ENGLISH ACADEMIC WRITING FOR THE STUDENTS OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION OF WIDYA DHARMA UNIVERSITY OF KLATEN

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ABSTRACT : Writing is one of the main skill in learning English which is conclude on productive skill in the ability of producing language. In the university, writing skill has an expected that the students could mastering in the academic writing level. It has an aim that the students could write at least the abstract of their research paper in English. In Widya Dharma University of Klaten, the writing skill given from the early semester integrated with the other three skills (listening, reading, and speaking). In the process of teaching and learning, it is found that the writing skill of the technical information students was not satisfying. This research is described the problems faced by the students in mastering academic English writing in Technical Information of Widya Dharma University of Klaten. In this research, the problems faced by the students is on the English vocabulary and the grammatical used in the sentences.

Keywords   : Academic writing; vocabulary; grammatical

1. INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

Nowadays, English is the compulsory in everything. Most of the communications are in English. Furthermore, English is the compulsory in education. In university, English subject is a must for the students. Here, the aim is to preparing the students to be able to understand the references and literature which most of them are in English. Besides, in this global era the students are hoping could be well compete with others.

With those goals, the students should be mastered all the skills in English such as; listening, reading, speaking, and writing. And here, writing is the most difficult for the students to express their ideas and thinks. Writing is an essential skill that becomes a complex skill to master for the learners because writing is a productive skill that deals with the way to generate and organize the ideas. According to Harmer (2004: 31), writing encourages students to focus on accurate language use and, because they think as they write, it may well provoke language development as the resolve problems which writing put into their minds.

Here, to learn writing is difficult to do for the informatics student. It is not easy for the informatics students to write the text or article in English. It is proved from the students work. It found that the

students got difficulties in choosing the appropriate vocabularies, there are errors and mistakes on the sentence structure, and incapable to express their ideas in writing. Furthermore, the students chose the fast way in translating by using the *Google translate* application to translate their writing from Indonesia to English.

Based on the finding above, it can conclude that the students in Technical Information in Widya Dharma University of Klaten have difficulties in using English language, especially in Academic Writing. Concerning with the importance of the Academic Writing for the technical informatics students, the writer interested to analyze the difficulties faced by the technical information students in writing using English.

B. Problem Statement

Based on some information and facts stated on the background of the study, the writer states the problem as follow:

a. What the problems faced by the Technical Informatics students in writing English?

C. Objective of The Study

Based on the problem stated above, the objective of the study is:

a. To describe the problems faced by the Technical Informatics students in English Academic Writing.

D. The Use of The Study

a. This study hopefully can give important input related to the information about the problem faced by the Technical Informatics student in English Academic Writing.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW
A. A Brief View of Writing

Writing is the mental work of inventing ideas, thinking about how to express them, and organizing them into statements and paragraphs that will be clear to a reader (Nunan, 2002: 88). Here, can be conclude that writing is the activity of organizing the ideas or message, inventing ideas, thinking about how to express them and write into statements and paragraph.

Furthermore, Harmer (2004: 4) states that writing is used for a wide variety of purpose it is produced in many different forms. Here, Writing can help the students to build the critical mind. By writing the students learn how to arrange their experience.

Students frequently have more time to think in writing than they do in oral activities. Moreover, writing encourage students to focus on language use and accurate, because they thing as they write, it may

stimulate language development as they resolve the problem which the writing put into their mind.

B. A Brief View of Academic Writing

Academic writing is the important think from writing which is needed to focus in the university. There are many names for academic writing such as; essay, paper, research paper, etc. Even though, those names has the same principal and goals (Whitaker, 2009: 2).

Thais and Zawacki (2006) gave definition that academic writing is as a writing which fullfill the goal in every part of education, whether in school or university. Then it can be conclude that academic writing has an aim to increase the skill and education in writing, especially English writing.

According to Brown (2001) there are five components of writing, such as;

1. Content; that is substance of the writing, the ideas expressed.
2. Form; the organization of the content
3. Grammar; the employment grammatical forms and syntactic patterns
4. Style or language use; the choice of structure and lexical items to give a

particular tone or flavor the writing.
5. Mechanics; the use of graphic convention of the language.

3. Research Methodology
A. Research Design

The type of this research is qualitative research in the form of case study. According to Berg (2001) said that quality refers to the what, how, when and where of thing, its essence and ambience. Qualitative research, thus, refers to the meanings, concepts, definitions, characteristics, metaphors, symbols, and descriptions of things. And here, the research is qualitative because it describes the problems faced by the technical information students dealing with English academic writing.

In this research, the researcher put her position as the observers and examined what happens. In other words, the researcher studied the people's behavior naturally. In this case, the researcher concerned on the problem faced by the students of technical information dealing with the English academic writing.

