

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

There are two kinds of productive skill in learning English. Writing is a process of thinking to share ideas and arrange the ideas into statement and paragraph clearly (Nunan 2003: 88). It indicates that the learners are expected to explore the ideas and make them into good paragraph.

Writing plays important role to students of English Education Department at Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto. The first reason is that writing is important for students to communicate or share information and idea such as to write letter or to compose stories. Secondly, writing helps the students in career preparation for their future, for example to write applicant letter to get a job in a foreign country. Furthermore, writing can help the students to focus on accurate language use, such as grammar and vocabulary. However students at Muhammadiyah University are non-native speakers. The students live in Indonesian environment. The differences structure between Indonesian and English can make students get difficulties in writing. Furthermore writing is a process of getting product influenced by such elements as vocabulary, grammar, organization, content, mechanic and style of writing. Occasionally, the students also still confused in delivering their ideas through written form because they have to pay attention more to some aspect such word choice, the order of each sentence in order to produce an understood text and the structure or grammar

those should be well constructed in writing. In addition, the students also have to consider whether the purpose of their writing can be understood or not by the readers. It is clarified that students have to consider the writing aspects to produce good writing.

By looking students' problems in writing above, there was a possible reason that might happen. That reason could be the wrong strategies in writing. From explanation above, good strategies in writing are important. Writing strategies will help students to improve their performance. It supported by Ellis as cited in (Gafoordeen, 2013 Vol 4 No 26) she stated that students' choices of strategies will affect the level of success and performance in learning.

Writing strategies can be applied in the process of writing (Chen, 2011 vol 1 No 3). Based on (Brown & Hood, 1989; Scholes & Comley, 1989) as cited in (Hammad, 2014: Vol: 2 Issue: 1) there are three stages of writing process. Firstly is pre-writing, in this stage students generate the ideas. Secondly, is drafting, where students really begin writing by getting thoughts and idea down on a paper, and the last is revising, this stage involves students check their writing.

There are some classifications of writing strategy proposed by experts. Each expert has his own taxonomy . Mu, Cungjuun (2005) creates writing strategies taxonomy. They divides writing strategies namely cognitive, rethorical, metacognitive, communicative, and social/affective strategies. Cognitive strategy is strategy which led students to work with, think about, and manipulate material required for task completion. Rhetorical strategy helps student to organize and present ideas. Metacognitive strategy is defined as executive process which is used to plan, monitore and evaluate a writing task. Communicative strategies

define as strategies which are used to enhance writer to express ideas in a more effective way. The last is social/affective strategy includes practice and activities in which the students interact with other to clarify, discuss, and consult a task and manage the writer' emotion and motivation in writing.

Based on explanation above, the researcher wants to know writing strategies that are used by students. Writing strategies help the students to generate ideas, order the ideas in good line, check their writing to improve the writing result and help students to overcome their problems in writing activity. Therefore, a research entitled “Writing Strategies Used by The Fourth Semester Students (A Descriptive Study on The Fourth Semester Students of English Education Department of Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto in Academic Year 2015/2016)”

B. The Reason of Research

The topic of this research was chosen based on the following considerations:

1. Writing plays an important role especially in modern society. The needs of writing in English nowadays are very great. Most companies require their applicants to be fluent in writing English.
2. Writing strategies are important for students to help them in generating ideas, arranging ideas in sentences and paragraphs, and revising the students' writing to improve writing result.

C. The Problem of Research

1. What strategies do the students employ in writing English?

2. What is dominant strategy used by the fourth semester students?

D. Aim of Research

1. To find out strategies do the students employ in writing English.
2. To find out the writing strategies most frequently used by the fourth semester students.

E. Clarification of the Terms

In order to make clear to the readers, the writer want to clarify the term used in this research as followed:

- a. College students
- b. Person who is studying for degree, diploma, etc, at a university or some other places or higher education or technical training as cited in (Hornby, 1995: 1187)

- c. Writing

Writing is one of productive skills. According to Gere as cited in (Asmari, 2013 vol. 6 no. 11) he stated that writing is the written expression of thoughts, desires, emotions, and schemes. Through writing the writer can express her idea, thought, and feeling.

- d. Writing strategies

Writing strategies is important to the students who learn English, because they have to produce good writing. Thus, (Gebhardf &

Rodrigues, 1989) as cited in (Hammad, 2013) having a variety of writing strategies and skill can help students complete their writing tasks successfully.

F. Contribution of the Research

The contribution of this research as follows:

1. For students

This research is expected to be able to give information about various writing strategies so that the students can apply the strategies in writing process to produce a good writing.

2. For the lecturers

The result of this research is expected to give more information about writing strategies which are used by the students so the lecturers can consider the method to teach them. It can also be used by the lecturers to make betterment in their writing class.

3. For other researcher

This research can be useful source for other researcher to conduct a research with same topic and it can be used as a motivation to develop another better research.