An Analysis Of Factors Affecting English Department Students In Thesis Writing

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Abstract
This study aimed to analyze factors affecting students in writing thesis. This research was qualitative research with descriptive design. The participants of this research were 20 students of the eighth semester students of English Department Program at FBMB UNDIKMA 2022/2023. The researchers used questionnaire and interview as the instruments. The instruments were focused on the three factors: psychological, sociocultural and linguistics factors. Based on the result of questionnaire, it showed that in psychological factor the students obtained 75% score, meanwhile in sociocultural factor the students obtained 71% score, and the highest factor affecting students in writing thesis was linguistic factor which reaching the score of 80%. Based on the average of those three factors showed that the students obtained 76% score; it means that the students have high score criteria. Moreover, based on the interviews showed that there were no students answers disagree toward the questions of interview. Alternatively, it can be concluded that the result of questionnaire and interview was matched. Consequently, it can be suggested that, the eighth semester students of English Department Program at FBMB UNDIKMA have to pay more attention in linguistic factor, since this factor was the highest percentage that can interfere graduation process.

KeyWords: Factors Analysis, Thesis Writing

Abstrak
Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisa faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi mahasiswa dalam penulisan skripsi. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian qualitatif dengan desain penelitian deskriptif. Jumlah peserta dalam penelitian sebanyak 20 mahasiswa semester delapan jurusan Bahasa Inggris, FBMB UNDIKMA tahun 2022/2023. Peneliti menggunakan kusioner dan wawancara sebagai instrumen penelitian. Instrumen penelitian hanya fokus pada 3 faktor, yakni faktor psikologi, sosiokultural dan faktor linguistik. Berdasarkan hasil kusioner, pada faktor psikologi, mahasiswa memperoleh 75%, faktor sosiokultural sebesar 71%, dan yang paling tinggi adalah faktor linguistik yaitu sebesar 80%. Berdasarkan dari rata-rata dari 3 faktor tersebut, mahasiswa memperoleh 76%, ini berarti bahwa termasuk dalam kategori tinggi. Disamping itu, berdasarkan hasil wawancara, tidak terdapat mahasiswa yang menjawab tidak setuju terhadap pertanyaan dalam wawancara. Jadi dapat disimpulkan bahwa terdapat kecocokan hasil dari kusioner dan wawancara. Dari hasil tersebut, dapat disarankan, mahasiswa jurusan Bahasa Inggris FBMB, UNDIKMA semester delapan harus lebih memperhatikan faktor linguistik karena faktor tersebut memperoleh presentase tertinggi yang dapat menghambat proses wisuda.

Kata Kunci: Analisa Faktor, Penulisan Skripsi

INTRODUCTION

Thesis is a document submitted by the English Department students as a report for demonstrate their researches, explain what they did in their research clearly and understandable. Thesis as a condition for the students who has completed their graduation. According to Field and Neufville (2021), there are three elements of thesis definition; thesis is a proposition (it advance an idea, a hypothesis or a recommendation; thesis offers an argument (it presents a rationale for accepting the proposition made, rather than simply asserting a point of view; and the argument of the thesis should be maintained: it should be made convincingly by appropriate logic and sufficient evidence.

As the guidelines for the English Department students in FBMB (Fakultas Budaya, Manajemen dan Bisnis, UNDIKMA (Universitas Pendidikan Mandalika), it has some subjects prepared in the curriculum to help the students to write a thesis: Quantitative Research, Qualitative Research, Seminar on ELT, research on ELT and Academic Writing.

In thesis writing process, there are some process have to be done by the students of English Department. Firstly, students have to write their research idea into the title of their thesis, in this process the students have to pass all subjects related with the thesis writing, have to ask a recommendation at least one English lecturer to ensure the thesis title should be authentic, academically correct and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the collage and legalized by the Head of English Department Program at FBMB UNDIKMA. Second, the students will get two lecturers who have related knowledge field with the thesis title as the supervisor in writing their thesis, the students can discuss the research methodology with their first supervisor and can discuss the rule of thesis writing to be linguistically correct with their second supervisor. Third, after three chapter of thesis named proposal legalized by both supervisors, the students will present their proposal in Seminar of proposal in front of the supervisors, examiner and at least 25 students as a member in their seminar. Fourth, the students do a research related with their proposal and continue to write a report of their research. After all terms of their thesis have been legalized by both supervisors and examiners, finally the students can do the last process, it is thesis examination. In this process, the students have to clarify their thesis writing in front of three examiners. The thesis written by the students can be stated as a thesis if their thesis has legalized by the dean, head of English Department Program, two lecturers as the supervisor and the main examiner in thesis examination.

In thesis writing process, the students found out some difficulties, some students use their supervisors as the reason for their laziness, some students felt unlucky when they got hard supervisor and made their anxiety obstruct their motivation in thesis writing, and some students were lack of knowledge in thesis writing, such as the methodology of research, limit of reference, even they found difficulties in writing because of grammar structure or lack of vocabulary.

