

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Topic sentence is the most important sentence in a paragraph because it is the main idea of what a writer wants to discuss. It states the purpose and sets the direction of the paragraph. Besides the main idea, it also controls the supporting sentences. The supporting sentences must be about that the topic sentence says. To controls all the other sentences, the topic sentence must be effective which is not too general or too narrow topic sentence and does not lack a controlling idea. Example: too general topic sentence, *many people like to exercise*, this statement is too board to be developed adequately into one paragraph. Too narrow topic sentence, *I swim laps for 30 minutes every morning*, this statement is too narrow it will be hard to be developed into a paragraph. Effective topic sentence, *exercising every morning has several positive effects on my health*, this statement is effective topic sentence because it contains a clear topic and controlling idea and express the writer's attitude that could be developed into one paragraph (Blanchard and Root, 1997:22).

A good paragraph should be contain an effective topic sentence that will be develop paragraph effectively. Therefore, topic sentence becomes effective because of the accuracy in determining the topic and determining the controlling idea and express the writer's attitude. But, the majority of students does not possess the skills necessary to effectively communicate in a written format (Bacon Francis, 2016) especially, to write effectively topic sentence in developing a paragraph because there are several common mistakes writers makes when writing topic sentences that is too narrow or too general topic sentence and lacks controlling idea. There is a significant need for students at all levels not only to be good written communicators, but also to understand the importance of good writing skills. Therefore, the students should have this skill or knowledge to write effectively. Especially, to write a thesis as a condition of graduation for a student.

So, they can produce a good thesis. In this case, they must be prepared and know how to write. So, when the students do it well, it can help the reader to know generally what the thesis discusses about so the reader can understand easily.

The topic of the present study is topic sentences in a paragraph. An effective topic sentence will contain topic and the controlling idea(s) and express the writer's attitude. The function of a topic sentence in a paragraph is to introduce the topic and controls the information given in the other sentences (Karen Laurie Blanchard and Christine Baker Root, 1994).

The present study specifically focusses on the topic sentence in the first paragraph of the Introduction section (or the Background section) of undergraduate theses of the English Department. The function of the first paragraph in an Introduction is to introduces and explain generally the entire analysis of the thesis or substantiates or supports an essay's thesis statement or; it unifies the content of a paragraph and directs the order of the sentences; and it advises the reader of the subject to be discussed and how the thesis will discuss it. (Karen Laurie Blanchard and Christine Baker Root, 1994)

For the purpose of the study and for research needs the data are taken from the thesis of the last 5 – 6 years. The specific focus of the study is the first paragraph in the Introduction section (or the Background section) of undergraduate theses of the English Department of University of 17 Agustus Surabaya. The thesis aims to identify the topic sentence in the first paragraph of each data, in order to examine its effectiveness.

1.2 Statements of the Research Problem

Based on the background of the study can be formulated as follow:

- 1) What are the elements of the topic sentences of the first paragraph of the Introduction Section of Undergraduate theses of the English Department Students of UNTAG Surabaya?
- 2) How effective are the topic sentences of the first paragraph of the Introduction Section of Undergraduate theses of the English Department Students of UNTAG Surabaya?

1.3 The Objective of the Study

As the problems of the study are settled above, the writer intends to:

- 1) To find out and describe what are the elements of topic sentences that has presented by the Students of English Department at Untag.
- 2) To find out and describe how effective are the topic sentences in the first paragraph that has written by the Students at Untag

1.4 Significance of the study

Hopefully this study can help the reader, especially, for the Students of English Department at Untag Surabaya. So, they can write a paragraph effectively in the thesis and to know the elements of writing skill. Further, this study hopefully interests other students to develop this study more detail of write an effective writing.

1.5 Scope and limitation of the study

The scope and limitation of this study is an effective academic writing, especially about topic sentences. Thus, this study focuses on the elements and the effectiveness topic sentence. The limitation in this research is on the topic sentences in the first paragraph of the introduction section of undergraduate these of English Department.

1.6 Organization of the study

This study is organized into five chapters. Chapter one is the introductions that is consists of background of the study, problem statement, objective the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study and the organization.

Chapter two is containing review of the related literature. The chapter three deals with research method that is consists of research design, source of the data, instrument of the study, data collection of procedures and the analysis of

procedures. Chapter four deals with result and discussion. Chapter five deals with conclusion.