on the provisions of each journal.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

After the interview was done, the result revealed that the participants had a good understanding of article writing process in semester four. Even though the students had good understanding, they still faced some difficulties in different aspects and it should be improved later.

The suggestions for the lecturer, it was suggested to be more detailed in explained the material related to writing article. The lecturer was also expected to more focus and give more attention to the students in the process of making quotation because the students still had difficulty in this process.

For the students, it will be better to read many kinds of literature related to making quotation such as APA or other books which discussed the same thing. The activity of reading literature can give ideas about how to quoting sentences.

For the future researchers, it was recommended to conduct the same research but it more focused on the difficulties or advantages of article writing process and how they overcome them, and it will be better to do the research directly to gain deeper and valid information if the condition is better because the researcher was done this research in the pandemic.

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