

# Errors and Mistakes in Writing Article: Lecturer' and Students' Evaluation

*by* Sri Lestari

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## Errors and Mistakes in Writing Article: Lecturer' and Students' Evaluation

Sri Lestari and Tri Wahyuni Chasanatun

IKIP PGRI Madiun

Email: lestari\_sriwibowo@yahoo.co.id

*Students learn Academic Writing starts from learning sentences, paragraph, essay, and last is writing article. In writing article, many students feel difficulty begins from prewriting, drafting, and editing stage. This research is aimed to identify teaching learning process of academic writing class and analyze students' error and mistakes in writing article. This research is qualitative research held in academic writing class of English Department in IKIP PGRI Madiun and amount of students are 98. Techniques of collecting data were students' article (portfolios), observation, and interview. While technique of analyzing the data are: reduction the data, display the data, and verification the data. In some previous research done by other researcher were found that common error and mistakes of students writing are in grammar and content. While the result of research about most common errors and mistakes in writing article were: (1) grammatical error (preposition, the use of "wh" question, plurals and singulars, noun and verbs, structural formation, first and second person, article (definite and indefinite), short sentences, (2) less quality in content, (3) difficult to quote properly. Those error and mistakes happened because some students did not recheck again their article and less in reading material, book, news that can help them in getting idea easily.*

*Keywords: errors, mistakes, academic writing, article*

### Introduction

Writing is closely related with the process and product. The purpose is to know about the existence of students' writing skill. According to Brown (2001: 357) writing process is closely related with the activities in class which focuses on the steps in order to make the students get their own writing. The processes are: prewriting, writing, revising, editing, and evaluating. By doing those, students will be gained and developed their idea not only in prewriting process but also when they do drafting. In order to make the students get good result in their writing, they should be able to choose a good topic, idea, make an outline, write, and check the content and also their writing mechanism. If all of the processes have done, they can get maximum result too.

Academic writing is learned by the students since they are on the third semester. In this semester the subject material is understand the way how to write essay and kinds of essay. In that process the students are not only asked to make a good paragraph but also able to create qualified writing in which they should analyze and give critical response towards new information. They continue to learn academic writing on semester 4. In this semester, they learn to make an article. According to Irvin (2010: 7) there is some important point that should be noted in Academic Writing. They are: (1) Who is the reader?, (2) what is the topics?, (3) what is the message?, (4) what is the purpose?, (5) what is the genre.

In order to make the students able to create a qualified writing, the English Teaching Department have planned every subject for every meeting in syllabi and lesson plan. The purpose is to help the lecture in delivering their suitable academic writing subject. Therefore in this paper, the writer would like to discuss about (1) how is the implementation of Academic Writing, (2) What are the errors and mistakes done by students in making article?

According to Hyland in Richard (2001: 21) writing is the ability of arrange and the understanding of texts, contexts, and the reader. Therefore writer should pay attention about the arrangement of good sentences by using correct grammatical, spelling, punctuation, and words. Those aspects will influence the readers' interest to read and also understand the content. Richard (2001: 21) states that there are some steps in writing process. They are: planning, writing, revising, and editing. Meanwhile, Renandya (2002: 315) stated that writing process are: planning (prewriting), writing, responding, revising, editing, and evaluating.

#### 1. Prewriting

Prewriting is a process to get the idea, by: read the material which is related with the topic, brainstorming, clustering (grouping, topic discussion), and free writing (Brown, 2000: 348).

Prewriting is a first step. In this step, the writer find out the idea which is related with the topic. According to Oshima and Houge (1997: 68) there are some steps in writing process. They are: brainstorming by doing free writing, clustering, and listing.

2. Drafting  
Drafting is a process of writing itself. In this step, the writer focuses on the writing and ignores the arrangements of good sentence, and also mechanics including spelling and punctuation. The writer should attract the reader, by create the interesting introduction, suitable content, evidences and examples, and short conclusion based on his/her paragraph (Seow in Richard and Renandya, 2002: 17).
3. Responding  
Responding is a process that given from the teacher or friends who have checks the writers' writing. They usually give the respond orally or in the written form. According to Harmer (2004: 108) in the process of giving responds, the commentators are not only focuses on the sentences, the grammar and mechanics (spelling and punctuation) but also the content of his/her writing.
4. Revising (revisi)  
Revising is a process where the writer revise their work after their lectures or friends give the responds of their writing. By revising, the writer will know and understand the mistake that they have made, so that they can write better (Seow in Richard and Renandya, 2002: 317)
5. Evaluating (evaluasi)  
Evaluasi is a scoring process by checking the fifth indicator in writing. They are: content, organization, sentences, the choice of vocabulary, and mechanics (spelling and punctuation). So, in *Academic Writing* there are some steps prewriting, write, and revise. In every step there will be a specifics process, they are preparation, write, give responds, and revise and the last is final product in the written form. In the end of writing process, evaluation is the best choices in order to get good writing quality.

