

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, there are some descriptions about the backround of the research, statement of problem, reason for choosing the topic, aim of the research, limitation of the problems, clarification of the term.

A. Background of the Study

All people in this world use language to convey ideas and thought English, as an international language is the most widely used language both in spoken and written communication. In most general ways, we can identify four major skills of language those are listening, reading speaking, and writing. Among the four major skills that are taught intergraded, scientific writing is one of the subjects taught of the English Department of Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto. The students of the English Department get scientific writing subject at the fifth semester.

Scientific writing is an important skill in learning writing subject. Scientific writing is a skill of writing our idea based on the experiment chronologically. John and Christine (2008:2) explain that the layout for scientific writing are: a title, acknowledgements, an abstract, an introduction, materials and methods, results, discussion, and a lot of references.

The objective of teaching scientific writing is that students are able to write English more easily and convey message in written form using

language correctly. Moreover, the function of teaching scientific writing is to improve basic skills of English.

One of common problems which often appear in teaching and learning writing is about the perception of the students about scientific writing. Many students say that scientific writing is important for them, but in the other hand the other ones say that scientific writing is a difficult thing to learn in English learning.

There are some factors that influence the student's perceptions of scientific writing class, such as facilities, instructional methods, media etc. Those facts contribute unsuccessful teaching and learning activity. It means that if the students have positive perception, they more appreciate about the lesson. It can be shown by the student's activity and attention in teaching learning process. Besides that, the students who have negative perception get bored to follow the lesson.

Based on the writer's experience in joining scientific writing class when she was in fifth semester and interviewed some of fifth semester students, that they were bored with the class. So, the writer is interested in doing this research.

Research is focused on the students' perception especially perception in scientific writing class and to find out the factors that influence the students. This research is entitle "Students' Perception of Scientific Writing Class at English Education Department of Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto in Academic Year 2009/2010."

B. Statement of Problem

The problems of this research are:

1. What is the students' perception of teaching learning process in scientific writing class?
2. What are the factors that influence the students' perception of scientific writing class?

C. Aims of the research

The aim that the writer wants to reach in her research are:

1. to know the students' perception of teaching learning process in scientific writing class.
2. to know the factors that influence the students' perception of scientific writing class.

D. Reason for Choosing the Topic

Based on the experience in joining scientific writing class in fifth semester and interviewed with some of the fifth semester students, so the writer would like to know the Students' Perception of Scientific Writing Class at Education Department of Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto.

E. Limitation of the Problems

In teaching and learning process involves many factors; the writer would like to limit her discussion in the follows poins:

1. Linguistic factor
2. The students (external and internal factors)
3. The teacher (as facilitator and a guide of teaching learning process)
4. Instructional method
5. Facilities and Instructional media

F. Clarification of the Term

This study is entitled “Student Perception of Scientific Writing Subject at English Education Department of Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto”.

The title is quite clear for the writer and perhaps for the readers but to avoid the misunderstanding between the writer and some others who read this research, the terms will be defined as follows:

1. Student Perception
 - a. Student

Person who is studying for degree, diploma etc, at University or some other places or higher education or technical training.

(Hornby,1995:1187)

In this research, the students who will be investigated at the fifth semester students of University of Purwokerto.

b. Perception

Perception is a vision or understanding means how people see or interpreting something (Leavitt in Zarkasi, 1992:27)

So, students' perception is a vision or understanding means how students see or interpreting something.

2. Scientific Writing Class

- a. Scientific is relating to science, or using the organized methods of science (Hornby, 1995: 761).
- b. Writing is the activity of creating pieces of written work, such as stories, poems or articles (Hornby, 1995:1383)
- c. In the Grolier International Dictionary, (1981-1279), the word "class" means a group of students who are taught together at school, college or university.
- d. John and Christine (2008:220) states that scientific writing is the basis of going to institutions, libraries, and universities to gain information and present it in a concise manner abiding to the generally accepted template of most scientific papers.

Based on some statements above, scientific writing class means a group of students who are taught about how to create a written work relating to the science in well organized form of science method as the basis of gaining information in institutions, school, and university and present it through scientific papers.

G. Contribution of the Study

The result of the study will hopefully be useful for:

1. English Students

- a. The students will be more interested in studying English especially scientific writing.
- b. The students can maximize their scientific writing ability.

2. English Teacher

The teacher can evaluate the quality of teaching and learning process related to the scientific writing lecture.

