

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Research

Writing skill in learning English have important roles and need to be developed for L2 learners. There are several reasons why writing is considered as important in learning English. Firstly, it is one of the ways to communicate in written form both formally and informally. The forms of written communication are writing letters, chatting through short messages, etc. Secondly, writing can be used as a media to express feelings, ideas, and thoughts. It can be formed in literary or academic works. Third, by mastering writing skills, foreign language learners will be helped in learning other English skills (listening, speaking, and reading). Thus, foreign language learners will be able to develop their English language skills further.

When someone creates writing whether in the form of formal or informal writing, many factors must be considered. Writing is not just about composing thoughts or ideas randomly without considering the purpose and the point of their writing. However, other factors such as the structure of writing and the use of appropriate language features must be understood further. Therefore, writing includes aspects of language activities that are considered difficult and it needs to be learned more in order having better writing according to the characteristics of writing itself.

At university level, there is one type of writing that is quite familiar by every student. This writing is often called academic writing which contains the ideas, opinions, findings, etc. of students that written based on certain topics and has a strong theory to support those ideas or findings. Academic writing can be said to be easy but also difficult. This can be considered easy because writers are given the opportunity to develop their ideas to arrange writing based on the topic they choose. But even so, the writer should have a theory that supports their ideas so that it will be considered as logical and strong enough. Moreover, the main component of this kind of writing is to create valid information based on sources that support the ideas. Those are usually a challenge for every writer because usually the writers have a bunch of ideas but it is not logical or not strong enough because there are not supporting theories of it.

Difficulties in academic writing are actually based on each individual. These can be the effects of the psychological issues of the writer themselves. Sometimes, there are some writers who feel they are not capable enough to compose a good writing, feel less confident with the results of their own writing, or even indeed they do not have the desire or intention to write or can be said to be obligated to compile writing. This often happens to every student. When they are asked to do academic writing, anxiety will appear to some or even all students. Anxiety is a general feeling owned by every individual consisting of fear, and uncertainty feeling that usually arises when someone feels themselves

threatened to the ego or self-esteem (Sarason, 1988:3-7). Based on that statement anxiety for each individual has a different level. It can be high or even low according to their individual psychological state.

Anxiety in writing is believed to have its own impact especially for those who have a high level of anxiety. The impact of high anxiety can trigger a loss of motivation such as the writer feels insecure or too concerned about the feedback that will be received from lecturers or friends so that it will make the writer not having the passion to write but only fear of bad things like that (Alicio , 2016: 8). In addition, anxiety is also considered to affect the writing performance. However, it depends on the learner's perceived language difficulties, peer pressure, stress from the teacher, general worries, and class performance (Tsai, 2012: 15)

Based on the explanation above, the author will analyze the anxiety in academic English writing by doing this research using a questionnaire to measure their level of anxiety and also find out causes that may happen to students who have a certain level of anxiety with the topic “Students’ Level of Anxiety in Academic English Writing”. This research will be conducted on the eighth semester students in English Education Department Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto.

B. Reason for Choosing The Topic

The reasons the author choose this topic are:

1. Writing is an important skill and must be mastered by foreign language learners.
2. Academic writing is one type of writing that needs to be understood further by students because that will always be found in every academic study on campus.
3. Anxiety in academic writing is a common occurrence and if the anxiety is increasingly high, then it can affect various things such as loss of motivation and even affect student learning outcomes.

C. Research Question

In accordance with the background above, the author has determined some research problems that will be investigated:

1. What is the level of writing anxiety in academic writing for students in English Education Department Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto?
2. What are the causes of English Education Department students' anxiety in academic writing?

D. Purpose of The Research

Based on the background and also the research questions written above, the purposes of this research are:

1. to know the level of anxiety in academic writing for students in English Education Department Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto.
2. to know the causes of English Education Department students' writing anxiety in academic writing.

E. Contribution of The Research

The author hopes that this research will give benefit and also provide other sources on this research topic, this also especially for:

1. The students

This research provides information about the level of anxiety of academic writing so that students are expected to be more motivated and also be able to reflect on themselves. The author also hopes that with this research, students will realize their own level of anxiety and wisely students will be more confident with it and want to do their work better, either by conducting guidance with lecturers or friends who are able to help.

2. The Teacher/The Lecturers

This research provides information to teachers and lecturers about the level of student anxiety in conducting academic writing. This research also contains the causes based of students' perception why they have such anxiety. That way, the author hopes that teachers and

lecturers can provide more motivation and guidelines for them because each student has different level of anxiety.

3. Readers/Other Researcher

This research provides sources and information about level of anxiety in academic writing and also the causes of it. Thus, the readers will know that anxiety have causes and impact especially in conducting academic writing.