B. Research Setting and Subject

This research was conducted at Technical Information Study Program of Widya Dharma University of Klaten. It is the place where the researcher works

as an English lecturer. Therefore, this research was conducted at the second semester students of Technical Information, Widya Dharma University of Klaten in the Academic Year of 2017/2018 which consisted of two classes.

C. Data and Source of Data

The data in this research were in form of detailed information collected from variety of data collecting procedures over a sustained period of time (Stake, 2010). The qualitative data was obtained directly from;

1. Participants

As Creswell (2009: 54) defines that population as people who can answer the problem statements of the research. In this research, the participants were selected from second semester students of Technical Information.

2. Documents

These source provide valuable information in helping researcher understand main phenomena in qualitative studies. The documents used in this study are students test in writing which is collected to the lecturer.

D. Data Collection Technique

This research applied methods to collect the data. They were observation, and documentation. By doing the methods, the researcher gained some information needed which deal with the students' problem in doing English Academic Writing. Here, the researcher conducted direct observation for certain time. In this method, the researcher observed the students writing .

Then, the documentation also collected as the data. The researcher collected the students' worksheets and teaching syllabus to get some information in relevance of students' problems in writing English.

E. Data Analysis Technique

The technique of data analysis in this research is descriptive analysis. Using this technique, the researcher collected, arranged and presented the data. The qualitative method is a kind of research without using any calculation or statistic procedures. The scheme adopted by the researcher from Miles and Huberman in Sugiyono (2007), from the data collected by the researcher was doing observation and documentation to be presented in field notes and documents. Then, the data reduction is summarizing, choosing the points, to focus on the important matters, in order to find the pattern. Furthermore, the data were organized and managed for they needed to be understood. And here, the

researcher presented the data in the form of descriptive qualitative ones. Finally, the conclusion is needed to develop the researcher's carefulness and even carry out wider on other groups of data.

4. Research Finding

Writing put the important position in academic literary. Here, academic writing becomes the goal for the technical information students of Widya Dharma University of Klaten. But, it is also become the biggest problem for them to make writing.

It found that the problems faced by the students are; limited the vocabulary they are mastered, difficult to arrange the sentences in English and difficult to apply English vocabulary in sentences especially in academic writing.

From the content, it found that the students still difficult to developing the topic. It shows from the writing of the students which is has minimum details about the topic. And from the whole sentences it found that the sentences still not connected between each other. Here, only 5 students who can write in details and coherence, and the others still got difficulties to made sentences and coherence in writing. It shows from the sample of student's writing as follow:

Computer used humans since 1990. Computers are used for writing papers, playing games,

financial accounting and business productivity applications. Service such as compuserve interest of curious nerds and researchers from around the world.

From the writing above, can be known that the student got difficulty to arrange the sentences, make coherence writing, and it's difficult to find appropriate vocabulary to express their ideas into academic writing.

Furthermore, it proved from the interview which said that they got problems in expressing ideas into writing especially in English writing. Here, the biggest problem is from the lack of English vocabulary and applying tenses into writing. They often used dictionary to translate from Indonesian into English by words. By doing this, the students often run out of time in writing, so the writing becomes not coherence.

Dealing with form, it found that the students are difficult to connect the ideas. Their ideas mostly throwing backward so that the paragraph not coherence and not connected between each other. It caused they have problems dealing with the detail information about the topic. The students difficult to explain in details about the topic because

lack of knowledge about the topic that they have write.

In vocabulary, it found that the students also have lack of English vocabulary. It shows from the writing test of the students, that they always find the words from dictionary, so that the sentence that they wrote is miserable. It caused they are wrong in choosing the words that will be applied in sentences.

Moreover, dealing with the style of language, it found that the students still used blend tenses and don't follow the rule of good academic writing. They still confused applying the tenses such as *simple present tense, continuous tenses, and simple past tense*. It caused that they are not using the tenses in continually, or sometimes they only used one tense to be understand. Then finally on the mechanics which is dealing with the punctuation and spelling, it doesn't find any significance error.

5. Conclusion

Based on the finding, it can be concluded that academic writing is an important skill. Unfortunately, it is difficult for the technical information students to do writing in purpose.

This research has aims to know the problems occur in learning academic writing. It found that the problems faced by the students are; limited the vocabulary they are mastered, difficult to arrange the sentences in English and difficult to apply English vocabulary in sentences especially in academic writing.

Furthermore, this research hopefully can help the lecturers in teaching writing to be more creative and do some better in teaching academic writing. And for the students especially technical information students, it hopes enriched their writing ability in further.

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