

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Writing is one of basic skill in language skill besides reading, speaking and listening. Writing is an activity of expressing people's idea or thought from writer to the reader in the form of written text. So, writing is not only the activity to write a graphic symbol of writing in a media but also to result a writer's idea through the media. Trimmer (1995: 2) stated that writing is the way to express something about self, to explore and to asses the claims of other people.

For that, writing is one of basic skill which must be mastered by people, especially for students. For them, writing is not only important when they were studying at school, but it will continue after they are graduated. As mentioned by Robitaille and Conelly (2007: 3) that writing well enables you to accomplish your goals, wether those goals include being succesful in school, getting and keeping a good job, or simply expressing your ideas clearly. So, the ability to write is not only important when students do the task from school but also continue when they do the job next.

Unfortunately, it has been found that writing is considered as one of the most difficult skill among the other basic skills. Nunan (2001: 35) said that learning to write fluently and expressively is the most difficult of the macroskills for all language users regardless of wether the language in question is a first, second, or foreign language.

Furthermore, writing is considered also as a complex skill because to produce the final product of writing, the writer need to do several stages of writing process. At least, there are three processes do in writing those are planning, drafting, and revising. As mentioned by Trimmer (1995: 3) that the stages of writing processes is include of planning, drafting, and revising.

Moreover, the ability to write does not bring since when people was born. It arises as far as our habit and practice to write in our daily life. It means that people need to do many experiences and practices to get a good result of writing. Robitaille and Conelly (2007: 17) said that another key factor in learning to write well is practice. People do not get the ability to write automatically because we do not get this ability since we was born. So, we need some practices, experiences, chances, habits, and training continuesly to get a good result of writing.

The practice of writing can be started from the smaller unit of writing, such as from clause to sentence, sentence to paragraph, and paragraph to the longer form or text. But, in whatever kinds of the text, the clarity of idea which delivered is considered by the writer's acquisition to construct it in the form of paragraph. So, the practice to write can be started from the unit of paragraph.

Paragraph is one of part in the text which consist of several sentences. Robert (1973: 1229) in Popescu et al. (2015: 1214) said that paragraph is a part of a written text in prose which is characterized by a certain unity of thinking and of composition. In line, Trimmer (1995: 159) said that paragraph is a set of related sentences that express or develop a topic.

Moreover, the function of paragraph in the text helps reader to understand and easy to categorize idea which delivered by writer. So, in the way of explaining must be clear and appropriate in each paragraph. Sometimes, a simple idea will be very difficult to understand, if the writer can not explain it in a good paragraph. In contrast, a complicated idea will be easy to understand if the writer is able to explain it in a good paragraph.

Furthermore, a good writing is not only can be understood by the writer but also by the reader. It should be easy to understand and can be accounted for. For that, a good writing must have certain requirements. According to Trimmer (1995: 160), there are four requirements of topical paragraphs, those are unity, completeness, order, and coherence. In addition, Brown (2004: 243) stated that writing can be assessed by analytic scale including the elements of organization, logical development of ideas, grammar, punctuation/spelling/mechanics, and style and quality of expressions.

For that, the ability to write should always be developed by language learner, in order to be a good writer. It means that they must have the ability to organize their writing well, can express the idea or thought in clear and logic sentences or paragraphs, can use a correct grammar, can use writing convention precisely, and can choose a precise vocabulary usage. So, it means that a good writer is not only a writer who can produce the words and sentences in a media of writing, but a good writer is someone who can produce a product of writing by paying attention on the use of organization, logical development of ideas,

grammar, punctuation / spelling / mechanics, and style and quality of expressions to the text which they write.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in conducting a research on “The Analysis of Students’ Paragraphs Construction of the English Education Department Students in Muhammadiyah University of Ponorogo Academic Year 2016/2017”.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

Based on the background of study above, the problem of this research can be stated, “How is the students’ paragraphs construction of the English Education Department Students in Muhammadiyah University of Ponorogo?”

1.3 Purpose of Study

The purpose of this research is to analyze the student’s paragraphs construction of the English Education Department Students in Muhammadiyah University of Ponorogo.

1.4 Significance of the Study

By analyzing the students’ paragraph construction of English Education Department Students in Muhammadiyah University of Ponorogo, the researcher whises the result of the research can be advantageous for:

1) Lecturer

Through this research, the lecturer gets insights about English Education Department Students' ability of paragraph writing.

2) Students

Through this research, the students know their result of paragraph construction. Thus, the students can use it as consideration in the next writing.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

This research is focussed on the students of English Education Department Students in Muhammadiyah University of Ponorogo who had already taken paragraph writing subject. The researcher limits this research only on the elements of writing.

1.6 Definition of Key Term

Writing : is the way to express something about self, to explore, and to asses the claims of other people. Trimmer (1995: 2)

Paragraph Construction : is a set of related sentences that express or develop a topic. Trimmer (1995: 159)