

ABSTRACT

MAJOR ERRORS AND WEAKNESSES IN THE THESES
OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM STUDENTS
OF SANATA DHARMA UNIVERSITY

A Preliminary Qualitative Study on Three Theses

VALENTINUS IRAWAN

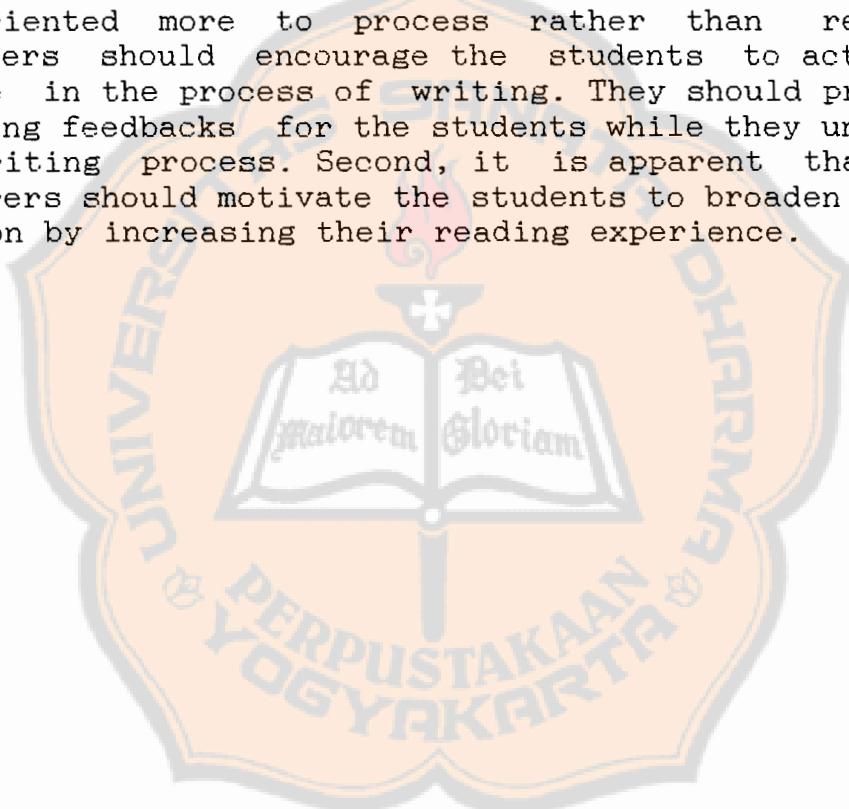
The writing skill of the English Language Education Study Program students of Sanata Dharma University, as often complained about and evident from some research results, is relatively not so satisfying. This research, which has served as the basis for writing this thesis, was meant to investigate the errors and weaknesses which were frequently made by the students, in order that a more comprehensive picture of their writing skill could be obtained. It was aimed at answering the questions: "What are the errors and weaknesses of the theses written by the students of the English Language Education Study Program of Sanata Dharma University?" and "What are their possible causes?"

To answer the questions, a qualitative study was conducted. Three theses from the three fields of study (Linguistics, Literature, and Teaching Methodology) were chosen as the research subject. Error Analysis and Qualitative Observation were employed to analyze the three theses in terms of the errors and weaknesses present. Specific patterns of errors and weaknesses were extracted, classified, and analyzed to evaluate the quality of the theses. Data verification was achieved through the use of peer-checking, reference-checking and audit trail method.

In general the students have mostly mastered essential grammatical rules. However, some problems related to language items that are foreign to Indonesians are still present. The students seem to be especially

hesitant with the use of articles and prepositions. Further, their sense of language (*sensus linguisticus*) has not been developed properly, as shown in the poor choice of words and sentence patterns. The weakest point of the students, however, is in organizing ideas, either in the sentence or paragraph level. This suggests lack of drafting, revising, and rewriting in the part of the students.

With regard to the above conclusion, two kinds of recommendations are offered. First, to benefit the students most, the teaching learning activities should be oriented more to process rather than result. Lecturers should encourage the students to actively engage in the process of writing. They should provide on-going feedbacks for the students while they undergo the writing process. Second, it is apparent that the lecturers should motivate the students to broaden their horizon by increasing their reading experience.



ABSTRAK

MAJOR ERRORS AND WEAKNESSES IN THE THESES
OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM STUDENTS
OF SANATA DHARMA UNIVERSITY

A Preliminary Qualitative Study on Three Theses

VALENTINUS IRAWAN

Kemampuan menulis mahasiswa Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris Universitas Sanata Dharma, seperti sering dikeluhkan dan tampak dari beberapa hasil penelitian, belumlah begitu memuaskan. Penelitian ini bermaksud menyelidiki kesalahan-kesalahan dan kelemahan-kelemahan yang sering dibuat oleh para mahasiswa dalam menulis, sehingga kita dapat memperoleh suatu gambaran yang lebih menyeluruh akan kemampuan menulis mereka. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menjawab pertanyaan, "Apa sajakah kesalahan dan kelemahan-kelemahan di dalam skripsi yang ditulis oleh para mahasiswa jurusan Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris Universitas Sanata Dharma?" dan "Apa penyebabnya?"

Untuk menjawab pertanyaan-pertanyaan tersebut, dilakukan sebuah penelitian kualitatif. Subjek penelitian adalah tiga skripsi dari tiga bidang studi (Linguistik, Sastra dan Metodologi Mengajar). Untuk menganalisisnya digunakan metode Analisis Kesalahan dan Observasi Kualitatif. Studi atas korpus dapat menemukan, mengklasifikasi dan menganalisis kesalahan dan kelemahan spesifik, yang kemudian dipergunakan untuk menetapkan kualitas dari ketiga skripsi. Verifikasi data dilaksanakan dengan menggunakan metode pengecekan sejawat, pengecekan referensi dan metode audit trail.

Secara umum para mahasiswa telah mampu menguasai prinsip-prinsip grammatical bahasa Inggris yang mendasar. Namun, mereka tampak belum begitu yakin dengan beberapa hal, terutama penggunaan kata sandang dan preposisi. Perasaan bahasa Inggris para mahasiswa

juga tampak belum begitu berkembang, seperti terlihat pada diksi dan pemilihan struktur kalimat yang mereka pergunakan. Walaupun demikian, yang paling belum berkembang di dalam skripsi para mahasiswa adalah pengorganisasian gagasan, baik dalam tingkat kalimat maupun paragraf. Ini semua memperlihatkan kurangnya pengkonseptan awal, revisi dan penulisan ulang.

Berkait dengan kesimpulan di atas, ada dua hal yang perlu direkomendasikan. Pertama, untuk dapat lebih meningkatkan kemampuan menulis mahasiswa, kegiatan belajar-mengajar harus lebih diorientasikan kepada proses daripada hasil. Para dosen diharapkan lebih mendorong siswa untuk terlibat aktif dalam proses menulis. Para pengajar selayaknya memberikan umpan balik yang berkesinambungan kepada mahasiswa dalam proses menulis, supaya mereka dapat belajar dari kesalahan. Kedua, jelaslah bahwa para mahasiswa harus didorong untuk memperluas cakrawala mereka dengan lebih banyak membaca. Hanya dengan inilah kemampuan menulis mereka dapat ditingkatkan.

