

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Writing is very important for our lives, either for academic or for our career in the future. Nowadays people use writing in many purposes, for example writing for educational purposes. We do a lot of writing which can be applied in our daily activities, for example writing a letter for applying scholarship, writing a letter for a job, writing an essay, and writing a journal. When you want to apply a scholarship for studying abroad, one thing that you should include in your letter is writing an essay. The essay should impress the university's coordinator. All of the students compete with each other writing her/his best work to get the chance. This means that if the students are not able to write and organize the content of the essay, the students will not get an opportunity to study abroad. It indicates that they can lose their dream only because they cannot write well.

According to Nunan (2003 as cited in Yolanda & Al-Hafizh, 2014) writing is an intellectual activity of finding ideas and thinking about the way to express and compose the statement and paragraph that is clear to be understood by the people. Writing can develop our critical thinking because we have to express ideas and present arguments to cultivate higher order thinking. When we respond to the difficult problems, we can state our ideas and explain to solve the problem. Writing requires our ideas and thoughts into sentences or paragraphs. It is not easy to collect our thoughts and idea into sentences.

According to the English Teaching Forum (1980) writing is the last, and perhaps most difficult skill for students to learn. Learners should look carefully on the detail when they do the writing. They have to know about the rules. According to (Nurgiantoro (2001 as cited in Khasanah, 2015) there are some aspects of writing that can be evaluated, such as content, organization, vocabulary, grammar, and mechanic. Sometimes students find difficulty while writing an essay or writing for

their assignment. One thing that can help the students is by writing a reflective journal

According to a study prepared by (The Learning Centre, The University of New South Wales (2008 as cited in Farrah, 2012), reflective writing is a response to experiences, opinions, events or new information. In writing course, students are asked to write their reflective journal. The students can review what they have learned in the class, what aspects that they should have improved by using reflective journal during the lesson. The reflective journal can support the students to identify the mistakes that they have done before and hopefully they will not do the same mistakes again in the future.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In line with the discussion above, the research problem would be as follows: What is the English Department students' perception on the use of reflective journals in Writing A class?

1.3 Objective of the Study

This study is aimed to find out the perception of the English Department students on the use of reflective journal in Writing A class.

1.4 Theoretical Framework

This study focuses on finding out the students' perception on the use of reflective journal in Writing Class. The researcher uses the theory writing from Hedge (1999 as cited in Kalipa, 2014), writing is essentially a creative process which involves students in a learning process, motivates, builds their confidence, gives them an opportunity to explore the language, to communicate and to look for the best ways of self-expression. In this study, the researcher uses theory from Kerka (1996 as cited in Farrah, 2012) reflective journal is considered to be a critical aspect of knowledge processing and it helps the learners to connect between new information and what they have already known.

Moreover, the researcher also uses the theory of perception from Démuth (2012) perception is the end product of the interaction between stimulus and internal hypotheses, expectations, and knowledge of the observer, while motivation and emotions play an important role in this process.

1.5 Limitation and Scope

The scope of this study is the students who took Writing A course in the academic year of 2019/2020. There were three classes in one batch. The students who took Writing A course had joined two different class systems, offline class and online class. The first half of semester, the students still joined offline class but during the pandemic, the students joined an online class.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The result of this study can help the lecturers to consider using reflective journal for improving the students' process during writing course. In addition, the lecturers can receive a feedback from the students about how they teach and deliver a lesson to students so both the students and lecturers can get a benefit from using reflective journal.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

According to Ismail (2011) writing is a process of finding like a researcher when he/she discovers his/her way to think, compose and put ideas into one.

Kerka (1996 as cited in Farrah, 2012) stated that reflective journal is considered to be a critical aspect of knowledge processing and it helps the learners to connect between new information and what they have already known. Reflective journal that applied in English Department is a journal where you can write your experience during the lesson. The students can write about the how the teacher or lecturer teaches them in their own way. The students can write the reflective journal weekly and later the reflective journal will be submitted through email.

Perception is the end product of the interaction between stimulus and internal hypotheses, expectations, and knowledge of the observer, while motivation and emotions play an important role in this process (Démuth, 2012).

1.8. Organization of the Study

This study consists of five chapters. Chapter 1 is about introduction. It consists of background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, theoretical framework, limitation and scope, significance of the study, definition of key terms, organization of the study.

Chapter 2 is a review of related literature which consists of related theory and some previous studies related to this study.

Chapter 3 is about research method. This chapter presents the research design, the respondents, the instrument, the procedure of data collection, and the techniques of data analysis.

Chapter 4 is about findings and discussions. It presents the discussion and result from the questionnaire and interview.

Chapter 5 is about conclusion and suggestions of the study.