

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Research Background**

Writing is an important ability in the academic sector that must be acquired since it can be used to create theses, projects, news, international projects, and so on, where the writer can explore ideas, include supporting information, edit, and rewrite it to become good writing. The goal of writing is to raise readers' consciousness so that they understand the author's message and avoid misunderstandings. Writing is regarded as the most difficult skill for English students to acquire. They frequently face numerous challenges when learning to write because writing always needs accurate grammar, syntax, spelling, and punctuation (Santoso, 2014).

There are text types that are learned by students in college, namely narrative text, descriptive text, explanation text, recount text, exposition text, and argumentation text (Baker & Angeli, 2013). In this study, the researcher focus on argumentative essays since this type of writing requires the student to think critically and to express outstanding ideas or opinions in order to influence the readers and change their beliefs.

Writing an argumentative essay is a challenging task for Foreign Language (EFL) students (Fajaryani et al., 2021), especially in section to create thesis statement. Many students struggle with formulating clear and strong thesis

statement often due to a lack of understanding of their purpose and structure (Kakandee & Kaur, 2014). A thesis statement is a concise and clear summary of the main idea or argument of paper. It should answer the research question that have chosen or been assigned, and show support claim with evidence from the sources (Swales & Feak, 2012).

One of the challenges of writing a thesis statement is finding the right balance between being too broad or too narrow. If the thesis statement is too broad, it may not be able to address the topic in enough depth or detail (Booth et al., 2016, p. 45). If the thesis statement is too narrow, it may not have enough material or sources to write a complete paper (Graff & Birkenstein, 2021, p. 23).

However, there is not much literature that focuses on the difficulties that students face when writing a thesis statement. Most of the existing studies are either theoretical or descriptive, and do not offer practical solutions or strategies for improving thesis statement writing skills (Hyland, 2004).

Therefore, this study aims to fill this gap by investigating the common problems and errors that students make when writing a thesis statement, and by proposing some effective methods and techniques for overcoming these difficulties. This study will contribute to the field of academic writing by providing useful insights and recommendations for students, teachers, and researchers who are interested in improving thesis statement writing skills.

## **1. 2 Research Questions**

The problem discussed in this study are formulated through the following research questions:

1. What are EFL student difficulties in developing thesis statements for their argumentative essays?
2. How do EFL students overcome difficulties in the writing thesis statement by employing effective strategies and techniques?

## **1.3 Research purposes**

The researcher organized the purpose of the research to refer to the background of the study above, those are:

1. To understand the difficulties faced by EFL students in the writing of thesis statements, and to identify the factors that contribute to these challenges.
2. To know the strategies that EFL students overcoming those difficulties.

## **1.4 Significances of the Research**

Based on the purpose of the research above, the researcher expected this research to have benefits.

### **a. EFL lectures**

This research can be useful for lectures in teaching argumentative essay writing specially to create better thesis statements so that EFL students do not often have difficulties during practice.

### **b. Students**

This study may be valuable for students who are having similar difficulties writing thesis statements in argumentative essays and may be able to employ the offered strategies or solutions.

### **1.5 Limitation of the Research**

This research is limited to studying EFL students in writing thesis statement in argumentative essays, which include the difficulties and strategies experienced by undergraduate students' who have studied argumentative essay and taken reading and writing courses at the English education department at Jambi University.

### **1.6 Definition of Key Terms**

#### **a. Argumentative essay**

Argumentative essay refers to kind of writing and requires the student to investigate a topic, collect, generate, and evaluate evidence, and establish a position on the topic in a concise manner.

#### **b. Thesis statement**

A thesis statement is the main idea of an essay that summarizes the argument and the order of ideas.

#### **c. Difficulties**

General obstacles or hurdles that can make something hard to achieve, often used to describe multiple smaller issues that contribute to a larger problem.

#### **d. Strategies**

Strategies are process that helps in setting and achieving goals.