AN ANALYSIS ON THE FACTORS AFFECTING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS' DIFFICULTIES IN WRITING

Siti Rahmah[1], Finny Anita[2], Ageung Darajat[3]
[1,2,3]IKIP PGRI Pontianak, sitir5841@gmail.com

Abstract

This research aimed to explore undergraduate students' difficulties in writing thesis in the ninth semester students of IKIP-PGRI Pontianak in the academic year of 2020/2021). The research implemented a descriptive research design in quantitative method. There were 40 ninth semester students participated to collect primary data. The purposed research applied indirect communication technique were utilized such tool as online questionnaire (close-ended) which consist of 23 questions. The questionnaire items were adopted from Dwihandini (2013). The research finding indicated that there were found three findings in this study. The first finding indicated that the most dominant aspect in psychological factor that affect undergraduate students' difficulties in writing thesis is self-esteem. The second finding indicated the most influence aspect on sociocultural factor is the communicative competence. And the last finding indicated extent error analysis is the most dominant linguistic factor that affect undergraduate students' difficulties in writing thesis.

Keywords: Factor Affecting Undergraduate, Students Difficulties, Writing Thesis

INTRODUCTION

Thesis writing is a final project that undergraduate students' must complete to get their degree. Thesis writing also has a special format in writing it. Budiharso (2009: 136) said that the purpose of writing a thesis is to learn how to make a scientific paper. In another sense, writing a thesis can be interpreted as writing a thesis and then explaining the results of the research. Some important points in writing a good thesis are students must know what topics they will research, previous study that related with their topic, and understand the theories and recommendations of previous experts before. (Blaxter, Huges, and Tight, 1998:145).

Based on observation with ninth semester students of English Education Study Program in IKIP PGRI Pontianak, the researcher saw most of students experience problems when working on final project or thesis. The problem are grammatical error, difficult in determining research problem and purpose, difficult to analyse the data and much more. Thesis preparation is the last phase in carrying out education for students by following the occupied field. A students in

the college is required to immediately complete his/her studies. In general, at the end of study period, students is given a final assignment or commonly called a thesis.

In this research, the researcher analyze the factors affecting undergraduate students difficulties in writing thesis that as the problem in this research. This research was done by Puspita (2019), conducted research entitled "Factors Affecting Students' Difficulties In Writing Thesis". Based on the problem before, the researcher interest in investigating the most aspect that affect undergraduate students difficulties in 3 factor; psychological, sociocultural, and linguistic factor. So that the researcher interest in conducting research entitled "An Analysis on the Factors Affecting Undergraduate Students' Difficulties in Writing Thesis. The researcher hopes that this research will be answer the research problem before and will be useful for the other researcher.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The researcher use quantitative as the design on this research. It is because, the researcher describe the Undergraduate Students Difficulties in Writing Thesis, some of the data was obtained from the research instruments are then described systematically and clearly in word based on specified criteria of the psychological, sociocultural and linguistic factor. The format questionnaire of this research was close-ended. It means that respondent answered the question based on the answers provided that was prepared by the researcher. The questionnaire that was used for knowing a research question the researcher decided to used close-ended questionnaires with design by Likert Scale. According to Arikunto (1998: 67) said that descriptive research purpose is to collect a certain interesting and accurate data.

Then, Ary (2010: 121) said that one of the purpose of descriptive design is to see their views on the problem and to summarize the different characteristic of some groups. From those opinions, it can be concluded that the descriptive method is a problem solving procedure by providing a clear description of something at the time the research is conduct to get the accurate data from the subject statistical calculation.

The researcher used descriptive research design because this research design is suitable with the the purpose of this research, the researcher wants to find out students' difficulties in writing thesis, wich takes place at IKIP PGRI Pontianak.

Subject of Research

The subject of this research were the students of ninth semester of English Education Study Program of IKIP PGRI Pontianak in the academic year of 2020/2021. Therefore, the fourth semesters students were reffered as the population of this research. Population is as a group of people or individuals who have similar characteristic (Creswell, 2012:142).

The researcher use a nonprobability sampling technique, nonprobability sampling is a sampling technique where the selected sample is a part of the population that is not given the same opportunity to become a sample (Sugiyono, 2018: 123). One of the nonprobability sampling techniques is a purposive sampling technique to get appropriate respondents that relevant to selected criteria to answer the researcher to answer the research questions. The criteria of research sample were the ninth students who still write thesis. If the subject fit the criteria, the researcher believed that they were appropriate as the data sources.

Data Collection

To answer the problems formulated in this research needs to obtain the data supports the objective by the use of techniques or methods and tool appropriate data collection tools. In collecting the data, the researcher will use indirect communication. The indirect communication comes to collect student performance or product that can be evaluated. Collecting the data in this research, the researcher will giving online questionnaire through Google form.

