

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Writing is an essential skill to be mastered by students to gain success at university. It is crucial for students since writing leads the students to academic success at university. But in the reality, many students had difficulty in completing an essay. Students often get difficulties when they are asked to write their ideas in English because as we know English in this context is not our first language. We know that academic writing is not easy. Moreover, academic writing needs a lot of study and practice to develop learners writing skills. Then, to produce good essay students should be aware of the matter of conveying ideas to persuade readers.

Considering about difficulties of writing, English Department at Sultan Maulana Hasanudin University has made writing a compulsory subject to be mastered by students. Academic writing is the kind of writing used in college classes. There are as many types of genres in writing. They are descriptive, narrative, expository, argumentative, persuasive, and poetry writing. Among all types of

writing genres, argumentative writing has become the most important task as they need to use it in exams and paper.

However, students often struggle with writing argumentative essays. The argumentative essay is a type of writing that requires students to conduct research on a topic, generate and evaluate evidence, and briefly establish a position on the subject.¹ College students will be critical in their argumentative essays. Argumentative writing, such as essay writing, is defined as the process of asserting a claim, refuting a claim, and rationally supporting a claim. Additionally, the writer casts doubt on the reasons, denies them, and finally concludes. Whereas Toulmin, Rieke, and Jarnik proposed a similar model of argumentative writing that includes evidence, claim, justification, backing, and rebuttal.² As well as, argumentation is a process to make argument should deal with critical thinking skills to produce acceptable argument in the argumentative essay. According to Facione, critical thinking is the process of thinking to provide evidence for cases, interpret what occurred, and resolve problems.³

¹ Voresti Sabu, Bernard Vernandes, “ An Analysis of Student’s Critical Thinking Skills in Writing Argumentative Essay”, *Journal of Language and Literature*, Vol. 8 No. 2 (2019), 60.

²Toulmin, S., R, Rieke and A. Janik, *An Introduction to Reasoning*, Second Edition (Macmillan Publishing Co : New York, 1984),25.

³Facione, Peter A, “Critical Thinking: What it is and Why It Counts”, *Measured Reasons LLC, Hermosa Beach, CA.Journal*.ISBN 13 : 978-1-891557-07-1, (2015),3.

Unfortunately the writing subject remained challenging for the students. According to Wingate, many of their difficulties are their lack of understanding of what argumentative essays entail, particularly the requirement to develop one's position in an academic debate.⁴ In addition, there are two or more interesting problems in the essay made by English Department of Sultan Maulana Hasanudin Banten University. First, students in essay mostly, The difficulties faced by the students involve the content knowledge that they have, the lack of evidence in their essays, the lack of criticality or analysis, and the lack of related information within the essay. Second, students lack of critical thinking skill. Critical thinking is an essential skill that every student in collage should develop. This skill is vital to assess any information, explain the reasons, and be able solve problem. Thus, it is necessary to conduct study toward critical review on student argumentative essay.

However, according to Fazirotul Wafiya, As'ari and Kheryadi research, university students at UIN Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin Banten 2020's English Education Department continue to struggle with maintaining the reader's attention while constructing critical writing and convincing them that their argument is reasonable and

⁴Ursula Wingate, Argument! Helping Students Understands What Essay Writing Is About, *Journal of English for Academic Purposes* 11 (2012),145-154.

convincing.⁵ As a result, the writer observed that most university students at Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin Banten University had a problem in writing. According to previous studies, university students continue to work with argumentative writing. Students have some weaknesses, including argument structure and critical thinking. In this case, students must learn how to improve their ability to write argumentative essays. Students can also benefit from the experience of other students who are more adept at argumentative writing. The purpose of this study is to extend previous research on paper by examining how college students approach their essay writing.

Based on the descriptions above the writer is interested in conduct the research entitle “ Critical Review on Student Argumentative Essay ”. n this research, the focus is to investigate argument structure and use critical thinking constructed on their argumentative essay.

By conducting this research, the writer hopes to share how students learned to use argument structure and critical thinking in their argumentative essays in writing class. As a result, once students

⁵Fazirotul Wafiya, As'ari and Kheryadi, “An Analysis of Supporting Arguments on Student’s Critical Thinking”, *Indonesian Journal of English Studies*, Vol. 1 No. 2 (2020), 63-59.

learn the result, they will be even more motivated to improve their argumentative essay.

B. Focus of Study

In the line the topic, this study focuses on critical review on 5 argumentative essay. The subjects of study are the students in seven semester of English Teacher Education at State Islamic University Sultan Maulana Hasanudin Banten in the academic 2020-2021. Additionally, the writer only identifies and explains the writer's argument, whether the writer successfully supported the argument or claim through persuasive reasons backed up by appropriate evidence in the argumentative essay as a guide for them in applying their critical thinking skills when writing an argument English essay.

C. Statements of the Problem

Based on the background of study and focus of the study, so the research question of the study in this research :

1. How is argument structure used in argumentative essay of university students?
2. How does student use critical thinking to construct argumentative essay of university students ?

D. Purposes of the Study

Based on the focus and the statement of the study, the aims of the study are :

1. To Know argument structure used in argumentative essay.
2. To Know student use critical thinking to construct argumentative essay.

E. Significance of Study

In general, through this research, the writer expects that the result can share contribution for the following people :

1. For the Lecturer of English Education Teacher Department

The result of the research is expected to be able to provide information about argument structure in academic writing. The Lecturer of English to create the teaching process especially about writing. It is equally important for the Lecturer to know structure of argument. It may also be consideration to decide materials needed in teaching writing class. This critical review to do to provide relevant teaching technique of argument and critical thinking skills.