According to Irvin (2010: 15) there are some characteristic in the process of academic essay, they are: a) Academic Essay or article is an argument, a persuasive essay where the writer make a point and he/she should have proves that comes from some sources, such as journal and book. b) Thesis statement should clear enough and written in the last part of introduction. c) The writing organization are: introduction, body, and conclusion. d) Use the appropriate conjunction and the paragraph should in the form of unity and coherence. e) The style of writing should suitable with the APA style. f) The sentences should in the grammatical order.

In order to have qualified writing, there are some writing indicator which can guide the writer to have good article. Brown (2001) stated that there are 5 aspects in writing. a) Content. This part should include thesis sentence, supporting sentence/ *paragraph, concluding sentence or paragraph*, which relevant with the topics. b) Organization. This writing product should have organization that consists of *introduction, body (discussion), and result*. c) Grammar. In this grammar point, the scoring focuses on complex construction, agreement, tenses, word order, article, pronouns, prepositions, etc. d) *Vocabulary*. The scoring process will be focuses on the choice of vocabulary, the appropriate idiom, and various vocabularies. e) *Mechanics*. In this aspect the writer should pay attention and check their writing by *proofreading* before they publish their product. The things that should be pay attention are *spelling, punctuation, and capitalization*.

## METHOD

This research used case study method with qualitative approach. This method was done intensively, detail and deep towards a group, organization, institution, or specific indication. Case study focuses on the subject which is limited, but seen from the research characteristics, this case study is more deeper and discuss about the possibility to solve the actual problem by collecting the data, arrange, and apply also interpret it (Arikunto, 1989: 115).

Mulyana (2002:201) stated that "case study is a description and comprehend explanation about many kinds of aspects from someone, a group, an organization (community), a program, or social situation". In Case study, the researcher analyzes or study carefully as much as possible about the subject which is being analyzed. They also do deep analysis towards the subject in order to give complete understanding about the subject of research.

The research location was in IKIP PGRI Madiun, that address is in Jl. Setiabudi 85 Madiun. This institution was chosen by the researcher because the researcher is one of the lecture in English Teaching Department. The subject of the research is the students of semester IV A-C class. They are consisting of 90 students. This research used purposive sampling so that the amount of the sample is decided by the information gathered. It can be said that data collection

from the respondent based on the provision or saturation of data and information which is given. If the researcher gets same information from the respondent, it is enough to begin the process of collecting data.

The main instrument in this research is the researcher herself because they found the information through observation and interview by themselves. In this research, the researcher used the interpersonal approach. It means that, the researcher do more communication to the people in research location, that is in English teaching department IKIP PGRI Madiun. So, the researchers had a lot of chance to find out many information and clear data about her research. In this research, the researcher focused on the open question with technique of interview.

The techniques of data collection are:

1. Portfolio

Portfolio is a compilation of some articles that written by the students. This portfolio is collected and analyzed. The students are asking by the lecture to write conceptual article which have relation with technique, media, and method in teaching English. Their writing product will be analyzed based on *content, organization, grammar, vocabulary, mechanics*.

2. Observation

Observation is focuses on the data collection. It is done by the researchers through observing the teaching and learning process in academic writing class. The purpose of this observation is to get a lot of information related with writing class students of fourth semester.

3. Interview

Interview is kinds of communication done by two people, involving someone who wants to get information from someone else, by giving question based on certain purposes. By doing serious interview, it is hoped that the researcher will get as much as information. In this research the interview is done towards the students in *Academic Writing class*.

After all of the research process is done, the writer start to process the data that was collected from the portfolio analysis, interview and observation. The next step is describing the data. The data analysis is a process to find out and arrange systematically data from interview, note, and documentation. It is done by organize the data into some category, verify it into units, synthesis, arrange it into some form, choose the important data and learned it, and make a conclusion so that the data will easy to understand by the researcher herself and other people. Data from interview recorded and wrote completely supported by the result of observation and documentation. So, the data from this research are portfolio data, students' article, interview data, and observation data. Based on that data verification and analysis data in this research is done through three activities, they are data reduction, display data, and conclusion or verification.

## FINDING AND DISCUSSION

1. Teaching Learning Process in Academic Writing

In teaching academic writing, there are three process was done by teacher, one of the method is direct instruction whether students did some procedure in writing, they are: prewriting, organizing, drafting, editing, revising, and evaluating. After writing, lecturer also did some activities to evaluate students essay or article, for example by using paper seminar technique and peer editing.

In prewriting stage, firstly students analyzed sample article, made mapping, and made summary. Then, after they knew about the organization in making article, they made outline of their own article. Next, in drafting stage, Students start to write introduction, body, and conclusion. Then, editing and revising stage, teacher used paper seminar technique. Paper seminar technique is one of collaborative approach where students can collaborate and work together in their group in writing, then the other group will give respond for their article by checking: grammar, vocabulary, mechanics, content, and organization.

