

## **Chapter 1 : Introduction**

This chapter introduces and explains the establishment content of the research, which is started with the background of the study, formulation problem of the research, the aim of the study, the significance of the study, and scope and delimitation of this research.

### **Background of Study**

Communication is the transmission of messages from one person to another. As a process of transmitting the message, communication requires an understanding in order the message is conveyed clearly. The understanding of message depends on how the sender delivering the message. Based on Sirbu (2015), communication takes place orally and written. Oral communication is formed by spoken word and involves the desired pitch and tone to convey the message. While written communication is initiated in written form such as paper composed by the writer and receive by the reader. Murray (2012) explained that writing a message in written form involves several processes, including organizing thoughts, evaluating supporting thoughts, and revising written thoughts. Through these processes, the writer communicates the information clearly. As a result, writing becomes an essential ability since written communication is more formal because this communication requires some processes to reach the clarity of the message.

In the college field, writing becomes one of the compulsory subjects are taught by several stages in the English Department, namely Writing for General Communication, Writing for Professional Context, and Writing for Academic

Purposes. Through these subjects, students in English Department are taught how to write from the basic, and it started from how to write the sentence in a good way, then the sentence becomes a paragraph. Therefore, in the last stage of writing subjects, the students are expected capable to produce an academic text such as essay. To write an essay, the students must give attention to the organization of ideas to achieve the clear text. Some aspects can reach the clarity of the text in writing, namely cohesion and coherence. Students must acquire these aspects to avoid misinterpretation in delivering the ideas of an essay.

Cohesion and coherence are aspects of writing that serve the purpose of increasing the quality of writing. The components of cohesion contribute in the way of sentences for connecting each other, and the connection is built by the cohesive devices. Cohesion reflects the meaning of a text is dependent on another so that the text becomes unity. It indicates that cohesion leads the text to become coherent through the continuity of cohesion devices within the text. This is supported by Suwandi (2016) that proposed the use of cohesive devices capable to connect the ideas from one sentence to another for building the coherence of the text. The coherence refers to how comprehensible the text; when the writer successfully establishes the relationship among sentences through the cohesion components logically, it can be said that the text is coherent. Fajri (2016) believes that coherence makes a logical sense in a text to control an understanding of main idea that derived from the text. It is possible to conclude that cohesion and coherence work together to create a readable text. As a result, the use of cohesion and coherence components is essential in writing.

However, maintaining cohesion and coherence in a text becomes challenging for some students, particularly those who study English as foreign language (EFL). English as foreign language students struggling from the difficulty to transfer their thoughts into word and become a paragraph in a good way. It is shown by some research in writing shows that the EFL student's main problem in writing is concerning the lack of cohesion and coherence as composition of a good paragraph (Guo & Wang, 2005). The difficulty is EFL student still confuse to convert their idea in their mind to become a message in a text. They share their idea implicitly, it will make the text is not comprehensible. Research conducted by Faradhibah (2017) found that the common cause student's difficulty in maintain their cohesion and coherence in their text because they could not state a clear and accurate main idea, also lack on fulfilling supporting details for their writing and confusing using a proper transition signal. These things will affecting to the formulation of cohesion and coherence in a text. The text which does not have accurate main idea is difficult to build the interconnection among element in a text to reach the coherence.

The difficulty of applying the cohesion and coherence components also encountered by the students of English Department, Universitas Negeri Gorontalo. Based on the observation, some students of English Department face the problem in applying those items in their writing, particularly when they write an argumentative essay. The students experience an issue to organize their ideas in an argumentative essay through the cohesion and coherence components. They are confusing in applying the conjunction and reference items that have function to

provide the interconnection of ideas within the paragraph of essay. It is proven by the several sentences of student's argumentative essay that contain inappropriate the conjunction and reference items as the cohesion and coherence components. To give an illustration, look at the several sentences of student's argumentative essay:

*“The internet provides a lot of information about aducation [sic!]. Eventhough, many applications that children can use to learn”*

*“Online learning makes **it** difficult for students to focus in learning”*

The sentences above represents how student unconcern to the use of cohesion components. This is shown by inappropriate of applying the word “*eventhough*” as the conjunction item that take role as transitional signal and the word “*it*” as the reference item for repeating the keyword. They put those items without considering the function within the text. As a result, their sentences do not build the connectivity to facilitate the reader for understanding the pieces of ideas within the essay.

