

An Analysis of English Department Students' Skill in Writing Argumentative Essay in FKIP UNES PADANG

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Abstrak

Tujuan penelitian ini adalah menentukan kemampuan dan kesulitan siswa dalam menulis esai argumentatif. Penelitian telah dilakukan pada mahasiswa Progra studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris tahun akademik 2023/2024. Dalam hal ini, mahasiswa memiliki lima kesulitan, yaitu investigasi topic, menyusun ide, kurangnya kosa kata, pemahaman tata bahasa, dan kurangnya pemakaian tanda baca. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah kuantitatif. Dalam penelitian ini, ditemukan bahwa kemampuan mahasiswa Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris dalam menulis esai argumentatif adalah baik. Hal ini dibuktikan dengan data ilmiah bahwa 2 dari 14 mahasiswa semester 4 memperoleh kategori 'Excellent' (14,28%), 5 dari 14 mahasiswa memperoleh kategori 'very good' (28,57%), 6 dari 14 mahasiswa memperoleh kategori 'good', dan 1 mahasiswa lainnya memperoleh kategori 'Fair', serta tidak terdapat mahasiswa yang memperoleh kategori 'poor'. Kesimpulannya, kemampuan mahasiswa dalam menulis esai argumentative adalah 62 % dalam kategori sangat baik.

Keywords: Kemampuan Menulis, Argumentatif, Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris.

Abstract

The objective of this research was to find out the students' skill and students' difficulties in writing argumentative essay. This research has been done on English Department students' FKIP UNES Padang in the 2023/2024 academic years. The students' had five problems, there were difficult to investigate a topic, difficult in organizing idea, lack of vocabulary, not understand the language features, and lack of mechanic. The method used in this study was quantitative research. The researcher found that the students' skill in English Department writing argumentative essay for four semester good category. It was indicated by the scientific fact that 2 students from 14 students had excellent category with a percentage (14.28%), 5 students from 14 students had very good category with a percentage (28.57%), there are 6 students from 14 students had good category with a percentage (50%), the next 1 students get fair category with a percentage (7%) and the poor category is not found by all the students. The researcher concluded that students writing skill in argumentative essay was 62% very good category.

Keywords: Writing Skill, Argumentative, English Department

INTRODUCTION

English becomes the most essential language in the world. Many people use it as a device of communication and it is also easier for those who come from different countries to interact with one another. In studying English, students must learn four skills of English, namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing. One of them is writing. Writing can also be defined as both physical and mental activity that is aimed to express and impress and thinking about how to express these ideas, and organizing the words into statements and paragraph that will be clear to a reader. Component in writing such as content, organization, language use, vocabulary, and mechanic. Despite its importance, writing remains one of the most challenging skills for EFL learners due to its complex integration of grammar, vocabulary, coherence, and mechanics (Division of Undeclared and Exploratory Majors, Pukyong National University et al., 2020).

The students' focus on some types of writing such as: Descriptive essay, narrative essay, cause and effect essay, persuasive essay, and the last argumentative essay. The researcher's main focus will be in argumentative essay. Many problems are faced by the students in their study, especially in argumentative essay (Marzona et al., 2023).

Based on the curriculum established in English Department of Faculty of teacher Training and Education in FKIP Ekasakti University, it has four compulsory writing subjects. The writing subjects that should be taken by students' were: Paragraph Writing, Essay Writing, Academic Writing, and Article Writing. From a pedagogical perspective, there is a value of integrating creative literary tasks into the English language curriculum at the secondary school level (Woo et al., 2025). Even so, previous research has indicated that many Indonesian students struggle with writing in English. Limited vocabulary, insufficient practice, and low motivation are recurring issues that hinder writing development (Yu, 2022). Such challenges often lead to students' lack of confidence and reluctance to engage in writing tasks, thereby necessitating innovative teaching approaches that are both effective and engaging (Fan, 2022).

Argumentative essay is a writing in which the writer presents a claim and proposition and supports it with evidences and reasoning. The other theory stated that Argumentative Essay is defined as the type of essay which intends to persuade the reader of the correctness of a statement. Argumentative essay have been widely viewed as a fairly important type of writing, given its role as a vehicle of persuasive strategy. Students may struggle with grammar and syntax, making it challenging to communicate their ideas effectively. Those things happened differently to each student. But the things that should be highlighted is that the students' difficulties when asked to develop a certain topic with their original ideas may become a disaster for them (Putri & Ahmad, 2022). Although essay writing training is the best way for students' argumentation skills, teachers are often dissatisfied with the arguments presented in their writings (Tsemach & Zohar, 2021). There are several causes of the students' lack of ability to write argumentative essays, including there are still many students who do not know the characteristics of a good argumentative essay, they still find it difficult to apply them due to lack of practice, and do not know deeply about the features of argumentative essays (Noroozi et al., 2020). The phenomenon of the low ability to write argumentative essays among students implies that students need additional support from teachers to improve their ability to write quality argumentative essays (Hadianto et al., 2021).

