

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

In Indonesia, English is as a foreign language where this means that people in this country will not use this language for having communication in daily life. English will only be accepted by people especially students in formal places such as school and university. School is as the lowest level and university is as the highest level. As the highest level for students to learn English, university provides English as one of the priority subjects learned by college students in every program, especially those who take English Education Program as their choice. Those who choose English Education Program will study and face everything about English during the learning process in the class. Moreover, these college students will also use the material or handout in English too. In addition, college students will learn all the skills when they learn English. They are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. However, among the four skills in English, writing is the most important and complex skill for an educational success that has to be mastered (Tillema, 2012).

In addition, according to Richards & Renandya (2002), writing is also as the most difficult skill for second or foreign learners to master. This might happen since in writing skill especially for the writing, there are a lot of parts and components that needed to be understood by the students, especially college students in English Education Program to support their learning process and finish the lecturing. This

also what makes college students need to be aware and to be more focus on learning writing skill.

Writing is one of the difficult abilities for people, because in writing there are components and structures that must be considered before starting writing. There are several Components such as Prewriting, Writing, Revising, Editing, and Publishing using a structure to make it easier for someone to write, namely the introduction, body, and conclusion. This is what makes college students sometimes are not motivated in learning writing at campus especially during the learning process in the class. Additionally, the students' motivation will influence their attitude toward the activity for example like attitude toward learning everything related to writing. Mostly, the students who motivated in learning writing will do and show their positive attitude toward every activity. Then, it will be different from the students who are not motivated, they will show and do their negative attitude toward the activity.

In addition, based on observations that the researcher found in English Education Program at Jambi University, it is found that the students have various attitudes toward learning writing at their campus. The attitude can be a positive attitude or a negative attitude. These depend on how their feeling and thinking about the activity of their writing learning process. Then, for the researcher, this becomes the case that happens and exists in this research, knowing the students' attitude is so important since writing usually learned and faced by the students in the school or college. In addition, their motivation in learning writing become the consideration,

when they interest and have a positive attitude toward writing, it will be easier for them to do the next level of writing such as writing thesis. This is what become an important part to know the students' attitude during the learning process, that is why based on the brief description about how the students have to focus on their writing skill especially the writing proficiency, the researcher intends to conduct a research entitled "Students' Attitude Toward Learning Writing Skill at English Education Program of Faculty in Teacher Training and Education Jambi University".

1.2 Research Question

Based on the brief description on the background of the research, the research question is: "What is the students' attitude toward learning writing skill at English education program of faculty in teacher training and education Jambi University?"

1.3 Purpose of the Research

Based on the research question above, purpose of the research is to know what the students' attitude toward learning writing skill at English education program of faculty in teacher training and education Jambi University. This is an example of a case study, where the students' attitude toward learning writing skill at english education program will not always the same like the students' attitude toward learning writing from different university.

1.4 Limitation of the research

This research is a qualitative research with a case study approach. This research focuses on the Students' Attitude Toward Learning Writing Skill at English Education Program of Faculty in Teacher Training and Education Jambi University.

The researcher got the data from demographic profile questionnaire and interview which consists of some questions. These questions of the interview were conducted by the researcher herself based on the theories and description of this research. The participants of this research were six of fifth-semester students at English Education Program of Faculty in Teacher Training and Education Jambi University whose the writing's grade at least B on the last semester. The researcher chose these participants because it is assumed that the students at the fifth-semester have already studied basic writing especially about writing, so the attitude is clearly showed by the participants. Also, the students in this research are assumed have decided their attitude toward the activities happened during the learning process of writing. Then, if they are compared to another students in the previous semester that also studied the basic writing skill, it is assumed that the fifth-semester students have more knowledge to respond this research.

1.5 Significance of the Research

The results of this research are expected to give contribution to people around. First, for the researcher, this research give the researcher chance to see the students' attitude toward learning writing skill. Perhaps, the information can help the researcher to add their knowledge about learning writing skill.

Second, for the other college students, especially those who are in English Education Program, this research provides some information about students' proficiency in writing. Perhaps, the students in English Education Program of this university can use this thesis not just for the information for themselves but also can

be a reference to do more update research about the same topic as a further researcher.

Third, for the reader, through the information that provided in this research, it is hoped that the reader can decide how their attitude toward learning writing skill and consider the every attitude that they have decided or chosen.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

- a. **Attitude** is a set of belief from a human that can develop at a certain time especially in language learning (Verma, 2005).

In this research, attitude refers to something useful to know whether it is a positive or negative respond toward everything happen in language learning, especially in learning a language as a second language such as English in Indonesia.

- b. **Writing** is something which regards to a secondary concern which has a purpose as a reinforcement for oral habits also involves connecting interrelated sentences to produce a coherent discourse (Yi, 2009).

In this research, writing refers to one of skill that has to be known and understood in learning a language which become a skill that comes from a another skill for example like reading, listening and knowing grammar.

- c. **Case Study** is as developing an in-depth analysis of a case or some cases and one of approach which mostly used by people in qualitative research (Creswell, 2009).

In this research, the case refers to the students' attitude toward learning writing.