CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses research background, statement of problems, research purposes, research significance, scope and limitation and definition of key terms. Each section is presented as follows.

1.1 Research Background

English writing, which is one of English language skills, and was once considered the field of the elite and well-educated, has become an important tool for people of all walks of life in today’s global community and this statement is also supported by Weigle (2009). English writing allows people to transfer knowledge whether by using newspapers, web pages, academic essay, e-mail, etc. Many business and educational affairs use writing as a tool for communicating. Based on how good they communicate in writing, people can find out their potentials and levels of education. English writing is good for students in learning process. By English writing, the students are forced to organized their thinking and develop their ideas on the issues, and they will know how well they understand the object and know where their strengths and weaknesses are (Greetham, 2001).

Formal academic essays are usually persuasive and argumentative. They require the writer to carefully consider a point of view, respond to an argument, or consider alternatives and offer a conclusion which takes alternative views of the topic into essay. In writing argumentative essays, the writers should present clear
evidence for claims, and qualified statements rather than sweeping assertions. (Belmont & Sharkey, 2011). That is why argumentative essay becomes one of the important essays to be learned. It is one of good ways for students to practice their skill before they are writing thesis as final project in university. Same as writing argumentative essay, writing thesis require the students to argue and persuade the readers to agree on the statements which they presents either in the findings or in the other chapters by using clear evidences or theories and qualified statements.

As learning students in the university, sometimes they make some errors while they are writing an essay. There are several researches done by the researchers in finding errors made by the university students in writing argumentative essay. One of the researchers is Rahayu (2014), she found that the students made errors which categorized as surface strategy taxonomy and communicative effect taxonomy. For in the surface strategy taxonomy, there are the errors related to subject verb agreement and sentence. For in the communicative effect taxonomy, there are errors related to transitional signal. On the other hand, Rosa (2005) found that there are errors made by the second year students of English Department of Padang State University. The errors were about grammatical structure, coherence, unity, and errors which were related to supporting ideas. From those previous researches, it can be seen that many students still do not understand the concept of the rules in producing a good sentence when they are in university level.

From the phenomenon above, the writer was interested to analyze the students’ errors in writing argumentative essay entitle “Error Analysis on
Argumentative Essay Written by the Semester V of English Department Students at University of Muhammadiyah Malang”. The writer wanted to identify the errors which occurred on argumentative essay written by the fifth semester of English Department Students at University of Muhammadiyah Malang, so that the lecturers know their students weaknesses, and improve their teaching process in order to prevent the same cases happen. Beside the reasons which have presented before, argumentative essay was chosen because the writer wanted to continue the previous research done in argumentative paragraph. Another reason is because still there are no researchers conduct the research in this type of writing in University of Muhammadiyah Malang.

1.2 Research Problems

1. What are types of errors made by English Department Students in writing argumentative essay at University of Muhammadiyah Malang?

2. What are common errors made by English Department Students in writing argumentative essay at University of Muhammadiyah Malang?

1.3 Research Purposes

Based on the background of the study above, purposes of the study are formulated as follows:

1. To probe the errors made by English Department Students in writing argumentative essay at University of Muhammadiyah Malang.

2. To find out the common errors made by English Department Students in writing argumentative essay at University of Muhammadiyah Malang.
1.4 Research Significance

Practically, the results of this study are useful for students to know their weaknesses and anticipate the occurrence of same errors. Also, this study is expected to give source of information for the lecturers to know the errors made by the students in writing argumentative essay, and focus on the students’ weaknesses so they can improve their language teaching process. For the other researcher, they are expected to continue this research by finding the students errors in others taxonomies of errors and others types of essay.

Theoretically, the results of this study are useful for students and readers to enrich their knowledge about error analysis in argumentative essay, and also give concrete examples about it. For teachers, it is objected as a new reference to be studied and learned. For next researchers, it allows to be used as a reference to conduct another research in case of error analysis.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study focuses on errors type based on surface strategy taxonomy on Argumentative essay made by English language education department students in University of Muhammadiyah Malang. The limitation of this study is the students in academic year 2014/2015 who are taking Writing III subject at University of Muhammadiyah Malang under one lecturer. The object of the research is the students’ argumentative essays.
1.6 Definition of the Key Terms

1. Error is any deviation from selected language performance, related to grammar rules which affect to the interlanguage competence of the learner (Brown, 2000; Dulay, et.-al, 1982).

2. Mistake is an error caused by factors such as fatigue and inattention. (Dulay, et.-al, 1982).

3. Argumentative Essay is the essay whose the aim is to persuade a reader to accept or reject a proposition, or to consider a topic from a particular point of view (Belmont & Sharkey, 2011).