

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In this chapter, researcher provides 1. background information of this research, 2. research objectives, 3. research questions, 4. significance of the study, 5. limitation of the research and 6. definitions of some key terms.

#### **1.1 Background of the Research**

English is the most used language in the world. Thus, it has become one of the most essential things to be proficient at in the modern era. To master English means a better and bigger opportunity for success. As a result, a lot of people try to learn English to pave a better future for their careers. Many people from non- native English speaking countries try to capitalize the opportunity and start to learn English (Haydn and Stephn , 2021). However, it is not as easy as it seems, many of them give up and never try to learn it again.

As one of the productive skills, writing is one of the most critical skills to master. Among the four main skills, writing is undoubtedly one of the most important and hardest productive skills in English. It requires strong physical and mental fortitude. In its process, writers may need particular aspects such as diction, grammar mastery, and critical thinking to be able to deliver their ideas to readers. Bracewell (2020) also describes that writing is the most demanding and complex among cognitive activities by human beings. Furthermore, White and Arndt (1991) also adds that second language learners/ EFL learners will find it difficult to come up with

an idea to write. These predicaments would contribute to ineffective writings, especially for EFL students.

In Indonesia, writing undergraduate thesis is one of the requirements to get a bachelor degree. As a result, thesis has become one of the most daunting aspects for EFL students. Without an excellent writing skill, thesis will most likely become an insurmountable mountain for the students to climb. It will be very challenging for EFL students to convey their ideas through their writings. In fact, most cases in which EFL students struggle in writing are coming from academic forms of writing. Sokip (2020) states a great number of non-native students face obstacles in learning foreign languages. They also make a lot of mistakes and deficits in academic writing. That being said, writing academically will be more challenging than writing other kinds of writings.

Some of the previous studies related to the topic of writing undergraduate thesis, research by Dwindhandi, Marhaeni, & Suarnajaya (2020) found that the challenges that students face while writing thesis include psychological, sociocultural, and linguistics factors. Another related research conducted by Puspita (2019) also revealed that there are three main factors that affect students in thesis writing such as personality trait, sociocultural factor, and linguistic factor.

The aforementioned research has inspired the researcher to bring up the same issue. However, in order to do that, finding research gaps is crucial. After some examinations, the researcher found out that there are not enough research

conducted revolving around this issue, most of the cases also focused on postgraduate rather than undergraduate (Bakhou & Bouhania, 2020; Ekpoh, 2016; Ma LPF, 2020; Kourepaz & Khahsavar, 2020; Khajepasha & Sadeghi, 2015; Li & Wang, 2008). Additionally, the researches that prevail around this issue seem to be lacking in the involvement of non-technical aspects (Bakhou & Bouhania, 2020; Smith, 2004; Wang & li, 2008) . Therefore, this research will focus on both aspects, namely, technical and non-technical.

## **1.2 Research Questions**

The problems of the study can be formulated into two aspects below:

1. What challenges do students face while writing undergraduate theses?
2. How do students deal with the challenges?

## **1.3 Purposes of the Research**

Based on the problems above, this research is intended to achieve some objectives below:

1. To explore the EFL students' challenges in thesis writing
2. To explain the potential solutions EFL students' challenges in thesis writing

## **1.4 Limitation of the Research**

To enhance its comprehensibility, this research will be limited into one limitation. So not only will this research focus on linguistics, but also it will include all other aspects such as the processes EFL students undergone while writing their

theses. In other words, It entails external and internal influences that EFL students experience in thesis writing.

### **1.5 Significance of Research**

#### **1. For the lecturer/Supervisor**

The results of this research are expected to assist lecturers to deal with the same problems in the future from supervisors' perspectives. This research will be beneficial for providing insights and perspectives of EFL students on their difficulties in writing their thesis. Thus, by utilizing this research, lecturers as supervisors will understand the challenges to provide appropriate assistance to minimize the drawbacks caused by the issue . In result, the relationship between supervisor and supervisee will be more optimal.

#### **2. For the Students**

The findings of this research will be exceptionally advantageous for students in many ways. First, this research will help them to be prepared for the upcoming challenges that they might face during their thesis writings. Thus, they will know what to expect and are capable of handling the situation better. Finally, for the participants, this research is a medium to share their voices regarding the issue of thesis writing.

#### **3. For other Researchers**

The results of this research will provide other researchers information about the challenges that EFL students face while writing their theses. That said, the information provided has a high possibility to be the actual solutions to their research.

### **1.6 Definition of Key Term**

#### **1. Undergraduate Thesis**

Undergraduate thesis refers to a research project undertaken by an undergraduate student with the guidance of a supervisor as part of the final assignment before completing their undergraduate study.

#### **2. Challenges in Thesis Writing**

Challenges in Thesis Writing refers to any obstructions that can contribute to slow down or impede student's progress in their thesis writing.

#### **3. EFL students**

EFL ( English Foreign Language) students are students that learn English in non-English speaking countries. These students also use English not as their main language. They usually learn English to fulfill certain purposes.

#### **4. Solutions**

Solution that possibly could help students to minimize their challenges in writing thesis