Data Analysis

In analysis the data the researcher was use descriptive statistic analysis transforming from text data into numerical data. Based adjustment on the tool of data collection, the researcher treated the data by applying the calculation technique of the Likert scale with four steps such as score determination, determination ideal score, rating scale, and measurement the frequency and percentage. The research shows that the data into chart to serve the data. The researcher used descriptive analysis to help in calculating the data and managed the charts.

Research Findings

The data obtained from the instrument was computed into Ms. Excel. In this research, the researcher used questionnaire to measure factors that affect undergraduate students difficulties in writing thesis. The researcher asked 40 ninth semester students of English study program of IKIP PGRI Pontianak as participants to fill up the questionnaire. The questionnaire consisted of 23 statements and measured with positive statements. The researcher would describe the result of data analysis used chart below:

1. **Overall the Aspects of Students Difficulties in Writing Thesis.**

Descriptive statistics were used to reveal the overall students' difficulties in writing thesis. From Figure 4.1, it can be seen that linguistic factors (74%) ranked top. Linguistic factors was at agree scale. Most of students found the difficulties when they want to write a good sentences without grammatical error.
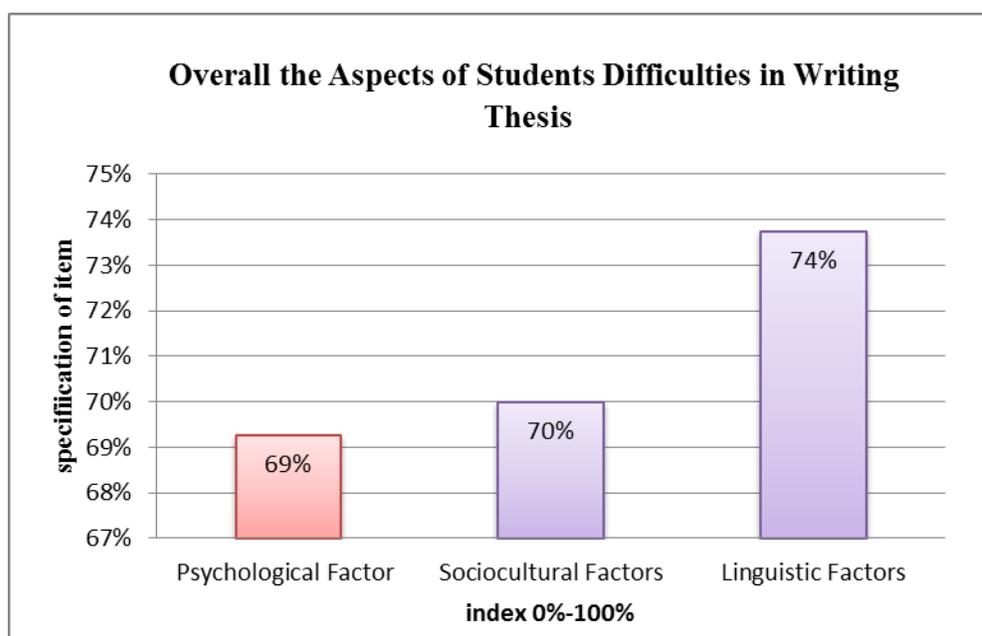

Figure 1 Overall the Aspects of Students Difficulties in Writing Thesis

Sociocultural factor (70%) ranked second. Practically it represented agree. Based on the responses of the students, the researcher found that many students feel difficult when they

want to discuss their thesis between students and students or between students and lecturer. In this case, the students has problem to communicate the idea.

Then the last one, psychological factor (69%) ranked third, different only by one percent with sociocultural factor. This factor is about internal factor of the students. Based on the responses, the answer in this section is very widely. Some students has a strong motivation to write the thesis, and others has some internal problems when they write a thesis. psychological factor also was at agree scale.

