

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

English as an international language plays an important role in every aspects of human life, such as economy, politics, education, etc. English is considered very important because Indonesia is a developing country. In terms of Indonesian education, English is such a very essential subject that it is taught in elementary schools. Even now, English has been introduced to kindergarten students. It is because of the awareness of how important English in the future.

Formally, the Indonesian government via Minister of Education and Culture has issued his decree number 096/1967 which says that the aim of English teaching in Indonesia is “working knowledge of English”, that consists of:

1. effective reading ability
2. ability, to understand spoken English
3. writing ability
4. speaking ability

Compared to the other three language skill (reading, listening, and speaking), writing skill is more difficult. House (1997:8) says that writing is the last skill developed in language learning. As can be seen on the four

stages process for language acquisition, writing is the most complex stage because it cannot be performed successfully until the three other are in the place. For some students, writing skill is considered to be the most difficult and complicated language skill. To acquire writing skill, students must master many aspects of writing such as: idea, unity, paragraph development, correct language form, spelling, punctuation, and diction. More over, since students' mother tongue is not English, it is sometimes difficult for them to express what they intend to write. The students should get sufficient writing practice and experience in expressing their ideas in their written form.

According to Hilgard (1962: p.621) habit refers to a learned stimulus-response sequence. So it can be seen that habit is very important in learning, in this case is English. Habit made someone do some activity repeatedly and it will be automatic. Basically, writing is a skill practice. A lot of practice is the best way to improve it. Practices dealing with the students' habit because habit makes students do writing activities and repeat it until become automatic.

From that description, the writer wants to know the correlation between writing habit and writing skill. So the writer is interested in choosing the topic of the study "A CORRELATIONAL STUDY BETWEEN WRITING HABIT AND WRITING SKIL OF SIXTH SEMESTER STUDENTS OF ENGLISH DEPARTMERNT OF

MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA IN THE
ACADEMIC YEAR 2006/2007.

B. Problem of the Study

In this study, the writer focuses the problem statement as follows: “How is the correlation between writing habit and writing skill of the sixth semester students of English Department of Teacher Training and Education Faculty of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta in the academic year 2006/2007?”

C. Objective of the Study

The writer wants to find out the correlation between writing habit and writing skill of the sixth semester students of English Department of Teacher Training and Education Faculty of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta in the academic year 2006/2007.

D. Benefits of the Study

The writer expects that the research will be able to give several benefits, both theoretically and practically.

1. Theoretical Benefit

Theoretically, the writer hopes that the research gives the information about the correlation of writing habit toward writing skill.

2. Practical Benefit

- a. The writer hopes this research can stimulate students to have writing habit.
- b. Writing habit may increase the students' mastery of vocabulary well.
- c. To the other researchers, they are expected to be able to see the result of this research as an additional reference in carrying out further research.

E. Previous Studies

In this study, the writer summarizes the relevant previous researchers to prove the originality of this study. Eny Sulistyawati (1996) wrote the research entitled: "Student's Writing Skill and Its relations to their Reading Habit and Learning Strategy". In her research, she found that there was a positive correlation between writing skill, reading habit and learning strategy

Irma Herawati (2004) wrote the research entitled: A Co relational Study on Writing Habit, Grammatical Knowledge and Writing Ability. She found that there was a positive correlation between writing habit, grammatical knowledge simultaneously, and writing ability. It means that both students writing habit and grammatical knowledge can't be ignored in teaching or developing students' writing ability.

In this research, the writer wants to find the correlation between writing habit and writing skill.

F. Research Paper Organization

This research is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is introduction, which consists of background of the study, problem of the study, objective of the study, benefits of the study, previous studies, and research paper organization.

The second chapter is concerned with review of related literature. It consists of notion of writing habit, the notion and the type of writing skill.

The third chapter is research method. It deals with type of the study, place and time of the study, population, sample, and sampling, method of collecting data, and technique of analyzing data.

The fourth chapter is result of the research and discussion. It consists of data description of writing habit and writing skill, data analysis, and the discussion of the research finding.

The fifth chapter is conclusion, implication, and suggestion.