CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer presents the aspects dealing with introduction. These aspects are: (1) background of study, (2) statement of problems, (3) purpose of study, (4) significance of study, (5) scope and limitation, and (6) definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of Study

In the most widely accepted discoveries of the world, evolution is usually associated with biology. A lower species evolves into a higher one, a single substance or group divides into several distinct and sometimes more sophisticated patterns. Evolution is concerned with living things. One of the products of evolution is language which is constantly changing and developing.

Language is a system of arbitrary verbal symbols by which members of a speech community use as a means of communication to interact and, in a democracy, express their ideas, feelings and thoughts. It also becomes the reflection of someone personality. Language is used to communicate and convey meaning from one person to another. Thus, language is the tool of communication of all human beings.

People use language in different modes of communication or interaction through spoken language, written language, or silent language. By using the spoken language, we can talk to other people in the society. We use spoken language to express our ideas, opinions and feelings. We also use it to make sense of and confirm
our understandings, to question and test our assumptions, and to explore meaning. In other words, spoken language is very important in communication among human beings.

Written language is also important in our lives because it gives us the ability to record and convey our experience and knowledge to others. Since very long time ago, people have used written language for recording what they learn and discover from the environment. For instance, Muslims use written language for bundling the verse of their God into Al-Quran; artists create and record poetry, drama dialogue or story into books, drama scripts, or novels. Scientists, who search and discover something important for human being, record what they got into scientist books and publish them. Then other people learn from what they wrote. We can imagine how important written language for people in any time and any place is.

However, written language is a big deal for academic purposes. People in the entire world use written language for recording what they have learned since a very long time ago. In class, teachers write down any information on the white board for the students. On the other hand, the students write down any kind of information they got from the teacher’s explanation. Even professors, doctors, or lecturers need written language as much as students do. They record their ideas of knowledge into books or literatures and publish them, so that people can learn from what they wrote. Since the written language can be re-employed, duplicated, and distributed, it becomes an endless life time available source of information and ideas for anyone.

University students use written language for certain purposes. One of them is for writing thesis as their final project. Writing thesis is such a big deal since it is very
complex. There are so many parts or components in thesis that should be known well by the writers. Every single part in thesis is very important. They all should be supported and connected with each other. In fact, the writer of thesis should know well every part of thesis to make it a good thesis.

One of the most important parts in thesis is the background of study. Background of study is the beginning part where a thesis writer lists the scientific reasons for his study, and some assumptions that he starts with, as well as any preliminary information that a person needs to know before searching deeply into a sea of data. Moreover, it tells the readers what the writer would like them to take away from the data, and gives specific bits of anecdotal information that is relevant.

According to Satria (2009: 86), “thesis’s background of study contains general information about the object of the research. Also it contains the idea and the reason why the research should be done”.

More specifically, Satria states that in the background of study, there are some components that are really important, such as the general explanation of the condition of the research’s object, the explanation of the problems related to the object of study, the explanation about the problem’s implication, the short explanation of the previous research which is relevant to the study, and also the statement of how important the research

Besides the components, a good thesis’ background of study also requires a good writing organization. The writing organization will determine the arrangement of component in background of the study. Indeed, the writer must pay attention well
about this writing organization in order to be able to present good background of study with well-arranged components.

Stated in *Colorado State University site*, “organization in writing is how ideas are presented. Typically, organization refers to the larger parts of a piece of writing, although it also refers to how paragraphs and sentences are written. The flow of a piece of writing affects how readers interpret ideas. If the organization does not provide readers with the information they are looking for in an orderly manner, they will quickly lose interest”.

In organizing the components and ideas in thesis’ background of study, it requires the unity and coherence in paragraphs, and also the transitions between paragraphs. These are very important in organizing thesis’ background of study. These are used in organizing the sentences in paragraphs and paragraphs in an essay of background of study.

