

Chapter I

Introduction

This chapter provides the basic information of this research. It expresses things that become the background of this research, including signifying the selection of research topics. This chapter is divided into some headings such as the background, the research question, the aim of research, the significance of research and the scope and limitation of research.

Background

The improvement on the quality of the education has always been the main concern for the academic system or for the academics degree holders. Evaluation and monitoring to the quality of education have been developed and done in order to achieve the national educational goals. Some major efforts have been made, especially in developing countries just like Indonesia in these recent past twenty years in promoting primary and secondary education. This step is taken by the academics degree holders and government in order to develop the quality of the human resources in Indonesia. Considering the goal of the national educational goals, therefore the development and the improvement of the academic education is urgently and surely needed.

Maintaining and improving the quality of human resources through the education is one of the major academic activities which is not only the first organized step for making the students get familiar with research, but also it is used as an indicator for

evaluating each individual competence of the students in scientific research and obtaining related skills. Thus, the role of thesis will be much more beneficial, whether in terms in maintaining the students' view in facing problems or the research manifests in its form as the thesis and the students represent their innovation, self confidence and diligence during the thesis conduction.

Conducting thesis is very important for the students in order to get certain degree, for instance bachelor degree. During the process of thesis writing, the students need to understand how to do their research and on how they have to structuralize their findings based on the concrete data. In conducting a thesis, the first thing that should be done by students is designing the research proposal. It is explained by Behling (2000, p. 2) that research proposal is a set of a study plan which is designed by the student. It covers up the frame work on how their thesis will be conducted. It also covers up the steps and stages to the overall thesis conduction. The research proposal will help the students to focus on the topic that they are study about.

Moreover, as thesis is the most crucial or vital writing up for the students to get graduated from college, conducting thesis is not as easy as writing an essay.

Conducting thesis has been proven very difficult and hard for the students. They may carry out essay or mini research easily, but writing a research document in a form of thesis is something that they can do with ease. Students face different kinds of difficulties in conducting their thesis writing. This happens because thesis should be the combination of the right words in the right place and in the right order that often confusing out the students. Having to write a thesis, a researcher will naturally get

confused as in how to put things together in the thesis, started from the background, theoretical framework, methodologies of research, and research findings and discussion. Lack of adequate vocabulary is one of the problems that will put the students into difficulties in conducting thesis writing too. A researcher also need sufficient knowledge in particular study that they carry out, thus, the researcher needs to read a lot in order to write or conduct a thesis.

Moreover, in English Department Study Programs, Universitas Negeri Gorontalo, there is a significant problem that should be solved related to the aspect of the thesis conduction. Based on the mini observation conducted to the English Department Study Program, it was revealed that there is only 0.1% of the students who could graduate in three years and half. Moreover, there are only 17% of the students who could graduate on time or in this case four years exactly. This indicates that there is something that should be understood and figured out either by the faculty members or the department members in order to rise up the percentage of the students who could graduate on time. In order to understand and figure out this phenomenon, a research towards the students' difficulties in conducting research should be carried out. Thus, by considering those aspects, it is believed that this problem should be solved out, but the first thing that should be done in order to find a solution for this problem understands the difficulties that the students encounter during the thesis writing or conduction.

Delimitation of Study

This study is delimited in terms of source of data or participant and sites. This study will be conducted in selected area in Universitas Negeri Gorontalo, particularly in English Department Study Program. It focuses on the students who are composing or writing their thesis research. The respondents of this study will be ten English Department Students who willingly and honestly answered the interviews. In this case, the students are studying in English Department Program for more than 5 years and only have thesis research left as the learning subject.

Problem Statements

Something that must bear in mind that thesis conduction is one of the major academic activities, thus, it is needed to find out and to analyze the difficulties that are encountered by the students during the thesis conduction or thesis writing, especially in English Department Study Program, Universitas Negeri Gorontalo. Based on this assumption, there are several questions which are needed to be discussed and answer in order to acknowledge people especially those who put a great interest in the educational side. Thus, the question below will be the core of this research:

What difficulties do the English Department students encounter in the process of their thesis conduction?

Objective of Research

A study on students' difficulties in conducting thesis is important to be studied about. This needs to be done in order to know how the students, the faculty members and academics degree holders need to do some improvement in the educational site could be highly improved in the way of their skills and knowledge, especially in being a qualified society. Therefore, based on the problem statements which have been explicated in problem statements previously, then the present objectives of this research is first to understand the students' difficulties in conducting thesis writing. The second result that is expected to be revealed in this research is to understand and figure out how the difficulties become big barriers for the students to conduct their thesis research. The last, this paper purpose is to formalize this notion of the thesis conduction problems and to study the expressive power of this.

Significant of Research

This present study is aimed to bring a great understanding about the fundamental aspect of the difficulties encountered by the students while conducting the thesis writing, it gives a light to the implications of the thesis writing conduction by providing a systematic framework deals with the way of how its implication to the educational side especially in the process of producing a high qualified students that can compete the world, thus students will be ready enough to compete with the whole world . This study will also serve as a guide for the students and the faculty members on how to overcome the barriers or obstacles in conducting thesis and helping the students in thesis conduction. Therefore, the present study will add sights and views to the academics degree holders to be more aware in assisting the

students during their thesis conduction. The significant contributions to the field of educational side particularly to the growth of the academic research are expected to be reached by this study.