The problem of students that cannot maintain the cohesion and coherence on their essay has significant effect toward the quality of their argumentative essay. This is because the quality for producing an argumentative essay is highly related to the cohesion and coherence that lies on each paragraph of essay. An argumentative essay contains the discussing of the difference in both side of particular issues. In this case, the student as the writer requires convincing the reader through the arguments. The arguments have to write clearly in each

paragraph of essay to make the reader well-understand on a certain issue. For this reason, cohesion and coherence are needed in the argumentative essay because these items build the continuity to construct a clear argument (Graft, 2006 as cited in Alarcon & Morales, 2011). Through the cohesive devices such as grammatical and lexical cohesion, the element of argumentative essay interconnect each other. Then, the connection of element in argumentative essay lead the essay to become coherent. The cohesive and coherent argumentative essay will deliver a strong argument and avoid misinterpretation of the reader's comprehension related to the issue. As a result, cohesion and coherence have a significant impact on the clarity of the argumentative essay.

The cohesion and coherence reflect how the text is well-organized. Thus, if the text does not provide the cohesion and coherence, it indicates that the text is unclear where the ideas are poorly organized. As a result, it is difficult for the reader to gain the main idea in order to reach what message that will be delivered by the text. This signs how important cohesion and coherence involve in the development of ideas in a text. An interesting view purposed by Saragih & Septiani (2017) that for constructing the coherence, the text needs a tie called cohesive devices. The cohesive device such as reference and conjunction items in grammatical cohesion and variations of vocabulary in lexical cohesion, these items are able to control the development of sentence to create a logic text through the continuity within the text. In summary, the involvement of cohesive devices are crucial to formulate the coherence of the text, whereas the students are not giving attention to the application of those components.

Based on the phenomena, this study is interested in investigating deeply how students establish cohesion and coherence in their argumentative essays. The examination conducts due to cohesion and coherence becomes an essential part of the writing components to compose the readable argumentative essay. Moreover, this research has intention to reveal how students construct the cohesion and coherence components in their essay. Therefore, the analysis focuses on how the cohesion and coherence components are applied by students in their argumentative essay.

Wachidah (2016) conducted an analysis of cohesion and coherence in students' writing in the previous study; the results show that students have excellent competence to write the text cohesively and coherently. It is presented by high number of the frequency the cohesive and coherent devices. The difference between the previous study and this present research is the object of data. The previous study analysis cohesion and coherence on the exposition text written by students, meanwhile this research attempt to analyze cohesion and coherence in the students' argumentative essays. Besides that, this research has purposes for discovering the level of the students employed the cohesion and coherence components in their argumentative essays. Hence, the examination through the calculation of frequency of the appropriate cohesion and coherence components within students' argumentative essays and categorize into poor, fair, good, and excellent category.

In this research, 16 students who have enrolling Writing for Academic purposes subject in the fourth semester of English department, Universitas Negeri

Gorontalo are selected as the participants of this research. These participants are chosen because they have attended Writing for Academic purposes class. It means that they are already familiar with composing an academic text, mainly an essay. Furthermore, sixteen students were selected because they are qualifying to write an argumentative essay correctly. As a result, this study obtain the appropriate argumentative essays.

### **Problem Statement**

Based on the background study above, the problem statement is formulated as follows:

How are cohesion and coherence components in students' argumentative essay?

### **The aim of study**

The aim of this research is to describe how cohesion and coherence components in students' argumentative essay.

### **The significance of study**

This research has two significacet, which are theoretical and practical significance. For the theoretical significance, this research can be a piece of written evidence that students are required to learn more about the cohesion and coherence aspects of writing. Therefore, from this research will diminish the mistake using cohesion and coherence components in a text. While, in practical significance, this research encourages the lecturer to develop the ways of

teaching writing for improving students' competence regarding the cohesion and coherence components in writing skill.

### **Scope and Delimitation**

This study focuses on analyzing the cohesion and coherence in students' argumentative essay. The analysis conduct based on the cohesion components that classified into the coherence marker. The presence of components of cohesion is assumed as the internal element of coherence. For this reason, the study would like to limit the analyzing on the use of cohesion components that influence the coherence; they are grammatical cohesion and lexical cohesion. These two components could be classified into the coherence marker such as the repetition of keyword, the consistency of pronoun, the transitional signal, and the logical order. These components are the main items that analyze in this research.