

STUDENTS' LEARNING STRATEGIES IN WRITING ESSAY (A CASE STUDY OF ENGLISH EDUCATION STUDENTS AT UIN JAMBI)

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ABSTRACT

The students used different strategies in their learning process in order to make their learning process enjoyable and effective. Here the researcher conducted research with a purpose to identify the learning strategies in writing essay used by the students of English Education Program. This is a qualitative research and used case study as research method. The subject of the research was 22 students who have good score in writing essay. The data of this research are the result of interview with students and documentation. The research finding showed that the students used six learning strategies in writing essay, memory strategies, cognitive strategies, compensation strategies, metacognitive strategies, affective strategies, and social strategies. The students used all of strategy in their writing essay process but different way.

Keywords: Case Study, Learning Strategies, Writing Essay

A. INTRODUCTION

Writing is someone's activity to convey the ideas to the readers so that it can be understood by the readers. Someone can write something to show their ideas, opinions, thoughts and also feelings to other people. This is supported by Djago Tarigan as cited in Elina (2009) who say that writing is expressing ideas, opinions, thoughts and feelings that are made in written form. In addition, writing is an activity of expressing, developing, and organizing ideas into written form. Through writing, we can express feeling an ideas in written form (Atmono et al,2015). According to Kroma as cited in Rusni (2010), writing is a kind of activity where the writer expresses all the ideas in his or her mind on the paper from word to sentence, sentence to paragraph and paragraph to essay. To achieve the goals in learning writing especially in writing an essay, every student has different way in learning process. One of them is strategy that used by students, it is called as learning strategy. Scarcella and Oxford as cited in Putria (2017), learning strategies is specific actions, behaviors steps or technique as seeking out conversation partners, or giving oneself encouragement to tackle a difficult language task used

by the students to enhance their own learning. It means that learning strategy is students' own way that used by them in order to make them easy understand about the material. So, the students will be success in learning writing if they applied learning strategies in writing process especially writing an essay.

In English, essay writing is a major challenge for the students. It is not easy for the students to write an essay because they should have lots of vocabulary, knowledge, good in grammar and many information. They need lots of vocabulary in order to make the readers to gather the information inside the text. They should have much information in order to put their ideas, argument, suggestion, etc. Then, making the readers understand the information inside the text is the best way to build good writing.

According to Kusumawardani (2018), essay writing is the heart of education because whatever people study English, at some point they will probably ask to write an essay. Writing an English essay is not easy because the writer should have a lot of knowledge and information (Apriliya, 2016). Additionally, the writer is required to maintain general structure of essay, the content of what essay talks about. Maintaining the general structure of essay is written to a basic structure without change essay part of the essay itself: introduction, body paragraph and followed by the conclusion. To compose an essay accurately, it is necessary to keep in mind the main hints concerning the content of the essay.

According to Stephen as cited in Kusumawardani (2019), essay and paragraph are different. A paragraph is a group sentences discussing similar or related ideas of a topic. An essay is a connected group of paragraphs. An essay is longer and consists of a group of paragraphs focus on that subject. Through the essay, the the writer can write several types of essay to draw the phenomenon or topic that they want to discuss. In fact, some students find some difficulties in writing an essay. Some students still have some problems when they write an essay. The problems are the students have limited knowledge about some aspect of writing an essay, such as vocabulary and grammar. It makes them little confuse to deliver their idea in writing. Therefore, learning strategies in writing an essay is very important to make students success in their essay writing.

In this study, the researcher concentrates on the learning strategies that used by the students in writing an essay. It is important to conduct this research because the students need to improve their essay writing. Moreover, by using appropriate learning strategies, the students will have better writing skill in writing an essay. As what mentioned above, the researcher is interested in analyze about students' learning strategies in writing essay. The research will conduct at the fourth semester, and currently they are already in sixth semester. Therefore based on explanation above, the researcher intends to conduct a research entitled "Students' Learning Strategies in Writing Essay (a Case Study of English Education Students of UIN Jambi)".

