

BAB I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

One of requirements to get a degree in university level in Indonesia is writing a research report. The types of research reports which must be written are tailored to the level of education pursued. The students who would like to finish their diploma, undergraduate, postgraduate, or doctoral program are obligated to write final report, *skripsi*, thesis, or dissertation respectively. By writing the research report, it is expected that the research findings can give a contribution for the progress of science.

As one of the vocational education institutions in Indonesia, State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya also requires each student to write a research report for completing education and getting a degree. The objective is as a manifestation of professional ability in applying science and skills comprehensively and systematically to solve the problem scientifically and independently, which this ability is needed in carrying out the work. (Politeknik Negeri Sriwijaya ([Polsri], 2008, p.2).

The type of research report which diploma III students should write is final report. The final report is written in Bahasa Indonesia. Especially for diploma in English Department, it must be written in English. Either the report is written in Bahasa Indonesia or English, the abstract must be written in English.

An abstract is a short description of the research. The abstract describes the entire section of the research from the first chapter to the last chapter. Because describing the entire section of the research, an abstract should be written well so the writer can produce a good abstract. As stated in American Psychological Association (APA),

A well-prepared abstract can be the most important single paragraph in an article. Most people have their first contact with an article by seeing just the abstract, usually in comparison with several other abstracts, as they are doing a literature search. Readers frequently decide on the basis

of the abstract whether to read the entire article. The abstract needs to be dense with information. By embedding key words in your abstract, you enhance the user's ability to find it. (APA, 2010, p.25)

An abstract can be categorized as good abstract if it is accurate, nonevaluative, coherent and readable, and concise (APA, 2010, p.26). It is accurate if the abstract describes the content of abstract. It is nonevaluative if the abstract does not add any comment. It will be coherent and readable if the abstract is written in clear and concise language. It will be concise if the abstract is written briefly and does not exceed the word limit.

Unfortunately, writing a good abstract is still problematic among the students at State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya. The problem occurred can be categorized as errors in writing. The following is one example of errors that researcher found in an abstract written by English department student, "...The writer in finding show 5 waterfall in pagaralam, follow as Mangkok waterfall, Embun waterfall, Alap-alap waterfall, Basemah waterfall and Tujuh kenangan waterfal. The contents of blog are information detail about waterfall and show some picture..."

There are two errors in this abstract. Those errors are about grammar and content. The grammatical errors can be seen in some sentences, such as The writer in finding **show** 5 waterfall in Pagaralam, the contents of blog are **information detail** about waterfall and show **picture**. The words *show* and *picture* in the sentences are not correct; those words must be written with the addition of -s. Next, the words *information detail* is not correct either it must be *detail information*. Regarding the errors in contents, the contents of the abstract are only purpose, methodology, and finding. The abstract doesn't cover the basic contents of a good abstract.

These errors can not be let still exist. Writing a good abstract is important, considering the abstract is used to describe the entire parts of report and being the consideration for reader whether they are interested in continuing to read or not. Besides, there is the potential that the previous final report can be a reference for further research. Therefore, the writer wants to do a research on students' errors in writing abstracts of final reports.

1.2 Problem Formulation

This study is conducted because errors are found in abstract. Based on problem stated before, the problem formulation is “What kinds of errors do the students make in writing abstracts of final reports ?”

1.3 Problem Limitation

The problem of this final report focuses an analysis on students' errors in grammar and content in abstracts. The abstracts that were studied were the ones written by the students of English department who graduated in 2017.

1.4 Purpose

The purpose of this study is to find out kinds of errors do the students make in writing abstracts of final reports.

1.5 Benefit

This final report is expected to give benefits to students and further researchers. It is hoped that the students can avoid the errors in writing abstracts. Hopefully, future researcher can use this research result as the reference for the further research.