From the research background of the problems above, the identification of the problems in this research such as: First problem was content Students they have difficulty to investigate a topic, gather and analyzed evidence, and decide their position on topic in a brief manner. The second problem, students had difficulty in Organizing idea. The third problem was student also lack of Vocabularies. Fourthly, students did not understand the Language features on their composing without looking at the verb, adjective words and sentence structure. The last one was lack of mechanics (spelling, punctuation and capitalization).

The purposes of this research are as follows: 1. to find out students' skill in writing argumentative essay in FKIP UNES Padang in academic year 2023/2024. 2. To find out the students' difficulties English Department in FKIP UNES Padang in academic year 2023/2024.

RESEARCH METHOD

Descriptive research used in this research was descriptive research (Arikunto, 2021) It is research designed to find out the conditions or other circumstances mentioned, the results of which are presented in the form of a research report. In short, a descriptive research paper describes the existing conditions and phenomena that are used to obtain information and answer research questions. This study examines the argumentative writing skills of second semester English students at Ekasakti University, Padang.

The population interpreted as the total number of objects studied. In this study, students majoring in English Department who took essay writing in english department total 14 students who were also divided into one classes namely:

Table 1. Total Number of Population

No	Department	Number of Student
1	Essay Writing	14
	Total	14

Source: Data of Class FKIP Universitas Ekasakti Padang

The sample is a small part of the main population taken to represent the existing population for research and object analysis of all data. This research will was a total sampling, so that the entire population will was sampled.

The research instrument, that was used in this research is writing test used as research tools. In this case the researcher will be give 60 minutes for the students. In this study, the students asked to write an argumentative essay based on the instructions on the writing test. The students bw as given a piece of paper and the researcher instruct the students to write a argumentative essay based on its generic structure.

The data Collection technique In this study, first, there is a data collection technique, the topic was chosen as described above, secondly, students write an argumentative essay which includ an introduction, body and conclusions. Finally, the researcher gave a brief explanation to help complete the students' writing process.

Table 1. Specification of EssayWriting Test

Generic Structures	Criteria
Introduction	Hook, Generalization, and Thesis Statement
Body	Topic Sentence, Supporting, and Concluding
Conclusion	Conclusion sentence, some summary points

The researcher analyze competence of the students Faculty of Teacher Training and Education Universitas Ekasakti Padang by using the following :

1. The collecting data evaluation test.
2. The percentage rate of a student with the following formula:
$$\frac{\text{Score 1} + \text{Score 2}}{2}$$
3. Analysis the data by using writer calculated the Mean (M) percentage, it is counting the rate. The percentage rate of a student with the following formula:
4. To obtain the information converted to the study of the students' determiners table percentage scale and qualification as follow :

Table 3. Percentage scale and Categories

Percentage	Categories
81 - 100	Excellent
61 - 80	Very Good
41 - 60	Good
21 - 40	Fair
5 - 20	Poor

5. The researcher Classifying the students score based on the following classification.

$$P = \frac{F}{N} \times 100\%$$

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The researcher presented the result of the English department students' skill in writing argumentative essay at FKIP UNES Padang in academic year 2023/2024. Based on the research questions, the researcher showed the finding of the research as follow:

1. The Students' Skill of Writing Argumentative Essay in FKIP UNES Padang

In this research, the researcher gave the students' a test to write about argumentative essay, then the researcher check their writing to find out the answer to the research question. The data was collected by calculating the students' scores in writing argumentative essay. The result of the research was described as below.

Table 4. The Score Interpretation of Students' in Writing Argumentative Essay in FKIP UNES Padang

No	The percentage of ability	Quality	Total Students'
1	81-100	Excellent	2
2	61-80	Very Good	5
3	41-60	Good	6
4	21-40	Fair	1
5	5-20	Poor	0

Based on the calculating of students' writing score of argumentative essay, the highest score of this component was 88 and the lowest score was 38. The data analysis showed that there were 2 students' had excellent ability, 5 students had very good ability, 6 students had good ability, 1 student had fair ability and 0 student had poor ability. It can be seen from the chart below:

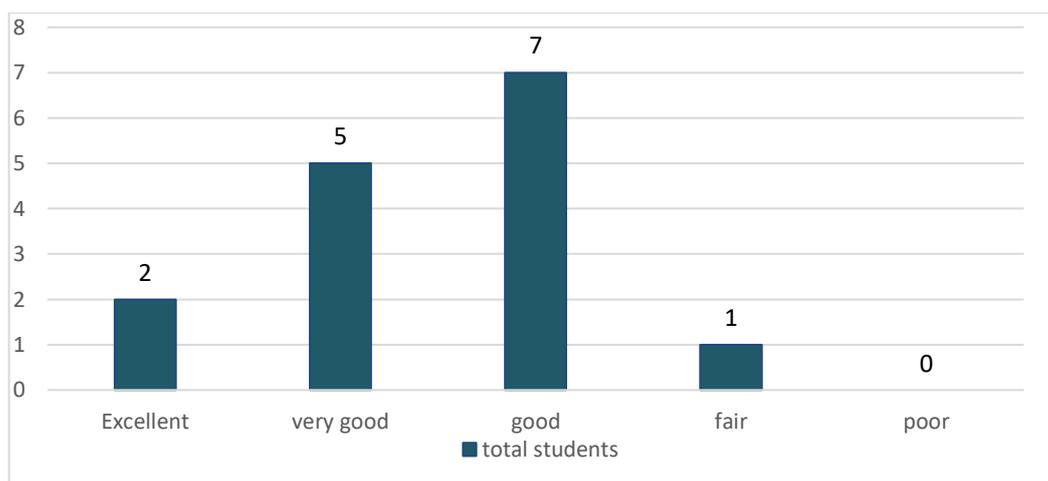


Chart 1: The Score Interpretation Of Students' In Writing Argumentative Essay

The results, total percentage showed that students' skill in writing argumentative essay at FKIP UNES Padang in academic year 2023/2024. The data can be seen in table 7 below.

Table 5. The Total Percentage of Students' in Writing Argumentative Essay in FKIP UNES Padang

No	Quality	Total Students'	Percentage (%)
1	Excellent	2	14.28%
2	Very Good	5	36 %
3	Good	6	43 %
4	Fair	1	7.14%
5	Poor	0	0%

2. Students' Difficulties in Writing Argumentative Essay In FKIP UNES Padang

The researcher observes the students' answer sheet. The researcher found that something was wrongly answered by the students'. In the analysis of students' mastery, researchers have identified the abilities of students' and calculated the number of errors for each of them. This data was obtained through a writing argumentative essay that researchers shared with 14 respondents of FKIP UNES student academic year 2023/2024 Padang. The results of the test given to students' are presented in this section. This test were focused on content, organization, grammar, vocabulary, and mechanic. The test results to interpreted the assessment based on percentages.

The first problem of students' writing argumentative essay is the difficulty in content. In the analysis of data showing that the test results of students' writing in content is good category. Furthermore, the second problem of students' writing argumentative essay is difficulty in organization. In the analysis of data showing that the test results of students' writing in organization is good category.

However, the third problem of students' writing argumentative essay is difficulty in grammar. In the analysis of data showing that the test results of students' writing in grammar is very good category. The fourth problem of students' writing argumentative essay is vocabulary. In the analysis of data showing that the test results of students' writing in vocabulary is very good category. The last problem of students' writing argumentative

essay is mechanic. In the analysis of data showing that the test results of students' writing in mechanic was good category.

Discussion

In this section the researcher presented an interpretation of the findings' to explain in detail. The findings are to determine the skill and difficulty of writing argumentative essay in FKIP UNES Padang student academic 2023/2024. The result described how the skill of the students'.

In the data that has been found in FKIP UNES Padang of student academic 2023/2024 by researchers, there are 5 categories found in writing argumentative essay, namely excellent, very good, good, fair, and poor. From the results of research that has been carried out by researchers, there were 14 students' studied from FKIP UNES Padang in academic year 2023/2024, and the data results showed that students' skill to recalculate test was almost average in the good category, in the excellent category there were 2 students' with a percentage (14.28%). In the next category, there are 4 students' who get the very good category with a percentage (36 %). There are 7 students' who get good category with percentage (45 %). The next category, there are 1 students' who get fair category with percentage (7%). Furthermore, the poor category is not found by all the students' with a percentage (0%).

Based on the finding of this study, it has been shown that the skill of students' writing argumentative essay is good. The students' should realize that language feature and mechanic skills are very important to developing their writing skills.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the researcher found by the researchers, it is known that of the English Department classes as research population, it is found the average of students of English Department FKIP UNES Padang especially the class of four semester is very good category. The results of the Writing test assessment it was found that students' content skill was good (46,4%), organization skill was good (57,1%), students' grammar skill was very good (76,8%), students' vocabulary was very good (73,2%), and students' mechanic was good (48,2%). The results of this study indicate that the average score of English Department students FKIP is: 62%, which means that this figure places students skill in writing argumentative essay with very good category proficiency. The results that found are expected to rebuild students' motivation in learning so that their abilities can be further enhanced than before. The factors of difficulties that the students' faced in writing is not understand the organization idea, language feature, and mechanic.

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