Both unity and coherence are very important in organizing a paragraph. According to Alice (2007, 12), “unity in writing organization means, in a paragraph, there is only one main idea that is supported by supporting sentences. It means in a paragraph, there is only one main idea; and the other sentences are just the supporting sentences. However, coherence in paragraphs is such a big deal. It is required in making an appropriate and clear paragraph. Without the coherence, the paragraphs will be difficult to be understood by the readers”. Because of that, to make appropriate and clear paragraphs of thesis’ background of study, the writer should use unity and coherence in organizing the paragraphs.
Besides unity and coherence, in organizing thesis’ background of study also requires transitions. According to Burnham (in essayedge.com, 1998), “a good essay must use transitions within paragraphs and especially between paragraphs to preserve the logical flow of the essay. An essay without good transitions is like a series of isolated islands; the reader will struggle to get from one point to the next. If the transitions between paragraphs require explanation, the essay is either too large in scope or the flow is not logical. A good transition statement will straddle the line between the two or more paragraphs”.

Based on the explanation above, to make a good thesis’ background of study, a thesis writer has to consider the standard of how to make a good background of study. It means that the writer should know well the components and the writing organization of background of study. Then, the writer should put each component in a good sequence for making a good thesis’ background of study based on the standard.

Considering the explanation about how to create a good thesis’ background of study above, the researcher of this study was curious to examine how the condition in English department of University of Muhammadiyah Malang (UMM) is.

Because of the phenomena above, the researcher chose “An Analysis on Thesis’ Background of Study Written by English Department Students of UMM” as the research title. The researcher would like to analyze deeply the components, and how the components are arranged in writing thesis’ background of study made by students in English department of UMM.
1.2 Statement of Problems

The statement of the problems can be formulated as follows:

a) What are the components used in thesis’ background of study written by English department students of UMM?

b) How are the components arranged in the thesis’ background of study?
   1. How are the unity and coherence in each paragraph of background of study?
   2. How are the transitions between paragraphs in the background of study?

1.3 Purpose of Study

The purpose of the study can be described as follows:

a) To describe the components used in thesis’ background of study written by English department students of UMM.

b) To analyze how the components are arranged in thesis’ background of study.
   1. To describe how the unity and coherence in each paragraph of background of study are arranged.
   2. To analyze how the transitions between paragraphs in the background of study are arranged.

1.4 Significance of Study

The result of this study may contribute special information for the students of English department about how to write thesis’ background of study well. This could
be a guideline for all students in English department who want to write thesis as the final task of their study.

Furthermore, the result of this study is expected to be able to inform all lecturers of English department of UMM, especially the student advisors in writing thesis that (some or most) of students of English department of UMM who have graduated did not qualify in writing thesis’ background of study. As a result, student advisors are expected to be more thorough in checking students’ thesis’ background of study.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

1.5.1 Scope

In this study, the researcher only focuses on analyzing the thesis’ background of study written by English department students of UMM.

1.5.2 Limitation

The researcher limits the study on analyzing the components and the writing organization used in thesis’ background of study written by English department students of University of Muhammadiyah Malang. The writing organization is in terms of unity and coherence in each paragraph, and transitions between paragraphs in thesis’ background of study.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid making mistakes and misunderstanding, the key terms of this study are given below:
a. English department students of UMM

Those are students who have graduated from English department of University of Muhammadiyah Malang. Those students have written thesis as part of a pre-requisite university degree.

b. Thesis

Thesis is a long piece of writing about a particular subject that students do as part of a pre-requirement university degree such as first degree, Master degree or PhD (http://www.sonoma.edu/aa/hs/guidelines/definition.shtml).

c. Background of study

Background of study contains general information about the object of the research. Also it contains the idea and the reason why the research should be done (Satria, 2009: 8).

d. Unity

Unity in a paragraph is making sure that everything flows smoothly. The paragraph should only have one main idea that is stated on the topic sentence. Then, whatever is being said must support the topic sentence. Finally, the concluding sentence should end the paragraph with the same idea.

e. Coherence

Coherence is the unifying element in good writing. It refers to the unity created between the ideas, sentences, and sections of a piece of writing. Coherence is what gives a piece of writing its flow.
f. Transitions

In an academic essay, transitions highlight the link between two distinct but interrelated ideas and ease the reader from one to the other. Transition is showing the relationship between thoughts. Ideas connect from within the sentence, between sentences, and between paragraphs. Transition creates continuity in writing.