THE PROBLEMS FACED BY THE STUDENTS OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT IN WRITING THESIS AT UNIVERSITY OF MUHAMMADIYAH MALANG

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ABSTRACT

Every student in university has to conduct a research as a requirement before they graduate. This requirement needs a lot of time, process and efforts. So, the students realize that they will find a lot of difficulties in writing thesis in order to produce an excellent result, but sometimes they do not know how to solve them. Furthermore, good learners know when they have a problem. By understanding the problems, the students will easily improve themselves to make better preparation for the next learning. The objectives of this study are to reveal several students’ problems in writing thesis, its causes, and solutions to solve their problems, especially to investigate their problems in non-linguistic aspect.

The study used descriptive qualitative research. The subjects of this study were the students of English Department who composed their thesis and the first advisors who guide them that have been selected for this study. The instruments applied in this study were questionnaire and interview. The questionnaire was used for asking the students’ problems in writing thesis (non-linguistic factors) and its causes. However, the interview was used to find out the solutions given by the thesis advisors to cope with students’ problems in writing thesis.

The result of this study showed that the students of English Department at UMM faced problems in writing thesis especially the problems in non-linguistic aspects. Based on the result of the research, the problems were categorized into three aspects; they are students, thesis advisors and others aspects. The students’ aspect covers cognitive, cognitive dynamic, affective, sensoric – motoric and another personal problem. Moreover, the thesis advisors’ aspects covered time management and conflict problems. Another aspect covered a financial problem. Furthermore, the causes of students’ problems in writing thesis covered learner and thesis advisor factors. The learner factors covered: students’ motivation and personality. Moreover, the thesis advisor factor covered the advisors’ personality and roles. However, to solve the students’ problems in writing thesis, the advisors applied some roles. They were advisor as a facilitator, dictator, monitor, an academic advisor and a profession partner.

Finally, it was found that the students of English department faced various problems in writing thesis. The most frequent problem faced was affective problem. The students who were lazy, pessimistic, worry, and fearful influenced their willingness to finish their thesis quickly. Therefore, students’ affective may influence their problem in writing thesis.