

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Writing for academic purposes is challenging and fulfilling. It brings together students' knowledge and understanding of a topic – but it is more than that. From your writing, students will gain an ability to use language effectively in communicating your ideas, as well as an ability to communicate the ideas of others as students use these to frame students' own discussion.¹ When students cite an idea from a source, they are required to avoid plagiarism and pay proper attention to citation of references. In academic writing, honesty is important for the students to make them honest.

The act of plagiarism can be said to be part of academic cheating, because this action uses someone's work without including the source of the writing is legally wrong. According to Pun, plagiarism is an act that injures one of the highest values of scientific writing, namely the originality of the content of the writing. Plagiarism is the use of another person's words or ideas without

¹ Kathleen McMillan and Jonathan Weyers, *How to Cite Reference Avoid Plagiarism at University*, (Essex: Pearson Education, 2013), 4.

giving due credit to the original author.² The students should include citation to the original source and use their own words to re-express the author's idea.

The plagiarism of scientific writing in Indonesia should be avoided by academicians, especially by the students. They must conduct it originally to accomplish final project for diploma, undergraduate thesis (*skripsi*) for S1 (undergraduate level), thesis for S2 (postgraduate level), and dissertation for S3 (doctoral level). According to Akbar and Picard, Indonesian educational institutions have made significant institutional efforts to address the plagiarism issue in accordance to national legislation. The reporting, prevention, and mitigation of plagiarism efforts have been the subject of research in Indonesian higher education.³ The destruction of academic integrity in Indonesia through plagiarism is an academic crime that injures the moral and exclusive rights of creators who have constructive ideas.

Therefore, to write a good scientific paper it is very important to understand how to incorporate other people's ideas and theories by

² Min Pun, "Plagiarism in Scientific Writing: Why It Is Important to Know and Avoid", *Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 21, No. 1, (February, 2021), 110.

³ Akbar and Michelle Picard, "Understanding Plagiarism in Indonesia from the Lens of Plagiarism Policy: Lessons for Universities", *International Journal for Educational Integrity*, Vol. 15, No. 7, (October, 2019), 1.

giving proper credit. In writing scientific papers, the author's ideas and theories are quoted by university students to support an argument. University students can use direct quotes and indirect quotes. It is preferable to employ paraphrase to prevent plagiarism by ensuring that university students do not copy more than two words in a row verbatim from the source text.⁴ It means to avoid the percentage of plagiarism that exceeds the threshold, indirect citing by using paraphrases is highly recommended for university students.

Based on the researcher's initial observations from several undergraduate thesis documentation, the study identifies several problems among undergraduate students of the English Education Department at Sultan Maulana Banten Islamic State University. These include plagiarism, where students imitate and repeat sentences, as well as factors like limited writing skills, vocabulary mastery, cultural differences, and social environment. The types of plagiarism in the thesis are imitating the title, imitating substance, imitating theoretical studies, imitating terms, sentences or words, imitating research methodology, imitating data/objects, imitating

⁴ Irena Ardelia and Yanu R. Indraning Tiyas, "The Acquisition of Paraphrasing and Its Impact on Teaching and Learning Quotations to Avoid Plagiarism", *Getsempena English Education Journal (GEEJ)*, Vol.6, No.1, (May, 2019), 169.

false references and imitating references in thesis. According to Neville in general, there are three forms of plagiarism, the first is copying someone's work without attribution, the second is presenting your own arguments but it has a huge level of duplication of the first creator, and the third is paraphrasing someone else's work but not giving any reference.⁵ The initial interview also has some results that plagiarism happens because some factors such as lack of writing skill, limited vocabulary mastery, different culture from their school to university, social environment, and other factors that needs to be investigated deeply.

In line with the problem of plagiarism, there are some relatable previous studies. The first previous study from Maharajh's research shows that the students have misconceptions regarding plagiarism, a lack of comprehension of it, and a bad attitude toward their assigned assignments. It also demonstrates the value of comprehending students' viewpoints on plagiarism in order to create effective tactics for fostering academic integrity and preventing

⁵ Colin Neville, *the Complete Guide to Referencing and Avoiding Plagiarism*, (New York: McGraw-Hill Education, 2010), 30

plagiarism.⁶ The second previous study from Elshafei and Jahangir's research shows that there are some factors why students do plagiarism. Those are limited time to work, the instant technology, students' laziness, and lack of knowledge in paraphrasing.⁷ The third previous study from Tangkelaki, Suardi, and Upa's research shows that there are a few students who possess a comprehensive understanding of plagiarism, able to provide a detailed definition. However, the majority of students tend to offer simpler explanations, such as "using someone else's work without giving credit" or even more modestly, "copying someone else's work." These concise definitions outnumber the students who can articulate a detailed understanding of plagiarism, encompassing elements like intentional or unintentional use of others' work without proper attribution.⁸ The three previous studies reveals that the plagiarism occurs among university students because their awareness, lack of writing skill, and lack of genuine idea of content. However, the topic of plagiarism is

⁶ Lokesh Ramnath Maharajh, "Exploring University Students' Perceptions of Plagiarism: A Focus Group Study", *International Journal for Innovation Education and Research*, Vol. 9, No. 1, (January, 2021), 230.

