

MILIK PERPUSTAKAAN
ZAWIYAH COT KALA LANGSA

STUDENTS' DIFFICULTIES IN WRITING ABSTRACT
OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT STUDENTS IN
STAIN ZAWIYAH COT KALA LANGSA

THESIS

Submitted By :

RISKA ZAKIYAH

The Student of English Department
Tarbiyah Faculty
Student No : 140900382



STATE COLLEGE OF ISLAMIC STUDIES
ZAWIYAH COT KALA LANGSA
2013 M / 1434 H

MILIK PERPUSTAKAAN
STAIN ZAWIYAH COT KALA LANGSA

STUDENTS' DIFFICULTIES IN WRITING ABSTRACT
OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT STUDENTS IN
STAIN ZAWIYAH COT KALA LANGSA

THESIS

Submitted By :

RISKA ZAKIYAH

The Student of English Department
Tarbiyah Faculty
Student No : 140900382

PERPUSTAKAAN STAIN ZAWIYAH COT KALA LANGSA

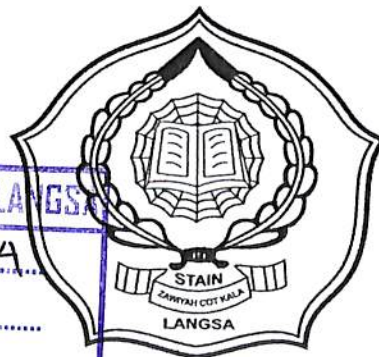
Tgl. Terima : 05 Februari 2014

Asal Dari :

No. Inventaris :

No. Klasifikasi :

No. Barcode/ C :



STATE COLLEGE OF ISLAMIC STUDIES
ZAWIYAH COT KALA LANGSA
2013 M / 1434 H

THESIS

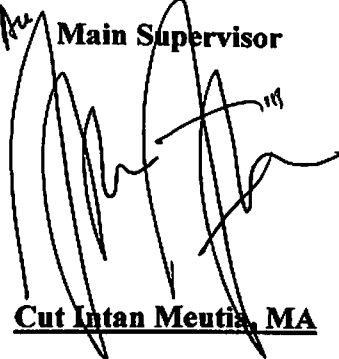
Submitted to the Tarbiyah Faculty of Sekolah Tinggi Agama Islam
Negeri Zawiya Cot Kala Langsa as a Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for Sarjana Degree S – 1 in Teacher Education


By

RISKA ZAKIYAH

The Students of English Department
Tarbiyah Faculty
Student No : 140900382

Approved By :


Main Supervisor
Cut Intan Meutia, MA


Co. Supervisor
Nina Afrida, M.Pd

**It has been defended in Sidang Munaqasyah in front of the Council
Of Examiners for Thesis and has been Accepted as a Partial
Fulfillment of Requirements for Sarjana Degree S - 1
in Teacher Education of Tarbiyah Faculty**

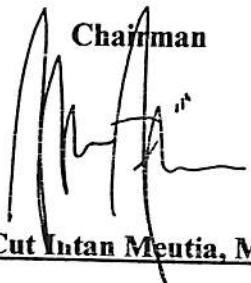
On

**Wednesday, February 5th 2014 M
Rabi'ul Akhir 5th 1935 H**


**In
Langsa**

The Council of Examiner

Chairman


Cut Intan Meutia, MA


Secretary


Nina Afrida, M.Pd

Member


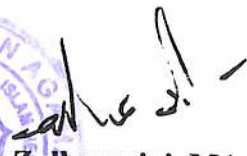

Ilham, M.Hum

Member


Wahidah, M.Ed

Certified by :

**The Head of Sekolah Tinggi Agama Islam Negeri (STAIN)
Zawiyah Cot Kala Langsa**



Dr. Zulkarnaini, MA
NIP. 19670511 199002 1 001

MY DEDICATION WORD
(for my mother)

ALLAH brings me a guardian angel in my life

I call her "Mother"

She is the joy in my life, the sunshine in my days.

She is the one, who showed me the way,

She is the one, who brightens my day.

She is the one, who I hold most dear,

She is the one, who is always near.

She is the one, who is in my heart,

When I cried, she is the one who wiped away all this tears

When I felt alone, she is the one who fade away all this fears

Her sacrifices never ever can be compared by everything

And because of that, we will never part

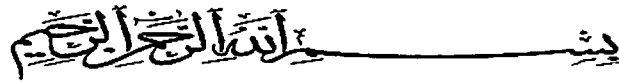
Thanks for the great love

Thanks for the pray all the time you had given to me

You are my everything ...

A mothers` love is never fades...

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Alhamdulillah, all praise may to Allah SWT the most Highest, who has given me blessing in body and soul in order to finish my research and this Skripsi as one of the requirements for Sarjana Degree in Teacher Education at English Department *Sekolah Tinggi Agama Islam Negeri Zawiyah Cot Kala Langsa*. The blessing and peace of Allah may be upon the notable prophet Muhammad SAW, his companies and family.

