

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the background of the problem, identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, formulation of the research, purposes of the research, significance of the research, definition of key terms. The explanation of each part can be seen as follows.

1.1 Background of the Problem

In general, English has four language skills. They are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Writing needs good grammar because it denotes us how far the students master grammar. In using grammar related to writing, the students learn many things, such as sentence, phrase and clause, parts of speech, tenses, and punctuation.

In fact, writing is one of the main subjects which has been offered in English Department. It is considered as a prior skill to be mastered by the students. By writing, the students can express their idea, thought, feeling, and give information to the others. At English Department, writing is divided into three, they are writing sentence, writing paragraph, and writing essay. Therefore, the students might be able to make a good essay. One of the requirements for the good essay is to use mechanics well. In the third year, students get “Essay Writing” subject.

In examination, the students should also do a written test showing they have good sentence. Good sentence uses punctuation correctly. Punctuation is the

use of spacing, conventional signs, and certain typographical devices as aids to the understanding and the correct reading, both silently and aloud, of handwritten and printed texts. In written, punctuation is vital to disambiguate the meaning of sentences. Punctuation is also the signs or symbols systems given to reader to show the sentence is constructed and how it should be read.

According to Kane (2000:379), all punctuation exist, basically, to help listeners understand what you wish to say. Mostly, marks of punctuation do this by signaling the grammatical or logical structure of a sentence.

Hence, many language phenomenas implement in using punctuation at *Writing Sentence* class. However, many students still did not understand how to use punctuation correctly. The students have used punctuation incorrectly because they did not comprehend the rule of punctuation. It is caused by the fact that the students had a few knowledge about rules of punctuation.

Picture 1 Example of Punctuation Errors

my dream profession is doctor. i like doctor profession because they cure the people and help them. doctor is one who prevent people from different diseases. A doctor is someone who maintains or restores human health through the practice of medicine. A doctor treats ill persons. His duty is to cure his patents and to save lives. His job is very important. He works in a hospital or a dispensary. Some doctors have their own clinics. Some doctors work in private Hospitals. A doctor examines a patient. Then he prescribes medicines for cure. Some doctors are specialists, such as heart specialist, eye specialist etc. a doctor who does operations is called a surgeon.

A doctor's duty is very tough. He has to work hard. He has to attend his patients when they need him. A doctor helps us to live healthy. We need many good doctors. We are grateful to them for their noble service.

(source: Pupu's Thesis, 2017)

In the above example, it can be seen that the student did not write period and comma correctly. In the first sentence, “my dream profession is doctor”. In this sentence, the writer did not use capital letter at the beginning. It should give a capital letter because in this sentence the writer starts a new sentence. The second sentence, the writer did not use capital letter, period and a comma correctly. In the sentence “i like doctor profession because they cure the people and help them”. It should use capital letter, period, and a comma in this sentence. It should be “I like doctor profession because it cure the people and help them”.

As the result of interview the writer did to the students and of information given by two lecturers at the English department, unfortunately, the students also still make mistakes, especially using mechanic when they write their English essay. In fact, the students often make mistake in mechanic especially in academic writing; these problems should have great attention and need its solutions.

Based on the above explanation, the researcher is interested in conducting the research about mechanic. It is dealing with the third year students’ ability of using mechanic in writing essay at the English education department of Bung Hatta University Padang.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the problem above, there are many problems might occur in identifying students' ability in writing in using mechanic in writing essay. There are some problems faced by students in writing essay. The first is about content, the second is about grammar, and the third is mechanic.

The students do not understand how to use mechanic in writing correctly. Then, the students are still confused about how to use mechanic in writing correctly. After that, the students may have difficulties to apply the use of mechanic in all of writing or English essay.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

Concerning the identification of the problem above, the researcher limited this research about students' ability in using mechanic in writing essay. It focused into investigating writing ability; namely, *period (.), commas (,), and capitalization.*

1.4 Formulation of the Research

After focusing on the research problem, the researcher formulates this research to describe the punctuation errors: *How is the third year students' ability in using mechanic in Writing Essay at the English Education Department of Bung Hatta University?*

1.5 Research Questions

From the formulation of the problem above, the researcher formulates the research question as follows:

- 1) How is the third year students ability to using period (.) in writing English essay at the English Education Department of Bung Hatta University?
- 2) How is the third year students ability to using comma (,) in writing English essay at the English Education Department of Bung Hatta University?
- 3) How is the third year students ability to using capitalization in writing English Essay at the English Education Department of Bung Hatta University?

1.6 Purposes of the Research

The purpose of this research is generally to find out the third year students' ability in writing essay at the English Department of Bung Hatta University. Specifically, this research is to describe the following:

- 1) The third year students' ability to using period (.) in writing English essay at the English Education Department of Bung Hatta University.
- 2) The third year students' ability to using comma (,) in writing English essay at the English Education Department of Bung Hatta University.
- 3) The third year students' ability to using capitalization in writing English essay at the English Education Department of Bung Hatta University.

1.7 Significance of the Research

Researcher hopes that this research give a contribution to lecturers, students, and other researcher. For the lecturers, this research make the lecturers know their students ability. For the students, this research make they know their ability and enriches their information about mechanic in writing. For the other researcher, this research makes the other researcher knows the problem that possible in writing and know how to solve that problem. After that for the reader, this research helps the reader to know how to use mechanic in order to make a good writing.

1.8 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding, the following are definition of the key terms:

1. English Essay is a short piece of writing outlining the writer's perspective or story.
2. Mechanics is the rules of the written language, such as capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.
3. Punctuation is the use of symbols such as full stops or periods or commas to devide written words into sentences and clauses.
4. Period is a symbol at the end of complete sentence or a statement.
5. Comma is a symbol that separates words and words groups with a series of three or more.
6. Capitalization is the writing of a word with its first letter in uppercase and the remaining letters in lowercase.