CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Commonly, university students’ life cannot be separated from writing, usually writing used as an assessment tool for many tasks for students in higher-level education. Their ability to write represents their understanding and critical thinking skills as well, in which this skill is essential for university students. Therefore, writing skills in academic context should be mastered by university student because these skills will be useful for them not only for them during college but also for their future career or study such as master degree and so on. Dudley-Evans and St. John (1998) point out that “the students are required to produce specific writing genres such as essay, summary, critical review and research paper.” (Al-Khasawneh, 2010). By having academic writing skills, it will assist the students to do a better performance at the university level.

Writing for Academic Purposes is one of the courses learned by the second-semester students of English Education Study Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, University of Jambi. Based on the 2017 curriculum, writing for academic purpose course is a compulsory subject for the students of English Education Study Program. This course is consisting of four credits offered in the second semester. Besides, this course is a prerequisite for the next course such as critical reading and writing.
Based on the syllabus obtained, this course provides the learners with basic skills in writing. In this course, the learners will study how to write academic properly such as paragraph writing, essay writing and so on. Furthermore, according to the syllabus obtained from the instructors, by having this course the students are expected “be able to communicate ideas and argument in English writing effectively and properly in academic context, be able to recognize the entrepreneurship’s potential based on academic writing skills in English, be able to master linguistic theoretical concept and technique of writing in English in academic context effectively, (Writing for Academic Purpose’s syllabus).

Writing for academic purpose is the new subject offered in 2017 curriculum, in which this course is kind of introductory course in writing for academic context. To know the needs of the students in English Education Study Program in their writing for academic purpose course, a need analysis should be done. Commonly, a need analysis is an essential thing to do before designing a course. It is used to evaluate and find the gap between the existing course and what the learners need in the future. Thus, the researcher did this research to figure out skills of writing needed by the students and problems faced in writing for academic purpose course. The researcher hopes that this study can give its contribution to English Education Study program to facilitate students need in the future.

1.2 Research Question

1. What writing skills do the second semester students of English Education Study Program consider need to have in Writing for Academic Purposes course?
2. What are the problems faced by the students in writing for academic purpose course?

3. What types of writing are necessary to be learned by the second semester’s students of English Education Program in writing for academic purpose course? (course instructor and head department of English Education program perception)

1.3 Research Objective

The purposes of this study are:

1. To figure out the writing skills needed by the second semester students in writing for academic purposes course.
2. To analyze the problem faced by the students in writing for academic context.
3. To find out the types of academic writing are necessary for the second semester students.

1.4 Limitation of Research

Based on the research questions, this study only focused on writing skills needed by the second semester students of English Educations Study Program in Writing for Academic Purpose course, the problem faced by the second semester students in writing for academic purpose and the types of writing that is necessary to be learned in writing for academic purpose course. The participants of this research were the regular class of second-semester students who have taken writing for academic purpose course, the course instructors of Writing for
Academic Purpose course, and the head of English Education department. There are 56 students, three instructors who participated in this study.

1.5 Significance of Research

It is expected that the result of this study will provide information about students’ needs and problems in writing for academic purpose course so it can be a consideration for lecturers to design the course in the future. Furthermore, it can be a key for future students who will take writing for academic purpose course so that they can prepare and motivate themselves to develop their writing skills and they can do better performance in writing. Besides, the lecturers can evaluate the lack of the existing course design as well.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

- *English for academic purposes (EAP)* is Where English is used as the medium of learning in which to continue the study in higher level of education, the students need the language the associated skills of their field of study. (Gillett, 2004 as cited in Yulong Li, 2017)

- *Academic writing* is a formal writing which is completed by the scholars (students or academic) to deliver to other scholar. (Geyte, 2014)

- *Need analysis* is techniques of procedures for collecting information to be used in syllabus design. (Nunan, 1988).