1. Learning Strategies

Learning strategies is a series of plans activity that include the use of methods and the use of various resources in learning. Learning strategies refers to method that students use to learn. Ellis as cited in Ningrum (2018) stated that learning strategies are the particular approach or technique that learners employ to try to learn second language. According to Schumker & Deshler as cited in Listyowati (2017), learning strategies an individuals' way of organizing and using a particular set of skills in order to learn content or accomplish other tasks more effectively and efficiently in school as well as in non academic setting.

Kinds of Learning Strategies

Oxford as cited in Putria (2017), categorizes six learning strategies. They are memory strategies, cognitive strategies, compensation strategies, metacognitive strategies, affective strategies, and social strategies. The first three strategies proposed by Oxford called direct strategies and the last three called indirect strategies.

Learning Strategies in Writing

Memory Strategies

Memory strategies divided into four sets. They are creating mental linkages (grouping, associating/elaborating, and placing new words into a context), applying images and sounds (using imagery, semantic mapping, using keywords, and representing sounds in memory), reviewing well (structured reviewing), and employing action (using physical response or sensation and using mechanical techniques).

Cognitive Strategies

Cognitive strategies involve four strategy sets. They are practicing (repeating, formally practicing with sounds and writing system, recognizing and using formulas and patterns, recombining, and practicing naturalistically), receiving and sending messages (getting the idea quickly and using resources for receiving and sending messages), analyzing and reasoning (reasoning deductively, analyzing expressions, analyzing contrastively, translating, and transferring), and creative structure for input and output (taking notes, summarizing, and highlighting).

Compensation Strategies Compensation strategies divided into two sets. They are guessing intelligently in listening and reading (linguistic and nonlinguistic clues), overcoming limitations in speaking and writing (switching to the mother tongue, getting help, using mime or gesture, avoiding communication partially or totally, selecting the topic, adjusting or approximating the message, coining words, and using a circumlocution or synonym).

Metacognitive Strategies Metacognitive strategies involve three strategy sets. They are centering your learning (overviewing and linking with already known material, paying attention, and delaying speech production to focus on listening), arranging and planning your learning (finding out about language learning, organizing, setting goals and objectives, identifying the purpose of a language task, planning for a language task, seeking practice opportunities), and evaluating your learning (self-monitoring and self-evaluating).

Affective Strategies.

The affective strategies involve lowering anxiety (using progressive relaxation, deep breathing, or mediation, using music, and using laughter), encouraging yourself (making positive statements, taking risk wisely, and rewarding yourself), taking your emotional temperature (listening to your body, using checklist, writing a language learning diary, and discussing your feelings with someone else).

Social Strategies

The three sets of social strategies are asking questions (asking for clarification or verification and asking for correction), cooperating with others (cooperating with peers and cooperating

with proficient users of the new language), and empathizing with others (developing cultural understanding and becoming aware of others' thought and feelings).

2. Writing

Tarigan as cited in Furqon (2014) defines that writing is finding or depicting a graphic symbols to describe a language that is understood by someone so that other people can read the symbols of the graphic. So, writing is a communication tool to convey the ideas or share information by using letters. In addition, someone can express the ideas and feelings or share the information by using writing not only by speaking. An essay is one of the scientific works which is in the form of thoughts, ideas and opinions. An essay is a writing that consists of more than one paragraph. As what Oshima and Hogue (2006) said that an essay is a writing that consist of several paragraphs that discuss about one certain topic. Dalman as cited in Indasworo (2019) also state that an essay is a writing that describes about author's opinion on a certain subject.

