

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher discusses the introduction that consists of the background of the problem, the identification of the problem, the limitation of the problem, the formulation of the problem, research questions, the purposes of the study, and the definition of key terms

1.1 Background of the Study

English is a very popular language. With English, we can communicate with other people around the world. English becomes one of six languages having status as international language as being noted in UNESCO; the others are Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Spain, and France. There are four skills studied in English learning such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Writing is one of the English skills that should be mastered when learning English. Students can improve their English in written form.

Sari, Utami, and Sunaryo (2019:67) said that “Through biography text writing activities, students can document a someone's life story in written form, and the results of the writing can provide information to the reader about one's life journey”. The following is the fourth year students’ scores for writing essay class, the scores were provided by the Writing Essay Lecturer (Lailatul Husna, S. Pd., M.Pd.) :

Table 1.1 Writing Essay Score

Number of students'	Score
1	A-
2	B
3	E
4	B+
5	A
6	A
7	A-
8	A-
9	A-
10	B+
11	A
12	A
13	B+
14	A
15	A-
16	B
17	B+
18	C+
19	B+
20	B+
21	A-
22	B+
23	B+
24	C

The source: students' score of essay writing (2017)

Students' scores above explain that some students had a low score in writing an essay. The researcher was interested in researching fourth year students' ability in writing biography at the English Department of Bung Hatta University. The researcher chose the fourth year of the English Department of Bung Hatta University because the researcher wanted to know the ability of the students in writing an essay through writing biography. This research is entitled: ***The Fourth Year Students' Ability in Writing Biography at the English Department of Bung Hatta University.***

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Among English skills writing is one of the difficult skills because the writer had to know a good way to express the idea so the readers become interested to read it. In writing a biography, students can write the biography of someone that they like such as a celebrity, singer, actor, etc.

In writing, students face several problem such as grammar, punctuation ect. The student sometimes confused to differentiate the tenses. For example in writing biography the students sometimes still make present tense while the sentence is past tense and the students had to pay attention to some components in writing a biography. Those components are grammar, vocabulary, spelling, content, and organizing the generic structure. The components should be clear because it can make the readers understand what the students write. However, the students still make mistakes in using the component especially, in writing a biography.

- Grammar.
- vocabulary
- Punctuation
- content
- generic structure

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

The researcher limited the problem on the students' ability in writing a biography. In this research, the researcher focused on fourth year students at the English Department of Bung Hatta University.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

The formulation of the problem in this research was “ How is the fourth year students' ability in writing biography at English Departmet of Bung Hatta University?”.

1.5 Research Questions

Based on the formulation of the problem in this research, the researcher made several research questions which are formulated as the following:

- 1) How is the fourth year students' ability in expressing content in writing biography at the English Department of Bung Hatta University?
- 2) How is the fourth year students' ability in using grammar in writing biography at the English Department of Bung Hatta University?
- 3) How is the fourth year students' ability in using vocabulary in writing biography at the English Department of Bung Hatta University?
- 4) How is the fourth year students' ability in punctuation in writing biography at the English Department of Bung Hatta University?
- 5) How is the fourth year students' ability in organizing the generic structure in writing biography at the English Department of Bung Hatta University?

1.6 The Purposes of the Research

The purpose of the research was to describe the fourth year students' ability in writing biography at the English Department of Bung Hatta University. The specific purposes are as follows:

1. To find out the fourth year students' ability in expressing content in writing biography at the English Department of Bung Hatta University.
2. To find out the fourth year students' ability in using grammar in writing biography at the English Department of Bung Hatta University.
3. To find out the fourth year students' ability in using vocabulary in writing biography at the English Department of Bung Hatta University.
4. To find out the fourth year students' ability in punctuation in writing biography at the English Department of Bung Hatta University.
5. To find out the fourth year students' ability in organizing the generic structure in writing biography at the English Department of Bung Hatta University.

1.7 The Significance of the Study

The researcher hoped this research was useful for the writer, teacher, and students. For the writer, this research would be useful for the next researcher as a reference. For the teacher, this research can be made the teacher knows the ability of the students and the teacher can improve their teaching method so the students would more understand about the material. And for the students, they would know their ability in writing a biography.

1.8 The Definitions of the Key Term

To avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation in this research, it is necessary to define the key terms as follows:

1. Writing

Writing means to write a biography

2. Biography

Biography means to the history of someone's life.

3. Ability

Ability means to students' performance in writing a biography.

4. Grammar

Grammar means to the language of writing biography.

5. Vocabulary

Vocabulary means the words used in writing a biography.

6. Punctuation

Punctuation is the marks such as comma, full stop, etc to make the text understandable in a biography.

7. Content

Content means the body of the biography.

8. Organizing generic structure

Generic structure means the orientation, event, and re-orientation in writing a biography.