2. The Most Dominant Aspect That Affect Undergraduate Students' Difficulties in Writing Thesis

a. Psychological Factor

There were 15 items of questionnaires statements refer to psychological factor. On the psychological, there were 4 indicators that affect undergraduate students' difficulties in writing a good thesis. The psychological factor indicators are have a lack of self-esteem in deciding thesis tittle and topic, having lack to choose research method and to get the data, feel distraught when writing thesis, having lack of several things that related to the thesis, there are the most indicators that affect undergraduate students in writing thesis on the psychological factor.
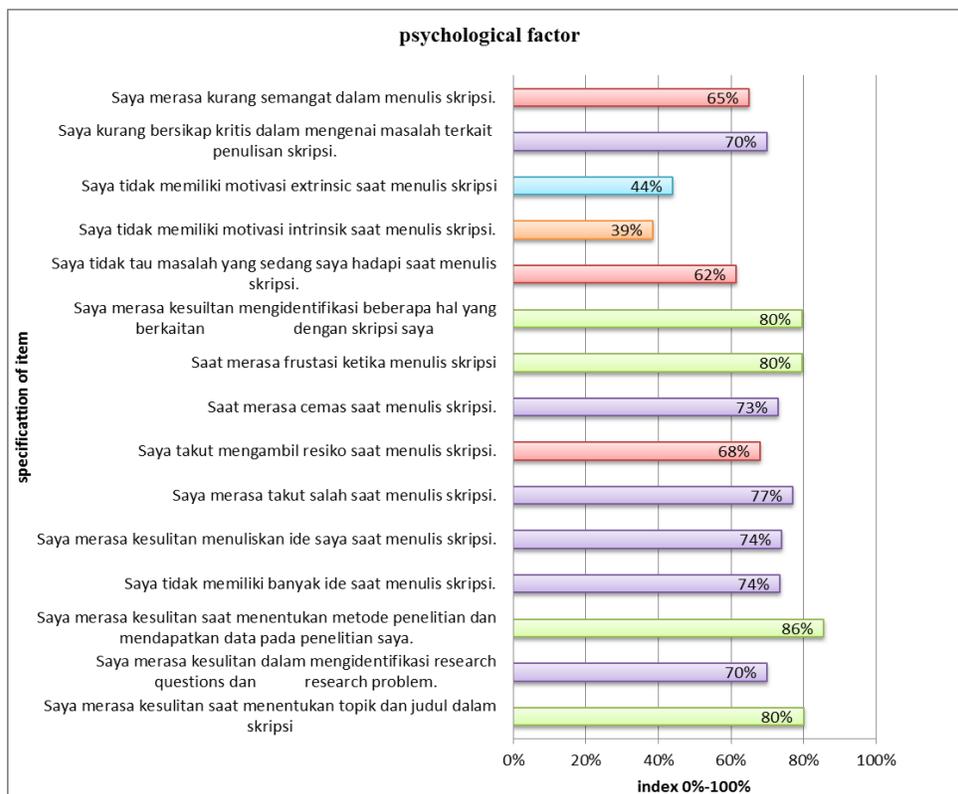
Figure 2 Psychological Factor

From 15 items on psychological factor, only one item that at disagree scale with a result of 33% and one item that at neutral scale with a result of 44%. Other items are on the scale agree and strongly agree. From this result, the researcher found that many students still have difficulties that come from within themselves.

b. Sociocultural Factor

There were 4 items of questionnaires statement which exist on the sociocultural factor. From these items, have an ability to connect and form each sentence into a good thesis writing was the most item with the higher score (79%). Having lack of understanding about culture In the classroom or department of university regarding the format of thesis writing (70%) and have lack in discuss about the thesis writing among undergraduate students (70%) both of them ranked second. From figure 4.3, the

researcher concluded that those items are at agree scale. All of the samples was agree that all item on sociocultural affect undergraduate students difficulties in writing thesis.
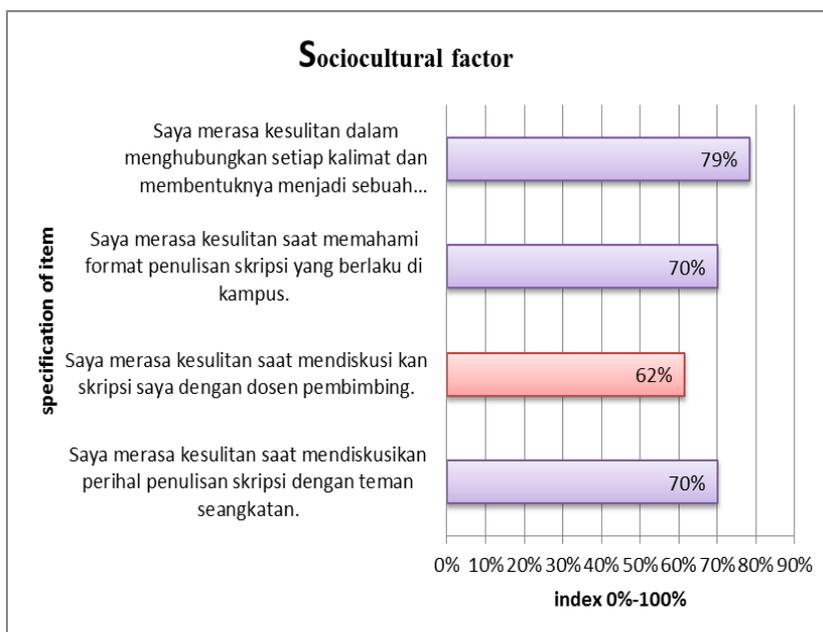