B. METHOD

The design of this research is a qualitative research. This qualitative research process involves important efforts, such as asking questions and procedures, collecting specific data from participants, analyze the data inductively starting from the themes that specific to general themes, and interpret the meaning of data. The purpose of this research is to describe about students' learning strategies in writing essay at English Education Study Program students. This research was conducted at the fourth semester students of English Education Program at State Islamic University Sultan Thaha Saifuddin Jambi on basically currently already in sixth semester. The participant of this research consisted of 22 students. They were selected purposively that has good score in writing essay.

There were three instruments to collect the data in qualitative research. They were observation, interview and documentation. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic situation, the researcher can not conduct the observation. Therefore, in this research the researcher used interview and documentation to collect the data. In interview process, the researcher asked the students by some question about the process how they write an essay in order to know the strateg. For documentation, the researcher analyzed the students' tasks in making essay related to the material taught in the classroom.

C. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The research findings were discovering learning strategies in writing essay used by fourth semester students at English Education Study Program. Data collection was carried out through interview with 22 students that has good score in writing essay and also students' essay that have been collected. The result of the research showed that the students applied almost learning strategy in writing essay. In introduction paragraph, the students applied metacognitive, compensation, memory and cognitive strategies. In body paragraph, the students applied metacognitive and cognitive strategies. In concluding paragraph, the students applied metacognitive, social and affective strategies.

In the learning process, students can learn quickly in every subject or several subject. Every student has their own strategies to finish their essay writing paper. This session discuss about the result of the finding about the students' learning strategies in writing essay. The result connected with some theoris that discuss about the students' learning strategies in writing an essay and comparing the result with the previous studies. The result will be dicussed the students' strategies in writing an essay. The students' have their own strategies in writing an essay. They have their own choices which strategies that help them easier to finish their essay writing paper. The students used the strategies that supported by some theoris. According to Anne Whiteaker as cited in Munadhiro (2019), beginning writers should have a good strategy to work best of them. Doroty E Zemach as cited in Munadhiro (2019), when the writers start to write, the writer do more than just put words together to make sentences. Good writers go through several strategies to produce a piece of writing. Based on the result of this research, it was shown that the students in sixth semester that has good score in essay used all of the learning strategies in writing essay. They are memory strategies, cognitive strategies, compensation strategies, metacognitive strategies, affective strategies, and social strategies. It means that the students applied all of the learning strategies to make their writing process easier. According to Anne Whitaker statement that the goal of academic writing is not to show of everything that the students know about their topic, but rather to show that the students understanding and critical thinking about the students' topic. This statement supported the result of the finding that the students used their own strategy and steps to finish their essay writing paper. Anne Whitaker also suggests the students to use the steps or strategy such as

choosing a topic, brainstorming and planning. The result of the finding showed that most of the students have some plannings in writing an essay such as making an outline to help them finished their essay writing paper. Based on interview that conducted with the students, they cover their problems in writing essay by applied learning strategies in their learning process in writing essay. They covered their problems by doing some ways in order to make their learning process in their writing was run well. In conclusion, the students applied all learning strategies to overcome their problem in process of writing essay. They are memory, cognitive, compensation, metacognitive, affective and social strategies. They used learning strategies in different way. It showed that 22 students that has good score in writing essay applied all learning strategy but in different way of learning strategies.

D. CONCLUSION

Based on the findings and discussion indicate the students' learning strategies in writing essay. The data found the result of the research and discussion from the previous chapter, about what are the students' learning strategies in writing essay at English Education Students of UIN Jambi. From the findings and the discussion in the previous chapter, show that the students used all of the learning strategies in writing essay. They are memory strategies, cognitive strategies, compensation strategies, metacognitive strategies, affective strategies, and social strategies.

The researcher suggests that the students study the learning strategies because the learning strategies contribute their academic success. The students may evaluate their learning, modify their learning strategies, and share the strategies with their classmates. The students are also suggested to use the learning strategies in writing wisely. As a result, they will be more independent and become better learners. For other researcher probably can investigate this research in more specific research and details. I hope this research is useful and useful as a reference for the research.

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