

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Writing is one of the important skills of a language. According to Harmer (2007: 79-80), writing is a basic language skill, as important as listening, speaking and reading. Therefore, students need to know how to write letters, to put written reports together, to reply advertisement and increasingly to write using electronic media.

In higher level of education, writing activity is a must skill that all students must have. When they want to finish their study, they have to write their reports. One of the main parts of the report is an abstract. It is a summary of the entire report that pictures out the writer's understanding on the problems being written. It is the representation of the whole contents of what has been written down.

But, writing an abstract is, in fact, not an easy task. It requires students to have a writing competence to arrange it. The writer experience showed that many students could not write well the abstracts of their theses. They were still unable to organize ideas, structure sentences and sentence connectors. In line with these problems, Yulianti (2007), in her study, reported that there are three categories of the students' common grammatical errors when writing in English. They are (1) subject and verb, (2) verb agreement, tense, and form, and (3) pronoun. While King & Stanley (1999) add that errors related to sentence structure are: (1) subject and verb, (2) verb agreement, tense, and form, (3) full subordination, (4)) verbal, (5) pronoun form, agreement, and reference, (6) word form, (7) word order, (8) parallel structure, (9) unnecessary repetition, and (10) correct usage. And Huang (2001) investigated six

common mistakes in writing, namely: (1) Verb (2) Noun (3) Spelling (4) Article (5) Preposition and (6) Word Choice.

On the basis of the above problems, the writer would like to conduct a research entitled ERROR ANALYSIS ON THESIS ABSTRACT WRITING MADE BY THE ALUMNI OF ENGLISH STUDY PROGRAM STUDENTS FROM 2015-2020 YEARS.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the background above, the researcher formulates the problems of this study as follow :

- 1.2.1 What types of error do the students make in writing thesis abstract?
- 1.2.2 Which type of error is dominant?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the statement of the problems above, the researcher formulates the objectives of this study as follows:

- 1.3.1 To find out whether or the students have mastered to write thesis abstracts.
- 1.3.2 To identify the types of error the students make in writing thesis abstract.
- 1.3.3 To categorize the students' level of mastery on writing thesis abstract.

1.4 Significances of the study

The results of this study would hopefully give contribution to the following parties:

- 1.4.1 To the students who are going to write theses to realize the importance of writing abstract using a fixed order of abstract.
- 1.4.2 To the lecturers of English to teach the students who are going to write theses to help them to write a fixed order of abstract.
- 1.4.3 To the next researchers to conduct some studies on the same topic so that the students are really ready to write their abstracts well.

1.5 Scope and limitation

A scientific research in higher level of education consists of five chapters. To summarize the contents of the five chapters, it is a must for each writer to write an acknowledgement, a dedication, a motto, and an abstract. But, this study just focuses on thesis abstract writing.

To help the writer to get the data needed, she will read ten thesis abstracts of the students of English Study Program Students of Timor University who have finished writing their theses in years of 2015-2020.

1.6 Definition of the Terms

To avoid the readers misunderstanding on the whole study, the writer would like to define some terms used on its title. The terms are defined as follows:

1.6.1 Error Analysis

According to Corder (1981), error analysis is a type of bilingual language and the target language. To put it more simply, error analysis is a procedure which involves study the observable errors by description, classification and evaluation of errors.

1.6.2 Thesis is one of the most important concepts in college expository writing.

A thesis sentence focuses your ideas for the paper, it's your argument or insight or viewpoint crystallized into a single sentence that give the reader your main idea.

1.6.3 Abstract is one important part that must be present in the research report.

Abstracts are usually displayed at the beginning of a research report as general and brief information about the contents of the overall research report.

1.6.4 Alumni are the students of English Study Program of Timor University who have finished their study and written their theses from the years of 2015-2020.

1.7 Organization of the Writing

This writing consists of five chapters. Chapter One, Introduction, Background of the study, Statement of the problem, Objective of the study, Significances of the study, Scope and limitation, Definition of terms, Organization of the writing. Chapter