2. For students of English Education Department of Islamic State University Sultan Maulana Hasanudin Banten.

Theoretically, the result of this research can provide additional knowledge and information for students about a great argumentative

essay. Moreover, it can lead the students understanding about construction of arguments structure in academic writing. Further, this thesis seeks to clarify the structure of academic arguments so that students can recognize and create ideas that communicate with readers clearly and persuasively. Besides practically, the students can use the knowledge providing in this research to create great argumentative essay.

3. For the readers.

In order to help readers, there is first an overview that defines and explains the structure of arguments. It is expected to make them know and understand about academic writing. The student can be know in a process to make argument, should deal with critical thinking skills to produce acceptable argument in argumentative essay.

4. Other researchers

Other reserchers, it helps the next research get prior information who are interested in forming study in order fields of research.

F. Previous Study

1. Fangyuan Du (2017) wrote in journal “ The Analysis of Argument-Counterargument Structure in Chinese EFL Learners’ Argumentative Writing.” The purpose of this study is to examine the argument-

counterargument structure of English argumentative essays written by Chinese EFL university students using an adapted Toulmin's (2003) model of argument structure, which consists of four elements (i.e. claim, data, counterargument and rebuttal). It also examines whether there is correlation between the usage of counterargument structure and the overall quality of the participants' essays, as determined by an online AWE (Automated Writing Evaluation) software. Three hundred and ninety students from a Chinese university, representing a variety of majors, submitted their argumentative essays in English via the internet. The findings revealed that half of the participants employed a one-sided argumentation model in their writings, while the other half utilized an argument-counterargument framework. The deployment of counterarguments by the participants had an impact on the overall quality of their essays. The findings' pedagogical implications are also examined.⁶ The distinction between the writer study and the previous study is the writer's study focus on used argument structure and critical thinking on students argumentative essay. Then, the previous study explain that correlation between the usage of

⁶ Fangyuan Du "The Analysis of Argument-Counterargument Structure in Chinese EFL Learners' Argumentative Writing. *College of Foreign Languages and Literature, Fudan University*", Vol. 7 No. 3. (2017), 122-129.

counterargument structure and the overall quality of the participants' essays, as determined by an online AWE (Automated Writing Evaluation) software.

2. Wan Hurani Osman and Junaidah Januin (2021) published an article in the journal titled " Analyzing ESL Persuasive Essay Writing Using Toulmin's Model of Argument. "The purpose of this research is to examine the rhetorical and linguistic structures used by ESL writers when writing persuasive essays. The author employs Toulmin's model argument to identify the persuasive essay's rhetorical and linguistic structure. The discovery will help to explain both common and uncommon Toulmin model structures in rhetoric and linguistics. The findings have two implications: first, academic teachers can concentrate on the elements necessary to produce competent persuasive ESL writers, and second, textbook developers can base their books on the findings from this study.⁷ The distinction between the writer study and the previous study is the writer's study focus on used argument structure and critical thinking on students argumentative essay. Then, the previous study explain that the

⁷ Wan Hurani Osman, Junaidah Januin, " Analysing ESL Persuasive Essay Writing Toulmin's Model of Argument ", *Psychology and Education*, Vol. 58 , No. 1 (2021), 1810-1821.

rhetorical and linguistic structures used by ESL writers when writing persuasive essays.

3. Alma alqarana Lubis (2020) wrote in thesis “ Structural Argument and Pragmatic Analysis on Dua Sisi Talk Show.” On the Dua Sisi Talk Show, his research focuses on structural arguments and pragmatic analysis. The study's objectives were to examine the argument structures of the speakers on the Dua Sisi Talk Show, evaluate their methods of delivering arguments, and identify the most common types of speech acts used by the speakers on the Dua Sisi Talk Show. The data was analyzed using a descriptive qualitative method in this study. The statistics were the statements made by the guests on the Dua Sisi Talk Show. The data analysis technique consists of data reduction, data display, and conclusion drafting. There were 32 arguments found in this study, consisting of 13 standard arguments and 19 non-standard arguments, according to the findings. According to Austin's thesis, there were 22 arguments classified as locutionary acts, 4 arguments classified as illocutionary acts, and 6 arguments classified as perlocutionary acts. The most common sort of speech act on the Dua Sisi Talk Show was a

locutionary act.⁸ The distinction between the writer study and the previous study is the writer's study focus on used argument structure and critical thinking on students argumentative essay. Then, the previous study explain that the argument structures of the speakers on the Dua Sisi Talk Show, evaluate their methods of delivering arguments, and identify the most common types of speech acts used by the speakers on the Dua Sisi Talk Show.

G. The Organization of the Writing

The paper has divided into five chapters; each chapter is further divided into several sub-chapters to make the organization more systematic and to aid in the writing of this paper:

Chapter I introduction, it contains the background of the study, focus of study, the statements of the problems, the aims of the study, the significance of the study, the previous study, and the organization of the writing.

Chapter II theoretical framework, it contains definition of argument, elements model Toulmin argumentative, example of toulmin model argument, definition of critical thinking of writing and proses of critical thinking and definition of argumentative essay.

⁸ Alma alqarana Lubis “ Structural Argument and Pragmatic Analysis on Dua Sisi Talk Show.” English Education Proqram (2020), 1-49.

Chapter III methodology of the research, it contains the objective of the research, the method of the research, the technique of data collection, and the technique of data analysis.

Chapter IV the result of the study, it contains the data description and the data analysis.

Chapter V conclusion and suggestion, it contains the conclusion and the suggestion.