

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents basic consideration, identification of problem, the scope and limitation of problem, problem statement, the objective of research, and the significance of research.

Basic Consideration

In study English especially for writing skill, Indonesian English learners or students need to work even harder than in oral communication, so that the student would be able to write well. Accordingly, a student for their written work needs to pay attention for its structure, sentences, and punctuation. Based on informal interviews with a few students who have got a writing course, some of them had difficulties in terms of writing. Referring to focus of the preliminary study the interview constructed more about understanding the issue of the use of punctuation. Through the preliminary data, it was found that a lot of students are still confused of using punctuation in their writing work. It can be concluded that it could lead to the problem of the use of punctuation. In other hand, the researcher found that the material of punctuation was covered in writing 1 only. Even the material still learned in writing 2, 3, and 4 yet the main points only. Hence, it can say that students have to pay more attention to punctuation material in writing subject. The researcher suggests to both student and lecture, to more pay attention and apply the material in all of writing subject.

According to Alice (1997,p.1) “writing is progressive activity. This means that when you first write something down, you have already been thinking about what you are going to say and how you are going to say it. Then after you have finished writing, you read over what you have written and make changes and corrections. Therefore, writing is never a one-step action; it is a process that has several steps”. Basically, the problem which found in writing skill are spacing between words, punctuation, italicization, including parenthesis, underlining, upper and lower case, capitalization to indicate sentence beginnings and proper nouns; inverted commas, etc. For example error in capitalization; correct: “*My name is lyna*”, incorrect: “*My name is Lyna*”. This research discussed more about punctuation because of some reasons, they are follows: First, the correct punctuation can influence to the stress when reading, and speaking. When reading the text, the intonation and stress depend on punctuation and by listening will know if there are any commas, or full stop. Second, the punctuation is placed in text to make meaning clear and to make reading easier. It is assumed that some people have similar problems. By this one, it was interested in discussing more about using punctuation in writing. Maybe, it is easy for some people but it is believed some of students’ essays have some problems in using punctuation. The strong reason the researcher took the punctuation problem is to make clear and help the students’ understanding about used of punctuation itself, because good punctuation is essential in clear and effective writing especially in academic writing.

The main point that must be stressed in this research is it was conducted at the sixth semester of English Department because they have finished in writing 1, 2, 3, 4. Besides, most of them were have to master of vocabulary and more understand about English text as well as more knowledge about it than the second or fourth semester. The researcher thinks that the six semesters are still difficult in writing because some of them have lack of vocabulary and even to understand of English text. Moreover by their essay, it can be seen some of them are still difficult in using punctuation. The similar thing was happened at the fourth semester, even though not all of them. So the researcher decided to conduct this research at the sixth semester of English Department only, because they have learned more about English by Intensive Course at the first semester and have finished in writing 1, 2, 3, until writing 4. Based on explanation, the researcher would like to investigate the students ability in using Punctuation by conducting of research entitle “Error Analysis of Using Punctuation in an English Text”.

Identification of Problem

Based on basic consideration above, the researcher identify about some problems which influence to error in using punctuation.

1. Carelessness of using punctuation correctly.
2. Less of exercises about it.
3. Less knowledge of how is the important of punctuation in writing.

Problem Statement

The problem statements of this research are follows:

1. How are the students’ errors of using punctuation in English Text?

2. What cause of error in using punctuation?

The Objective of Research

The objectives of this research are follows:

1. To describe the students' errors of using punctuation in English text.
2. To know what cause of error in using punctuation in English text.

The Scope and Delimitation of Problem

This research focused on the students' errors of using punctuation in English text which often found in studying English as discourse by analyzing error analysis approach. The punctuations that were analyzed are full stop / . / , comma / , / , hyphen / - / , apostrophe / ' / , brackets (parentheses) / () / , question mark / ? / , quotation mark / “ ” / , and exclamation mark / ! / . The researcher will analyze them only; because these punctuations are often found in text generally. Based on my experience, English texts which we have learned in writing or reading mostly used this punctuation.

The Significance of Research

The significances of this research are as follows:

1. This research is expected to help us to know more about punctuation and using it correctly.
2. This research is expected can be a reference and motivation for both lectures and students in academic writing, at least to reduce errors in using punctuation.

3. This research is expected to help the students to know their errors especially in using punctuation.
4. The research is expected to be an important knowledge for the author to help the students who can bring the pride of campus especially in academic writing.