THE PROBLEMS FACED BY STUDENTS IN WRITING ESSAY BOTH IN INDIVIDUAL WORK AND IN GROUP WORK

Oleh: MASYHUD ( 05360032 )
English
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ABSTRACT

Many students assume that writing is the most difficult subject among the other language skills because the process of writing not only writes what they feel but also convey a message to the readers. Therefore, the students have problems to make good writing. In addition, there are two categories of problems; linguistic problems and non linguistic problems. Moreover, this research focuses on the non linguistic problems.

The purpose of this study is to know the problems faced by students in writing essay both in individual work and in group work.

The research design in this research is descriptive qualitative because in this research the data of the study were analyzed qualitatively in the form of narration. The subject of this research was class F students of the fifth semester of English Department at University of Muhammadiyah Malang who were taking writing III subject because the lecturer applied both individual work and group work as the techniques in teaching writing. To collect the data, the writer used questionnaire as the instrument. The researcher used unstructured or open questionnaire.

The finding of this research was there were six problems faced by students in individual work, (1) the limited ideas (70%), (2) the students’ difficulty to choose appropriate ideas (7%), (3) no one to check the students’ writing (4%), (4) the students’ low motivation to write (2%), (5) inability to share ideas with the others (2%), (6) the students’ difficulty to understand the materials (2%).

In addition, there were nine problems in writing essay when they worked in group, (1) the students’ difficulty to combine the different ideas (67%), (2) the dependence to other students (28%), (3) inconfidence to express the ideas in front of their friends (7%), (4) the students’ difficulty to unify the members of the group (7%), (5) the students’ low motivation (4%), (6) the students’ difficulty to focus on the writing (2%), (7) the students’ difficulty to understand their friends’ opinions (2%), (8) the students’ difficulty to do the assignment punctually (2%), (9) the limited ideas (2%).

The result of the study showed that the problems in group work were more significant than the problems in the individual work. There were several factors. First, doing assignment in group work consumed a lot of time. Second, in group work, the students tended to depend on their friends’ job while they were busy with their own activities without doing the assignment. Third, in group work, the lecturer was more difficult to control the class during the teaching and learning process.