

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

English has established its status as an international language because it achieved an official position and has become used by more people than any other language (Crystal, 1997). English has a significant impact on various sectors such as the economy, education, society, and culture all over the world. Indonesians are becoming enthusiastic about learning English, primarily since Indonesia has held many international events and invited many tourists to come. People with good proficiency in English have better access to education and search for desirable jobs in many sectors. English is a key in fostering international communication, sharing scientific knowledge and technological expertise, and promoting economic growth. The English study program of State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya mainly prepares students for a future career as middle-level staff in the hospitality industry.

Argumentative writing has long been considered an essential mode of writing discourse. Lecturers assign argumentative texts in a variety of course assignments. The writing task requires students to convince readers to accept their point of view on a particular issue. Therefore, Argumentative writing is essential. However, writing skills are the most challenging type of text for students, especially for non-native learners, because they do not have sufficient linguistic and rhetorical competence (Ferris, 1994). One weakness in their essay is poor organization due to a lack of knowledge of the argumentative structure and a deficit in elaborate supports (Crowhurst, 1991). Another problem is inappropriate dictions and misuse of sentence connectors (Crowhurst, 1987).

Inevitably, they struggled with composing argumentative essays. In other words, these students lack exposure to argumentative writing structure and have limited

knowledge about the genres, and they might have difficulties in argumentative writing. In brief, an argumentative essay plays an essential role in an academic setting and professional life. However, students are not sufficiently informed of the structure of an argumentative essay, so they are unaware of the system of this genre.

Based on the explanation above, the writer wants to determine the rhetorical patterns in English argumentative essays written by sixth semester students in the English Department of State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya. The research conduct research, and the study title is **An Analysis of Rhetorical Patterns in English Argumentative Essays Written by Polytechnic Students: the sixth semester students of English Department.**

## **1.2 Problem Formulation**

The problem of the study was formulated in the following question: “What rhetorical patterns are utilized by the students in their argumentative essay writing written by the sixth semester students of English Department?”

## **1.3 Objectives**

Therefore, the study's major purpose was to investigate the current rhetorical patterns of argumentative essays produced by English major students in Sriwijaya Polytechnic so that the weaknesses of their essays can be identified. Furthermore, the information about essay organizations used by the students in the texts could be obtained. Finally, the study could find out the similarities and differences by comparing the argumentative essays written among the students.

## **1.4 Benefits**

By analyzing the argumentative essays produced by students in English Department, eventually, the current rhetorical patterns of argumentative texts composed by students through the identification of rhetorical patterns, drawbacks of their writing can be identified, and then remedial can be conducted. Also, the benefit

of the study was to find out if there are any differences in the writing pieces in the same genre produced by students.

Finally, it can provide a rhetorical model for assisting students in producing effective argumentative essays, and at least it could be a reference for them to improve their essay writing. The results from the study could increase students' awareness of rhetorical elements of argumentative structure and suggestions for teachers on what they need to provide for learners.

