CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses about the background of the study, the statement of problem, the purpose of study, the significance of study, the scope limitation, and the definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

Writing, like speaking, is such a common part of our everyday lives that we take for granted the writing we do on a daily basis. It can be a most frustrating task for anyone, particularly when circumstances interfere with it. Smalley et al. (2001) states that sometimes we are frustrated because we cannot think of anything to say about a topic. In line with this idea it can be stated that writing becomes one of the four language skills that play a vital role in this global community but many people still hate to do writing activities. They assume that writing is the difficult skill because they can not develop their ideas into a good writing.

Furthermore, Leo et al. (2007) states that writing as a process of expressing ideas or thoughts in words should be done at our leisure. Writing can be very enjoyable as long as we have the ideas and the means to achieve it. From that explanation, we can conclude that people can be enjoyable to make a good writing by finding ideas and write it into good sentences and arrange those to be paragraph which has main idea and supporting sentences. It will make the reader easier to understand what the main topic / main idea is about.
According to Smalley et al. (2001, p.105), essay is a group of paragraphs that develops one central idea. An effective essay has a clear purpose, often provides useful information, has an effect on the reader’s thoughts and feelings, and is usually a pleasure to read. But the fact, many students assume that making an essay writing is the harder one. The data from Masyhud (2010) on his thesis, *The Problems Faced by Students in Writing Essay Both in Individual Work and In Group Work*, mentioned that there were six problems faced by students in individual work in essay writing, (1) The limited ideas (70%), (2) The students’ difficulty to choose appropriate ideas (7%), (3) No one checked the students’ writing (4%), (4) The students’ low motivation to write (2%), (5) Unable to share ideas with the others (2%), and (6) The students’ difficulty to understand the materials (2%). From those evidences, the limited ideas becomes the most problem that students face in essay writing which reaches 70% almost 100%. It shows that people have difficulty in developing their ideas into a good writing because they do not want to try to make the draft of their ideas so it will make their ideas are gone by the wind.

An essay has several elements on it such as thesis statement, unity, organization, bodies, endings, paragraphs, transitions, and effective sentences. From all of those elements, Rosa and Eschholz (1992) state that the concepts of thesis statement, unity, and organization underlie all the others and so come first in our sequence. Moreover, according to Masyhud (2010) on his thesis, he states that there are five components of writing essay; the topic, grammar, usage, mechanic, and the organization. Hence, organization of ideas becomes one of the important parts in the
essay writing process because it will establish the good arrangement of the well-
developed essay. According in this matter about organization of ideas, McDougal (1985) states:

One very common problem in longer compositions and speeches is weak organization. You may have collected a wealth of interesting information on your subject. Unless your facts, examples, and other information are carefully organized, however, your reader or listener may have difficulty understanding you. From the beginning to end, your ideas should flow smoothly. One point should lead logically to the next, rather than be presented in a random order.

Regarding the finding so far, there are two research that study on writing, those are Milasari (2005) and Mahendra (2011). Milasari (2005) on her thesis “A Study on The Students’ Ability in Writing The Introduction of Argumentative Essay at Sixth Semester of English department in MUM ”. concluded that the students’ ability in writing an introduction of an argumentative essay was generally good while Mahendra (2011) on his thesis “The Students Writing Strategy in Developing Essay at The English Department of UMM gave the conclusion based on his research finding that the most commonly used strategy was combination between one to another strategy such as (1) composition strategy, (2) self-regulation strategy, and (3) process-based strategy.

All of those researchers made their research about writing but no-one study about the organization of ideas in essay writing. Milasari only studied about the students’ ability in writing the introduction of argumentative essay while Mahendra focused on students writing strategy in developing essay, they did not realize that organization of ideas becomes the important part to make a good essay. Related to the
fact, the people who write essay writing often make mistakes in organizing their ideas into a good order. They do not be aware of the three parts of essay, introduction, body, and concluding paragraph, which are related each other in one central idea.

Regarding the findings above, the researcher is interested in making a study on the students essay writing especially for the fifth semester of English Department University of Muhammadiyah Malang because they have already gotten the explanation how to make an essay. So, this study is done to know their organization of ideas in making an essay writing.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Based on the background of the study, the researcher formulates the problem of research as follow:

1. How do the students organize ideas in essay writing of the fifth semester at English Department University of Muhammadiyah Malang?

2. What are the students’ problems in organizing ideas in essay writing of the fifth semester at English Department University of Muhammadiyah Malang?

3. What are the students’ solutions to the problems in organizing ideas in essay writing of the fifth semester at English Department University of Muhammadiyah Malang?
1.3 Purpose of Study

1. To investigate how the fifth semester students organize ideas in essay writing at English Department University of Muhammadiyah Malang.

2. To discover the students’ problems in organizing ideas in essay writing of the fifth semester at English Department University of Muhammadiyah Malang.

3. To investigate the students’ solutions to the problems in organizing ideas in essay writing of the fifth semester at English Department University of Muhammadiyah Malang.

1.4 Significance of Study

The result of this study will give contributions to some people such as university students, writing lecturers, and the next researchers. First, for the university students, especially English Department who want to make essay writing, they can know how to arrange the good organization of ideas, introduction, developmental (body) paragraphs, and conclusion, from this research. Second is for writing lecturers. They can get the early information about their students in developing the organization of ideas in their essay writing. The last is for the next researchers. They can use this study as a reference or background knowledge in doing some researchers about
organization of ideas in essay writing of university students especially English Department.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is the essay writing of the fifth semester students at English Department University of Muhammadiyah Malang. Moreover, this study is limited to the organization of ideas in essay writing of the fifth semester students at English Department University of Muhammadiyah Malang.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

There are several key terms, which are clarified in this study. The researcher defines the key terms as follows:

1. Ideas : thoughts or insights that come to mind (Smalley et al. 2001). In this study, ideas mean collection of thoughts that generate in the mind.

2. Organization of ideas : thoughts process of moving back and forth from general statements to specific details, of finding appropriate and relevant details and arranging them in the most effective order (Raimes 1983, p. 115). Organization of ideas in this study intends as thought generates in the mind which will be written in the effective order.
3. Essay: a group of paragraphs that develops one central idea (Smalley et al. 2001, p.105). Essay in this study denotes as a piece of writing several paragraphs long more than two paragraphs which consists of three main parts; introductory, body, and concluding paragraph and all of them are related each other in one topic.

4. Essay Writing: a relatively activity to write short piece of nonfiction in which a writer attempts to develop one or more closely related points or ideas (Rosa and Eschholz, 1992). In this study, essay writing defines as an activity to write several paragraphs long more than two paragraphs which consists of three main parts; introductory, body, and concluding paragraph and all of them are related each other in one topic.