Based on interview with students, 78 students are love and interesting to attend and join academic writing class because they can learn step by step in producing good article.

2. The development of writing skill in academic writing class

In writing article not only states the idea or opinion, but there are some process applied by students create a good article. The good article is based on: (1) organization, where students can write appropriate title, effective introductory paragraph, topic is stated, leads to body; transitional expression used; arrangement of material shows plan (could be outlined by reader); supporting evidence given for generalizations; conclusion logical and complete, (2) logical development of content Essay students write and consider to addresses the assigned topic; the ideas are concrete and thoroughly developed; no extraneous material; essay reflects thought, (3) choose appropriate grammar, (4) mechanics where students Correct



use of English writing conventions; left and right margins, all needed capitals, paragraphs indented, punctuation and spelling; very neat, (5) write appropriate vocabulary. In first meeting, the most mistakes from students are; grammar, mechanics, contents, and vocabulary. To minimize the mistakes, teacher helped students step by step to fix their mistakes, for example; explain again about how to make good content, how to write with appropriate grammar, vocabulary, and mechanics. In the next meeting, students can fix their weaknesses and mistakes by learning from previous mistakes.

After followed some meeting in academic writing class, students felt that their quality in writing article were improved, for example; ability in identifying eye catching title, mastery grammar, mechanics, and can give respond in peer editing and group editing. From the result of interview, it can be concluded that process in academic writing class can help them minimize their mistakes in writing. Lecturer also found some good and interesting articles with good quality in content and appropriate organization. In contrast, teacher also found some bad article because those students ignore to edit their grammar, mechanics, and content. Based on the score of students' writing there was improvement in their score and also there was improvement in quality of writing. It can be seen in table 1 below:

Table 1. Students' ability after several meetings in joining academic writing class

Indicator	Previous condition	Condition after 8 meeting in academic writing
	Students' ability in the first meeting	Students' ability after several meetings
a. Writing idea and content	Students were difficult to look for idea and start to write	Students could express their idea and make suitable content related with the topic, but some of them still were not maximal.
b. Organization of article	Students were still difficult to arrange the organization of paragraph	Students knew the arrangement of paragraph
c. grammar	Most of students (75%) were still lack ability in write sentences with using appropriate grammar	Lecturer Still found mistakes in grammar (45%)
d. Vocabulary	Students were still difficulty in choosing appropriate vocabularies	Students chose appropriate and vary in vocabularies
e. Mechanics	Students did error and mistakes in using appropriate mechanics, for example; capitalization, spelling, and punctuation.	Students' ability improved in writing appropriate mechanics

### 3. Students' Error and Mistakes in writing

After observation, researcher found the students error and mistakes in writing article. It can be seen in table below:

Table 2. Error and mistakes of students in writing article

No	Error	Mistakes
1	General mechanics (spelling, punctuation, capitalization) Some students did not know how to write in appropriate using of capital, punctuation, and spelling of words	The half students knew about using appropriate mechanics, but in writing process, they did mistyping and forget to edit it.
2.	Paragraph (content)	

-	Most of students still write choppy paragraph and short sentences. It happens because they couldn't elaborate their idea. Actually they knew about composition of good paragraph, but because of lack idea made their paragraph were not appropriate.
3	Grammar
Some students about 10% who have problems in using appropriate grammar in writing happened because they did not know using suitable grammar.	The most students (90%) who have problem in using appropriate grammar happened because they knew about using grammar appropriately, but because careless and mistyping made their grammar false, for example; grammatical error (preposition, the use of "wh" question, plurals and singulars, noun and verbs, structural formation, first and second person, article (definite and indefinite), short sentences,
4	Quotation and paraphrase
Some students about 8% who did error in quoting and paraphrasing happened because they did not know how to quote appropriately. It happened because when lecturer gave explanation, they did not listen carefully, and when they practiced in quoting, they didn't work maximal	The most students didn't quote appropriately happen because they didn't check and edit again. There are some suggestion in quoting, they are: Use the ones mentioned in reference section, Avoid using/citing authors which aren't in your reference, Retrieved date from the internet (website), read more about Quoting techniques.

From that table, it can be seen that error and mistakes happened because some students did not recheck again their article and less in reading material, book, news that can help them in getting idea easily.

### Conclusion and suggestions

Finding of this research were: (1) in teaching learning process of Academic Writing for fourth semester students that lecturer has taught based on syllabus and lesson plan. The students followed the class maximize, it was proven by students listened lecturers explanation and did the writing project (made article); (2) the ability of students in writing article improved, especially how organize the article, use appropriate mechanic, and vocabulary; (3) the most error and mistakes that done by students in writing are; using appropriate grammar, appropriate content, and how to quote. From the finding of this research, the suggestions for academic writing's lecturer are: prepare the material well and give example how to write good article until students understand. Beside of those, ask and motivate students to read many books, article, etc. By reading many materials, books, and news can help students in writing more easily. By reading, it can help students get idea easily and can help in brainstorm and organize idea.

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