

Students' Problem in Writing the Article of Mathematics Learning Resources Development

Akhsanulln'am

ahsanul_in@yahoo.com

Mathematics Department University of Muhammadiyah Malang

Abstract

The objective of the study is to analyze students' problem in writing article in learning development for mathematics learning resources subject. Qualitative approach was used and data was collected by using observation and interview. The respondents of this research are 24 students of second semester in master of mathematics education program, University of Muhammadiyah Malang Indonesia. The results of this study are the students difficult to generate the idea, write the introduction and deliver the discussion of the article. However, at the end of the semester, most of the students can write the substantial articles that are indeed worth reading.

1. Introduction

Scrutinizing the duties as a student, writing scientific paper is an assignment that cannot be avoided. Moreover, if considering the curriculum, which is always perfected is in accordance with the purposes of development, which is now implemented more intensely namely Indonesian Qualifications Framework-based curriculum. Writing scientific articles requires a special skill to be realized, and this is the implementation from one of problem-solving stages [2]. Not a few students find difficulty to make a scientific article, either undergraduate or master students.

The researcher's experience in teaching the course of mathematics education seminar in undergraduate program looks that students are not accustomed to write scientific articles based on available articles in national and international journals. The habituation of students in reading the article acquired from international journals provides many insights to the students when they write thesis. Similarly, when they continue to study master program, this is proven when several alumni who continue to study master degree and acquire the assignment to review the articles from international journals, this is not a difficulty, but have become habitual [3,7]. Hence, the approach of assignment in writing scientific papers can help familiarizing in solving the problems of writing a scientific article [1,6].

Through writing scientific paper assignments, it will produce a good and qualified writing because by writing, students will certainly read a lot of articles which are in accordance with their studies conducted, and also can see various strategies of elaboration conducted by various authors [5]. Besides that, it is necessary to use various strategies, which consist of discussing the results to improve the quality of articles written [4].

Concerning the elaboration, this study tries to reveal the students' various problems in writing scientific articles and the efforts made to resolve those problems.

2. Method

This study used qualitative approach, with 24 respondents from students of second semester in Master of Mathematics Education Program University of

Muhammadiyah Malang. Data were collected through documents, observations and interviews. Documents considered was the assignment of writing the article on the development of mathematics learning resources subject, observations were conducted when students present the article presented in lecturing and interviews conducted through Focus Group Discussion.

3. Result and Discussion

The first problem faced by students in writing scientific article was the barriers in pouring out ideas and thought at the beginning of writing. Students had difficulty in linking the ideas and thought one another, therefore, the elaboration of paragraphs expressed one to another seemed do not related. It was shown when students consulted the results of their writings, as well as discussions held in regard to the proposed draft writing, they were difficult to start writing. The result of the discussion, one of the students said, *actually I know what I will write, but I find difficulty in combining the ideas, and I realize that this is due to the lack of reading article.*

One of the efforts that should be done when writing is reading articles as many as possible related to the ideas and thought to be presented. Researcher who is also a subject supervisor provides examples of articles as many as possible which enable students to read and understand, specifically the articles from international journals. Besides that, students are familiarized to understand articles, by guiding the way to review the articles from international journals. The results acquired from the series of those activities, students can begin to make a presentation of ideas and thought stated in the introduction, which contains the ideas that will be stated and the literature review, which becomes the basis in writing

The next problem experienced by students is the difficulty in writing the reference from the elaboration stated. One of the scientific characteristics of writing is if there are many references, which support the ideas and thought in the elaboration. At the beginning of writing, students still found difficulty to elaborate it, beside the lack of readings, there were also anxiety about plagiarism. As explained above, the effort that the researcher did was conducting a discussion focused on discussing how to write references and the writing is free from plagiarism. Through the examples of international journal articles and review to those articles, students started to be able to understand the steps, which must be done to characterize that the writing is scientific. It could be seen from the draft of articles made when the results of elaboration, the students have been able to make the reference in accordance with the existing provisions, as well as the interview with one of the students, said... *Actually, it is easy to write references in our writing, in a note we need to review many articles of which the theme is relevant to the theme we write, moreover, if we review the articles from international journals... There is plenty of additional knowledge about how to make our articles are equivalent to the articles published in international journals.*

Concerning above, students are designed to increase reading articles, especially willing and able to review articles from international journals, so that the ability in writing articles gets better.

The last problem in writing article is writing the discussion of the study, which is done. Generally, this is a problem, which often exists when students write, either thesis or dissertation. The elaboration of discussion should analyze, compare the results conducted with related theories and the results of the study in accordance with the

theme we write. The possibility that happens, our writing is in accordance with theory as well as other researches, or the writing of results of our study in contrary to the theory as well as other researchers' studies.

The majority of students explained the discussion with analysis based on the explanation, without comparing with the theory and study in line with the theme of study. However, through intensive discussion, students can understand the elaboration that should be stated in the discussion. Besides that, by showing some articles, specifically international journals, students can understand how to make the elaboration of discussion. As a student said, *before I elaborate the discussion based on my own analysis, because I have never been taught how to make a part of discussion in undergraduate program, and actually, it is not difficult... but it needs more readings to compare with the theory or similar research.*

Through the observation conducted, draft arranged by students after two weeks discussing the discussion, it can be said that their elaboration have been relatively good, although the comparison done was limited to two or three results of analysis in accordance with the theme of the research.

The result of this study is in line with the study about the problems in writing theory [5] that frequently students find difficulty in writing caused the lack of reading materials so that the ideas and thought owned by students are difficult to be poured out in writing. However, in that writing [5], there is no discussion about the problem in elaborating the discussion. Besides that, based on the writing theory, this study is in line with writing theory, that one of students' weaknesses in writing is the lack of materials as the base to elaborate their writing [1].

4. Conclusion

The initial problems experienced by students when they started to write scientific articles lies in the difficulty to pour out the ideas and thought that became the early study before pouring out the elaboration of their ideas and thoughts. The next difficulty experienced by students is to align experts' thinking with a series of the elaboration in accordance with the study stated. Furthermore, students have difficulty when discussing the results of the study stated in the discussion of the results of the study. Those three difficulties at the end of lecturing could be found the solution through continuous discussion. It can be seen when students submit the final project in the form of scientific articles, which ready to be published. In addition, there were six students who could publish their articles through international seminar held by Mathematics Education Program Islamic University of Malang on June9, 2014.

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