Sociocultural factor

Figure 3 Sociocultural Factor

c. Linguistic Factor

However, there is 4 items of the questionnaires statements that exists on the linguistic factor. In these items, there were 3 main indicators of linguistic factors that affec undergraduate students difficulties in writing thesis, with the name, (a) have difficulties in minimize the grammatical error in writing a good thesis; (b) have difficulties in understanding which grammar must be supposed to be deleted, replaced, supplied, and reordered on writing a good thesis; (c) have difficulties in understanding which part of linguistic units that must be deleted, supplied, replaced, and reordered on writing a good thesis.
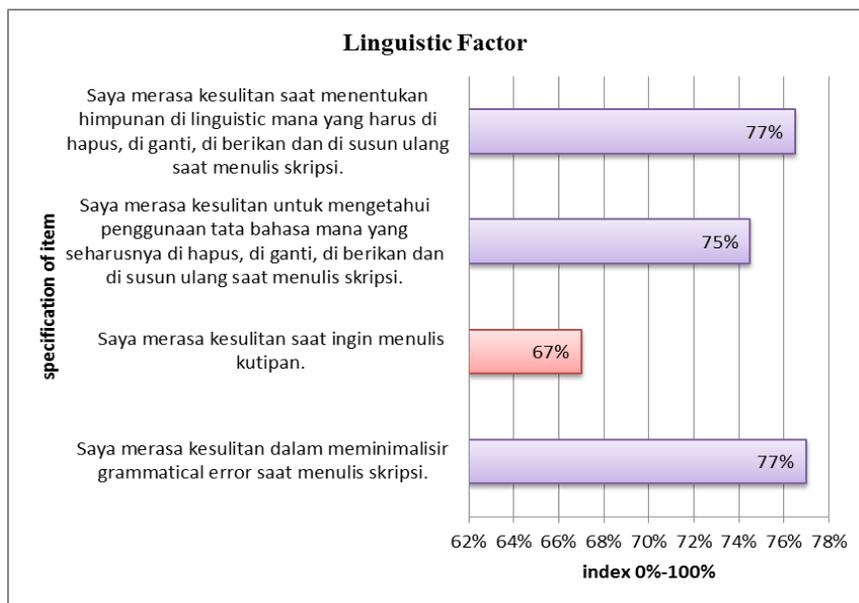
Figure 4 Linguistic Factor

DISCUSSION

Based on the research findings before, the researcher present a discussion about the data analysis on the research. Investigation and discussion result of the research aim to answer the research problem and result from research which has been conducted, then interpret the finding in the research to be knowledge. The research discussion was also classified into three main factors of the statements of the difficulties for IKIP PGRI Pontianak undergraduate students difficulties in writing thesis. the interpretation was as follow:

1. On the psychological factor the result shows that psychological is one of the factor that affect undergraduate students difficulties in writing thesis. While, the most dominant psychological factor that affect undergraduate students difficulties in writing a good thesis is self-esteem. Based on the result, the students was difficult to having the basic knowledge of a big theory, deciding methodology that to be used on their thesis. According to Brown (2007:154) said that students with low self-efficacy might also attribute failure to an initial lack of ability, what these strands of

psychological theory say that learners to believe in themselves in order to succeed at a set of tasks.

2. The calculated data shows that sociocultural factor affect the undergraduate students of IKIP PGRI Pontianak in writing appropriate thesis. However, the most influence aspect on sociocultural factor is the communicative competence. As Brown (2007:189) claims that one of the things that is important when learning a language is culture.

3. Linguistic factor also one of the factor that affect undergraduate students difficulties in writing thesis. Based on the result, extent error analysis is the most dominant linguistic factor that affect undergraduate students difficulties in writing thesis. According to Brown (2007:263) explain that extent error analysis is the some parts of linguistic unit that must be deleted, replaced, supplied, or reordered in order to make a good sentence.

The result of this research was different from the previous study of Dwihandini (2013) which mentioned that the most factor that affect undergraduate students difficulties in writing thesis. While the aim of this research is to find out the most aspect that affect undergraduate student difficulties in writing thesis.

CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion, the researcher found all the factors that affect students difficulties in writing thesis faced by the students. They were the students difficulties in psychological factor, students difficulties in sociocultural factor and students difficulties in linguistic factor.

The researcher found all of the factor of students difficulties in writing thesis faced by the students. They were difficult in self-esteem such as difficult in deciding the topic of their thesis and difficult in finding a proper literature review. After that, the culture in the language classroom of the undergraduate students. It was difficult in understanding about the culture in the university about standard of format in writing thesis and the last domain error analysis.

From the research findings it can be concluded that the most indicators on the psychological factors affecting undergraduate students in writing thesis was self-esteem of undergraduate itself. Then, the most exists indicators that affect on sociocultural factors for students' difficulties in writing a good thesis was found in the communicative competence. Then, the linguistic factors indicators that affect the undergraduate students difficulty in writing a good thesis was found extent error analysis aspect.

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