

Chapter 1

Introduction

Basic Consideration

In English teaching, writing is one of productive skills where students are required to produce a good writing. However, most of students assumed that writing is the difficult skill in English. The researcher found from the English departments' students when they were taking interview informally. Most of them stated that writing have many rules that students should be understand in writing such as how to put punctuation well, how to use good grammar, and how to construct a good paragraph whereas at the end of study, students are required to write a research proposal in a good way. Harmer (n.d, p. 225) also stated that writing is the difficult skill in English that should to be taught. The difficulty of students in writing are required the training continually. According to Tarigan (as cited in Wafa, 2007 p. 3) stated that the writing skill will appear by experienced, time, occasion, and training. It clearly defines that students would have skill in writing when students always more get practice.

In order to help students in understanding and training their skill in writing, journal are used as one of media to make students always get practice, and learn in writing. Journal is a media for reflection in writing activity by handwritten that made over period of time in the same document that involves writing of academic experience or reflection to course work-content, and teacher would respond and gave the feedback on students' strengths, weaknesses, and errors based on the writer's process of their journal (cited in Moon 2006, p.2,4 & Borasi in Hocking 1998, p.5)

Journal in teaching writing would reflect the course content of writing itself, and the students also reflect their activity during follow the class at that day. Ali bin abi thalib (2003, p.11) stated that *Ikatlah ilmu dengan menuliskanya*. Moreover, in journal, teacher provides the feedback on students' strength and weakness that related to the aspects of writing (ex; grammar, mechanic, idea, etc.) based on students' writing process in their journal so that students could know what they to improve and maintain of their writing. According to Wanket (as cited in Puengpitrakul, 2001, p. 91) stated that journal is a tool to create a concept 'write to learn' that can improve students' writing ability. The word "write to learn" means that in using journal, students always have an occasion to write, and they can learn by teacher's correction in their journal. According to Lewis (as cited in wafa, 2007 p. 4) as a teacher of writing who applied journal in his class stated that keep a journal make students get more practice to write because they can write anything, and the teacher give the feedback. Moreover, when students write every day, the students gain fluency, and they get a chance to practice punctuation, spelling, and style of writing. Thus, in using journal media, teacher prompted students to get a lot of practice on the aspects of writing by applying it in writing.

With regards to explanation above, there are several reasons why I choose the journal in my research. Firstly, journal forces students to get practice in writing routinely as Tarigan (as cited in Wafa, 2007 p. 3) stated that the writing skill will appear by experienced, time, occasion, and training. Secondly, journal forces in reflection which reflection can help students to know and understand the material of learning. The last reason is journal provides feedback which students can learn

through the process of writing in journal that always gets the correctness from the teacher. Due to that, I am interested to conduct this research entitled “Using journal in the process of teaching writing” by proposing the following research question.

Research Question

This research answers questions below:

1. How the way of lecturer uses the journal in teaching writing?
2. How students’ writing process by using journal
3. What are lecturer’s and students’ perception about using journal in teaching writing?

Research objective

The objective this study is

1. To describe the way of lecturer uses the journal in teaching writing
2. To describe students’ writing process by using journal
3. To know lecturer’s and students’ perception of using journal in teaching writing.

Significance of study

1. The result of this research is expected to be beneficial for English teaching, especially in teaching writing. The teacher can consider the use of journal writing to be an interesting technique in developing students’ ability in writing.

2. This research informs students to know that journal can be a good media to practice their skill in writing.
3. This research can help the writer to know an interesting media in teaching writing that will be an English teacher in the future.

Scope and delimitation of Research

In this research, the researcher focused on journal that used in teaching writing as reflection which this study would describe the way of lecturer used journal in teaching writing, students' writing process when use the journal, and lecturer's and students' perception of using journal in teaching writing.