⁷ Hanaa A. Elshafei and Tamanna M. "Factors Affecting Plagiarism among Students at Jazan University", *Bulletin of the National Research Centre*, Vol. 44, No. 71, (May, 2020), 5.

⁸ Nuur Insan Tangkelangi, Suardi, and Rahmawati Upa, "Students' Understanding of Plagiarism in Academic Writing: Indonesian Context", Vol. 9, No. 2, (December, 2021), 658.

still interesting to be investigated more because the awareness of plagiarism should be campaigned.

Unlike the previous studies, this research focusses on plagiarism among undergraduate students with exploratory research. It means this research studies deeply about the plagiarism. The researcher does not only investigate the undergraduate students' factors in plagiarizing, but it also investigates the undergraduate students' strategy to solve their problem to avoid plagiarism. This research also includes the questionnaire to analyzed the plagiarism factors. In addition, the documentation analysis for the undergraduate thesis is also employed to know their pattern to paraphrase.

Reviewing the plagiarism cases that occurred, the writer is interested in knowing the level of plagiarism committed by English Education Department students at the State Islamic University of Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin Banten. The reason for the writer' interest is that English Language Education students are prospective teachers who have an important role in developing language education. In this case, knowledge of the act of plagiarism which is included in information literacy needs to be studied more deeply so that each individual is able to avoid it. This is taken with the consideration that the data is up to date data, issues of plagiarism are

being discussed frequently, and the proliferation of plagiarism detection software vendors who market their products. The interest of writer related to plagiarism inspired to conduct research with the title **"Plagiarism among Undergraduate Students' in Writing Thesis (An Exploratory Analysis at English Education Department of Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin Banten State Islamic University)".**

B. Identification of Problem

Based on the background of the study stated above, the problems are identified as follow:

1. Plagiarism still occurs among undergraduate students of English Education Department of Sultan Maulana Banten Islamic State University from various level such as imitating and they repeat similar sentences
2. There are internal factors (such as lack of writing skill and limited vocabulary mastery) and external factors (such as different culture from their school to university and social environment). However, the researcher will explore those factors deeply from the undergraduate students
3. Student awareness about the impact of plagiarism needs to be increased so that it does not become a bad culture

4. Students need to learn how to write properly using their own ideas.
5. There are several strategies to overcome the problem of plagiarism that students need to learn and practice when writing an undergraduate thesis.

C. Limitation of The Problem

Based on the background of study stated above, the researcher limits the problem as follows:

1. The scientific works in this research is undergraduate thesis (*skripsi*) of English Education students of Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin Banten State Islamic University
2. The undergraduate thesis (*skripsi*) analyzed only included chapters I-III
3. The tool for plagiarism checker is Turnitin

D. Research Question

Based on background of study above, the following research question can be identified as follows:

1. How is similarity report to the original source of undergraduate students' thesis of English Education Department of Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin Banten State Islamic University as detected by plagiarism checker?

2. What are the factors that cause students of English education of Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin Banten State Islamic University to commit plagiarism in writing undergraduate thesis?
3. How is the students' strategy to encounter plagiarism problem in writing undergraduate thesis of Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin Banten State Islamic University?

E. Objective of the Study

Based on the statements of problem, the objectives of research are to know:

1. The similarity report to the original source of undergraduate students' thesis of English Education Department of Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin Banten State Islamic University as detected by plagiarism checker
2. The factors that cause students of English education of Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin Banten State Islamic University to commit plagiarism in writing undergraduate thesis
3. The English education of Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin Banten State Islamic University students' strategy to encounter plagiarism problem in writing undergraduate thesis.

F. Significant of the Study

The results of the research are relied upon to carry some importance to the teaching and learning English text as follows:

1. Theoretically, the researcher hopes this study as a means of information and consideration for assessing the level of

plagiarism in student thesis writing. It can be input to be more thorough in terms of plagiarism in student thesis writing. In fact, it is expected that the results of this study can provide a reference for those interested in language teaching, especially English language teaching. The researcher hopes that this study will be used as an educational value for further researchers.

2. Practically, the results of the research are expected to contribute thoughts and considerations in making a policy for students in terms of writing scientific papers, by upholding academic ethics, the value of honesty, good knowledge and understanding to students in order to prevent acts of thesis plagiarism. In addition to readers or researchers, the results of the research are expected to be material for thought and consideration so as not to commit plagiarism in the preparation of the thesis and always put forward an attitude of honesty, by including resource persons in every article published.

G. Organization of Writing

This paper is arranged into three chapters, every chapter has some points to explain the chapter.

a. Chapter I – Introduction

This chapter covers the background of the study, problem definition, significance of the study, object of the problem, research question, research objective, organization of the paper and previous research.

b. Chapter II – Theoretical Framework

This chapter includes the theories of some of the experts who have done research related to this research.

c. Chapter III – Methodology

This chapter covers place and time studies, populations and samples, aid search, data collection techniques, and data analysis techniques.

d. Chapter IV – Result and Discussion

This chapter includes the result of the research and the discussion based on what the writer found during the research.

e. Chapter V – Conclusion and Suggestion

To end this paper, the writer answers the research question in conclusion part. In addition, the writer also suggests for the teachers, students, and further researchers.