

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The first chapter introduces five major sections. The goals of this chapter are to present the basic consideration, problem statement, objective of research, significance of research, and the delimitation of study. This chapter also tells the general information of the research.

Basic Consideration

Punctuation is a notation system that allows people to communicate in writing because it is indicate a link in a sentences as the important tool to expressing the idea. Kakhi (as cited in Estaji, 2000, p.3) states that punctuation is similar to traffic signs and both have hidden meaning, so one should learn is rules to get the meaning of the writer. It is clear that punctuation is the compliment of sentence defines as a signs which reveal of intention and help the reader recognize the hidden meaning of the sentence. In the other hand, if we want to have a good writing, we should learn more about the structures of sentence and pay attention of punctuation marks. Therefore, not paying attention to correct use of punctuation leads to misunderstanding. Furthermore, placing the correct punctuation mark is one of the parts that need to be considered in writing and also helps people to understand the sentence correctly.

Moreover, for achieving a better competence in writing skill, one thing that students should learn is the using of punctuation in order to make a good writing. Rumki (as cited in Awad, 2012, p.6) states that wrong punctuation can interrupt the

flow of ideas and change meaning, but properly used punctuation not only helps readers understand your meaning but also makes them engrossed in writing. Although the students learn punctuation in several grades, but there are a lot of misunderstanding about it. They did some errors in using punctuation, and the most common frequent errors made by students in their writing are in using comma. Comma is used and misused more than any other punctuation mark. So that, it is important for students to learn more and master how to use comma correctly based on the rules.

Based on the preliminary research, the researcher found that many of students still did not pay attention when placing of comma. Thus, sometimes it makes the readers confused and do not understand about the meaning of the writer. As a problem, in completing of educational degree, all the students of English department should write a final project of skripsi in English and certainly they must follow the system or rule of scientific work and academic writing. Surprisingly, it is different from reality. The researcher found any errors of punctuation in the skripsi written by English department students. Besides, the researcher had visited Library and read one of the student's skripsi that submitted there. The researcher found that there were still any errors in using comma in the background of study on the students' skripsi. It can be said that some students have similar problems in using punctuation, and the most frequently error occurs in the use of comma.

From the fact above, the researcher want to analyze the skripsi of the English Department students. The researcher does not analyze all of the parts of the skripsi, it is only focuses on the background of the study. Thus, the background of

study is the main idea of the students thought that presented in writing. Besides, the student writing is naturally coming from their mind and it becomes the foundation, reason, and explanation why the students conduct the study. In light of this, it is interested to discuss more about the using of punctuation in writing, particularly in using of comma. Moreover, the strong reason the researcher took the punctuation problem is to helps the students' to understand about the usage of comma in a sentences, because placing the correct punctuation will make the sentences clear and effective.

In writing process, the students continuously explore and improve their knowledge about the rules of the writing. Consequently, when they do not complete or lack of the knowledge, they will make errors. According to Brown (2000, p. 217), an error occurs because the students do not know what is correct and it cannot be self-corrected. The students need helps or feedbacks from the teacher to correct it. Thus, an error is no longer seen as a bad thing which has to be avoided in writing process.

However, without punctuation, we will find some problem to understand the meaning of our writing. So that we cannot neglect the right usage of punctuation. Thus, students must pay attention in using comma on account of the missing comma can make the writing error and do not catch the real meaning for the text. Besides, the teaching of the punctuation is needed in order to avoid the errors by the students. But, sometimes the teacher did not aware about students' mistakes. Then the students made their mistakes repeatedly because they do not have the correction and it was what we have called as error.

In some cases as pointed out, it is found that comma is the most common punctuation error made by students in writing. For example, they write '*hence I will see him*' instead of '*hence, I will see him*'. The students often do not put a comma after the word *hence* since they do not know the rule of using comma. It must be a comma after introductory elements such as the word *hence*. If we write a passage without punctuation mark, passage will be difficult to understand. Even though, if we do not use punctuation mark correctly, the passage probably will be misunderstood by the readers.

Based on the explanation above, this study provides some information about the punctuation marks in writing, and how to use a correct punctuation in a sentences. This study aims to describe the students' error in using comma in their writing. The researcher is interest to analyze the errors of using comma itself by identifying every student's writing in the background of study on their skripsi. Therefore, the researcher would like to conduct a research entitle "**Analysis of Punctuation Errors In Using Comma Found In The Background of Study on The Students' Skripsi**". This study will give many insights about where students make the errors mostly and how to solve it.

Problem Statement

The specific research question of this study is "What kind of punctuation error in using comma made by students in the background of their skripsi?"

Objective of Research

Based on the problem of the study above, the objective of the study is to find out the kind of punctuation error made by English department students in using comma in the background of study on the students' skripsi.

Significance of Research

The significance of this study stems from the importance of punctuation marks in writing. In theoretically, the result of the study is expected to be reference in teaching learning process, particularly for teaching writing subject. Moreover, in practically, this study can be used as references for teachers and lectures in teaching writing skill because this analysis consists of the theory about punctuation that contains the rules in using punctuation and some examples of incorrect and the correct punctuation in order to facilitate them to teach students how to use the right punctuation in writing. In addition, the finding of this study can help teachers and lectures recognize where students make punctuation errors mostly. Beside that, the researcher hopes this study also will be useful for other researcher who want to develop this analysis or doing similar research in the same field in the future.

The Delimitation of Study

The researcher uses the delimitation in order to give a clear description of discussion in this study and to clarify the problem. This study is concentrated on describing the errors in placing punctuation made by English department students. According to some linguist, there are several types of punctuation mark such as period, comma, semicolon, colon, hyphen, question mark, exclamation point, quotation mark, apostrophe, parenthesis, and italics. However, in this study the

researcher focused only in the use of comma, because after seen the students writing with used of several punctuation marks in preliminary research apparently most of students made an errors in placing comma in sentences. So the researcher conducted this research only in the use of comma itself to find out in what rules the students mostly made errors in using comma in their writing.

In addition, the researcher only concerned in analyzing the background of study of the student's skripsi, because the background of study is the main idea of the students thought which are presented in writing. Most of students explained their own opinions in background of study and do not write many theories of other people. So that the students writing mostly from their own thinking. Thus, this research can help students to be aware of the importance of placing comma properly in writing process.