

## **CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION**

In this chapter, the researcher discusses the background of the problem, identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, formulation of the problem, research questions, purposes of the study, the significance of the problem and definitions of the key terms.

### **1.1 Background of the Problem**

A thesis is one of scientific reports that discusses a phenomenon or a problem in a particular field of science. The thesis aims to make students write a scientific report based on their skills and their knowledge. To make a scientific report the students should find the problems that interest them to do the research, and the problems can be based on their experiences such as something they like and something difficult for them to study in the class. For example, student A has a problem in writing compound or complex sentences, so the student A is interested to write a thesis that discusses writing compound or complex sentences. The other example is when student B is interested in speaking class, so the student B can write a thesis about speaking.

A good thesis has some components; they are abstract, introduction, review of the related literature, research method, findings and discussion, conclusion and suggestion section. The researcher was interested in studying the abstract because it is

a short explanation about the contents of the thesis, and it is the first thing that people read before seeing all the sections of the thesis. Abstract has a short explanation about what the researcher wanted to research; moreover, a good abstract should explain the background of the research, the method that the researcher used, the results of the research, and the implications or conclusions of the research. But not all the theses have all of the content above on the abstract. Furthermore, on the researcher's observation at the Bung Hatta University library, the researcher found some problems in theses abstracts written by English Department students at Bung Hatta University: some theses abstracts didn't explain the background clearly but just explained the purpose, some theses didn't write method that includes technique of collecting data and analyzing data, and some theses didn't write the conclusions or implications clearly which is important for the readers to identify the finding of the research.

Based on the description above, the researcher was interested in analyzing the theses abstracts written by English Department students at Bung Hatta University. The writer would like to carry out a research with the title *“An Analysis of Problems in Writing Theses Abstracts Faced by English Department Students Graduated in 2019 at Bung Hatta University”*.

## **1.2 Identification of the problem**

Abstract is some paragraph that explains about the whole paper in a short way. An abstract should contain the results from the thesis. Wallwork (2016: 228) states that “A structured abstract could really be used for any piece of research, given

that all research should have (1) a context, (2) an aim, (3) a method, (4) some results, (5) an interpretation of the overall meaning, possible applications, and ideas for how the research might be continued. An abstract also has components that should be the part of an abstract, they are: the background, the method, the results and the conclusion or implications.

The background is the reason why the researcher carried the project, what the researcher's purpose on her/his research, and which subject that the researcher used for her/his research. The background is usually located on the first paragraph of thesis abstract. The second is the method, and it tells about the method that the researcher used for her/his research on the paper. The third is the results; this part contains the findings of the research that the researcher found after doing the research. The last is the implications or conclusions this is the part of researchers to give an opinion about the problem on the paper or a part for concluding the whole findings of the research.

According to the theory, some theses abstracts written by English Department students graduated in 2019 at Bung Hatta University did not contain all of the parts of the abstract. Actually some theses abstracts did not have the background of the research the beginning paragraph. In fact, the background is very useful for readers to know the reason why the researcher did the research. Another problem is that the theses abstracts did not explain the method clearly, so the readers do not know what method, which subject, and which techniques the researcher used to collect and analyze the data.

### **1.3 Limitation of the Problem**

Due to the broad scope of thesis writing, the researcher limited her study to an informative abstract. Specifically, she only examined abstracts on the theses consisting of problems in writing the background, the method, the results and the conclusions or implications.

### **1.4 Formulation of the Problem**

The researcher formulated the problem of the research as follows: “What were the problems in writing theses abstracts faced by English Department students graduated in 2019 at Bung Hatta University?”

### **1.5 Research Questions**

Based on the formulation of the problem above, the researcher proposed some research questions as follows:

- 1) Did the students have a problem in writing the background of the research in the theses abstracts? If Yes, to what level?
- 2) Did the students have a problem in writing the method of the research in the theses abstracts? If Yes, to what level?
- 3) Did the students have a problem in writing the results of the research in the theses abstracts? If Yes, to what level?

- 4) Did the students have a problem in writing the implications or conclusions of the research in the theses abstracts? If Yes, to what level?

### **1.6 The Purpose of the Study**

The main purpose of this research was to describe the problems in writing theses abstracts faced by English Department students graduated in 2019 at Bung Hatta University. The specific purposes are:

- 1) To find out whether the students had a problem in writing the background of the research in the theses abstracts.
- 2) To find out whether the students had a problem in writing the method of the research in the theses abstracts.
- 3) To find out whether the students had a problem in writing the results of the research in the theses abstracts.
- 4) To find out whether the students had a problem in writing the conclusions or implications of the research in the theses abstracts.

### **1.7 Significance of the Research**

This research is expected to give the information to the English Department students about problems in writing theses abstracts so that they can avoid the same problems when writing their own theses abstracts. It is also useful information for English Department lecturers who become theses advisers.

## **1.8 Definitions of the Key Terms**

There are some key terms used in this research. To avoid misunderstanding, the researcher provided their definition as follows:

- 1) Problem is students' inability to write the components of a thesis abstract. It is indicated by missing components of a thesis abstract.
- 2) Writing is an activity to create some information based on someone knowledge, skill and opinion by using writing instruments.
- 3) Thesis is a final task written by a candidate graduate based on a research.
- 4) Abstract is a brief passage that tells readers about all the main component of a research.
- 5) The Background is the reason why the researcher carried the project, what the researcher's purpose on her/his research, and which subject that the researcher used for her/his research.
- 6) The Method tells about the method that the researcher used for her/his research on the paper.
- 7) The Result is the findings of the research that the researcher found after doing the research.
- 8) The Implication or conclusion is the part of researchers to give an opinion about the problem on the paper or a part for concluding the whole findings of the research.