A STUDY ON THE STUDENTS' ABILITY IN WRITINGTHE INTRODUCTION OF ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAYAT SIXTH SEMESTER OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENTIN MUHAMMADYAH UNIVERSITY OF MALANG

Oleh: Aprilya Noor Milasari (01360165) English Department Dibuat: 2005-12-26, dengan 3 file(s).

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Writing has become an essential tool for people in all aspect of today's life. Thus, the ability in writing effectively enables people from different culture and background to communicate. To make an understandable writing, the writers should master the way to write a good composition. One of them is the way to write an introduction because it functions to win the readers' curiosity. It is especially in an argumentative essay which is almost always to persuade and convert other's point of view by proposing convincing evidence. Furthermore, it must be written thoughtfully to achieve the writers' aims. Thus, the writers (even professional) often complain that the most difficult part of writing is getting started. So, this research has made to add the readers' experience in composing an introduction of argumentative essay.

This study was conducted by using a descriptive quantitative research because this study described the students' ability in writing an introduction of argumentative essay. The population and sample of this study were the students of sixth grade of English Department in Muhammadyah University of Malang consisting of 189 students. There were 38 students who were taken by random sampling technique as the sample. The data was the document of the students' composition test. After collecting the students' composition, this data were analysed to know the students' introduction. Then, the writer gave the score and decided the students' ability based on the categorisation level of ability.

Based on this study, the writer found that the students' ability in writing an introduction of an argumentative essay was generally good. It was supported by the result of computation of the students' ability. Some students had written an appropriate introduction of argumentative essay but some of them had not been able to write a good introduction. And finally, the computation analysis showed that the students' level of ability was 69. 08%. It meant that their ability in writing an introduction of argumentative essay was categorised as good.