

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Nowdays as a global language, English has been used by so many people around the world. It is also important for students to learn and understand English while they communicate and appertain with others. To learn and understand English itself is not easy because as we know that English consists of some skills.

There are four skills in English that must be learned such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing. According to Chairani (2009, p.1), “Listening is a study about how to understand the use of spoken language. Speaking is used to make someone understand how to speak properly. Reading is the understanding of the main and supporting ideas of message. And writing is the act of puttings, symbols, numbers, or words on paper or a computer screen.” Writing is used to express and explain ideas.

Writing is one of the skills which is the most important in our activities especially when we learn about language. Writing in English requires good grammar and good organization. We can find many pratices of writing such as : literature, text books, brochures, magazine, story book, novel, and final report.

Final report is one of the examples of writing practice which is written by the students at every polytechnic as a requirement to graduate. While the students write the final report, they should give more attention in writing final report. They should think about the grammar. Not only grammar but also spelling and punctuation are important.

Punctuation is the system of symbols that we use to separate sentences and parts of sentences and to make their meaning clear. Each symbol is called a “punctuation mark”. There are many punctuation marks that might be used in writing. For example, period is used to end a complete sentence, comma is used to separate a list of items, the question mark is used at the end of question, and the exclamation point is used to end of a sentence to indicate great surprise, etc.

In using the punctuation, the student must understand and know how to use the punctuation. Ideally, the students know when they will use the period, where they can put comma in writing, and when they should use question mark, exclamation point, and other marks.

But unfortunately the reality is that the students do not understand, do not know, and do not realize how to use the punctuation. The students make some error and mistakes in using the punctuation in writing especially for English students while they are writing the abstract for their final report. The students get difficulty in using the punctuation marks.

Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested in analyzing punctuation in abstract of final report written by English students. For the reason, the writer took title “Error Analysis of Using Punctuation in Abstract of Final Report at English Department of State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya.”

1.2 PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

There are some problems that faced by the students in using punctuation in writing, such as the students do not understand how to use the punctuation, and the students do not know when they will use the punctuation. The students get difficulty in using the punctuation marks.

1.3 PROBLEM LIMITATION

This problem focuses on error analysis of punctuation in abstract of final report in English Department of State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya

1.4 PROBLEM FORMULATION

This report will be done because there are some problems that still exist in using punctuation in final report because of the lack of understanding in using of punctuation in writing the final report.

Based on some problems that have been stated before, so that the problem formulation for these problem is :

1. What errors of using punctuation in abstract of final report made by the student at English Department of State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya ?

1.5 PURPOSE AND BENEFIT

1.5.1 PURPOSE

- a. To find out what the punctuation marks are used by the students in writing the abstract of final report in English Department of State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya
- b. To find out what the punctuation errors are made by the students in writing the abstract of final report in English Department of State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya

1.5.2 BENEFIT

- a. For Student :
 - It is hoped that the students know what punctuation marks are used in writing activity.
 - It is hoped that the students can avoid the error of using punctuation in writing activity.
- b. For Reader :
 - It is hoped that the reader can use this research as the reference in analyzing the punctuation marks in writing activity.
- c. For Writer :
 - It is hoped that the writer know about what punctuation marks are used by the students in writing the abstract of final report.
 - It is hoped that the writer to know about the errors are made by the students in writing activity.