Based on the phenomenon explained previously, the researchers would like to analyze the factors affecting the students in thesis writing, the result of this research were expected can be a reference, guideline or information for the students who wants to write a thesis; can be a reference for the lecturers, head of English Department even the Dean of English Department of FBMB UNDIKMA to recheck the system that organize the thesis writing as the final project for the students who wants to graduate on time.

In achieving the objectives of this research, the researchers focused on three factors affecting in thesis writing by Brown (2007). Those are; (a) Psychological Factors. This factor was related with the mental/personality of the students such as Self-esteem, Inhibition, Risk taking, Anxiety, Empathy, Extroversion and introversion and Motivation; (b) Sociocultural Factor. Brown (2007: 189) claims that the focus factors that will be arisen in writing thesis are bold in three aspects, such as social distance, the culture, communicative competence; (c) Linguistic Factors. In this factor, Brown categorized the factor into four categories, first is to identify errors by addition, omission, substitution and ordering. Second is to identify the errors is put in the students levels of language (phonology, lexicon, grammar and discourse) that should be considered. Third category, Errors can be also analyzed by the global errors or local errors. Finally, identifying errors by considering the two related dimensions of error, such as domain and extent.

Based on the problem explained previously, the researchers then simplify the ideas into a research with focus on the analysis of factors affecting English Department students in thesis writing.

RESEARCH METHOD

In obtaining the result of the research problem, the researchers used qualitative approach. According to Cresswell (2014) qualitative data tends to be close-ended without predetermined responses. In qualitative research, the data obtained were

analyzed by using descriptive statistical analysis and the data result were presented in percentage.

This research conducted in English Department Program at FBMB UNDIKMA located on Jl. Pemuda No. 59A, Mataram – West Nusa Tenggara. The participants of this research were 20 eighth semester students of English Department Program at FBMB UNDIKMA in academic year 2022/2023.

In collecting the related data, the researchers used questionnaire and interview. According to Mason J (2002), the questionnaire have to use detailed, understandable question and in accordance with the objective of the research. Therefore the researchers made the questionnaire based on the indicator in three factors categories, they were Psychological, Sociocultural and Linguistics Factors. According to Edwards & Holland (2013), interview explained as consultation of a form where the researcher seeks to know about some issues as opinionated originating from individuals. Therefore, the researchers conducted informal interview with the related question with the research objectives.

After the data collection process, the data then analyzed by using Likert Scale. As stated by Joshi A` and Kumar, D (2015), Likert scale is applied as one of the most fundamental and frequently used psychometric tools in educational and social sciences research. In analyzing the interview result, the researchers made a transcript from the interview's record, identifying the students' answer and describing the students' answer in interview.

RESEARCH FINDING

The data have been collected on March, 2023 by using instruments explained previously. Finally the researchers analyzed the data to find the answer of the research problem.

There were 30 questions of questionnaire have been answered by the participants in which 10 questions for psychological factor, 10 questions for sociocultural factor and 10 questions for linguistics factor. The questionnaire used 5 frequents; SA (Strongly Agree), A (Agree), N (Neutral), D (Disagree) and SD (Strongly Disagree). The result of calculation showed that the percentage of psychological factor was 75%, sociocultural factor was 71% and linguistic factor was 80%. Based on the calculation, the average score of the three factors was 76%, the result was in high category. It can be stated that, the eighth semester students of English Department Program at FBMB UNDIKMA in academic year 2022/2023 faced some difficulties in thesis writing.

Moreover, the result of questionnaire was supported by the students' answers in interview. In first answers that contained psychological factor, almost all students stated that they found some difficulties in deciding the research title, bureaucracy was too convoluted, and the students have to discuss the research title with at least one lecturer, then have to legalize it to the head of English Department Program at FBMB UNDIKMA. However, the Head of English Department Program has the authority to reject or replace the research title; consequently the students have to repeat the process again. They were not found any problem with their advisors, all students agreed that the lecturers of English Department Program at FBMB UNDIKMA really helpful even they discuss the thesis writing via online or face to face, the lecturers' responses always be the important thing as the guidance in thesis writing. Based on their experience, they stated that they only found some difficulties in deciding research title.

According to the questions that contained sociocultural factor, all students stated that it was better to discuss the thesis with the advisors or the other lecturers, than to discuss it with their friends. The discussion with their friends will not affect their thesis, because every students have different references and different focus in thesis writing.

For the questions that contained linguistics factor, all students stated that the biggest problem in writing a thesis was grammar, they felt really difficult to describe their ideas, paraphrase the theory or explaining the finding in a thesis, they have to be more careful and to pay more attention in writing

academically into a thesis. Moreover, the students hard to find the guidance book that can help them in thesis writing that related with the rule of their collage. They used the thesis in library as the references and it can affect the students to rewrite the content of that thesis and it was plagiarism and illegal for academic writing.

CONCLUSION

Based on the data analysis, it can be concluded that, the students faced some difficulties that can be barriers in their thesis writing, the highest factor that affected the students in thesis writing was linguistics factor. It suggested that the students have to pay more attention in writing thesis as an academic writing especially dealing with grammar. The English Department have provide the guidance book of thesis writing, however it should be distributed well to all students who writes a thesis.

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