In accomplishing this thesis, the researcher deservedly would like to acknowledge her deepest appreciation to the following persons who have helped and supported her to finish this thesis:

1. The researcher's beloved Mother. Hidayati thanks for the love, pray, support, and motivation either morally or materially.
2. The researcher's sister. Siska Maisarah thanks for pray and motivation.
3. The researcher's beloved Fiancé. Tommy Alreza thanks for the love, pray, and support.
4. Cut Intan Meutia, MA, as the main supervisor and the Chair of English Department and the academic advisor who has given her charm ideas, suggestion and many other things which were useful in completing this thesis.
5. Nina Afrida, M.Pd, as the co supervisor who has given her correction, beneficial opinion and encouragement in the process of writing this thesis.

6. Dra. Hj. Purnamawati, M.Pd as the head of Tarbiyah Faculty.
7. All of English Department lecturers who had taught during the study in STAIN Zawiyah Cot Kala Langsa,
8. All of her friends and classmates are in English Department. Especially, Nova, Aina, Lili, and Lidiya who help the researcher in writing this thesis. Thanks for the nice relationship and enjoyable class.
9. All of respondent who had given their time for the researcher in finishing this research. Thank you very much!

May this thesis and knowledge that the researcher got will be useful in the future for herself and people. Finally, researcher hopes the readers could contribute developmental criticism and suggestion to improve this thesis.

May Allah SWT bless us forever. Amin Ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

Langsa, 24 December 2013

The writer

Riska Zakiyah

ABSTRACT

Abstract is a short explanation about information in a thesis. Writing the abstract involves clear thinking and full expression because abstract is the first part which the reader will read about. The main problem, however, is about the students' difficulties in writing abstract. This study was carried out in STAIN Zawiyah Cot Kala Langsa. This study was qualitative descriptive. The object of research was the graduated students of English department which was taken based on purposive sampling technique. The purpose of this research is to know the students' difficulties, and the factors that cause students faced difficulties in writing abstract. In order to obtain the data needed, the writer conducted questionnaire and interview. Furthermore, the writer analyzed the data by using percentage formula and interactive model to find out the result of this research. The result of this research was the respondents found difficulties in writing abstract. Most of the students found internal and external difficulties in writing abstract. The internal difficulties were in writing components about 65%, length abstract about 75%, and the use of tense in abstract 65%. Meanwhile, the external difficulties were lack of reference about 80% and feeling anxiety about 64%. The result of the last average reached 70% of students faced difficulties. The reasons that cause them faced difficulties were there was no guidance book about how to write abstract well. Moreover, they still confuse in writing abstract because it is the first time they write it and should comprehend their thesis. They do not know the procedure of writing abstract as well. The result proved that they faced difficulties in writing abstract. Based on the research, the researcher suggests that the lecturer needs to give explanation clearly to the students about how to write a good and effective abstract.

Key word : Students' difficulties, writing abstract

TABLE OF CONTENT

Acknowledgment	i
Abstract.....	iii
Table of Content	iv
List of Table	vi
List of Figure.....	viii
List of Appendixes	ix
 CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION	
A. The Background of The Study.....	1
B. B. Research Question	3
C. The Purpose of the Study.....	3
D. Scope and Significance of the Study	3
E. Theoretical Framework.....	4
 CHAPTER II LITERATURE REVIEW	
A. Writing Abstract	5
1. Definition of Abstract.....	5
2. Function and Purpose of Writing Abstract	9
3. Common Abstract Writing Mistakes.....	10
4. Characteristics of a Good Abstract	11
B. Difficulties in Writing Abstract.....	13
1. Internal Difficulties.....	14
2. External Difficulties	19

CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A. Approach and Method of the Study.....	24
B. Location and Time of Research.....	25
1. Research Location.....	25
2. Time of Research	25
C. Source of Data	25
D. Data Collecting Technique and Instrument of the Research	26
1. Data Collecting Technique.....	26
2. Instrument	27
E. Data Analyzing Technique	28
F. The Validity of Data.....	30

CHAPTER IV RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A. Result of The Research	32
1. Questionnaire Result	32
2. The Interview Interpretation	50
B. Discussion.....	52

CHAPTER V CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion	56
B. Suggestion.....	57

BIBLIOGRAPHY	58
---------------------------	-----------

LIST OF TABLE

Table I	Blueprint of Questionnaire	27
Table II	I am confused in using the systematic of components of abstract	32
Table III	I find out difficulties in writing components of abstract	33
Table IV	I am not sure how many components in an abstract.....	33
Table V	Division of Students` Difficulties in Writing Components of Abstract	34
Table VI	An abstract is written in a single paragraph	36
Table VII	Sometime I make mistake in writing the length of abstract. ..	36
Table VIII	The length of abstract is over 300 words.....	37
Table IX	Division of Students` Difficulties in Writing Length of Abstract.....	37
Table X	I use past tense for the background/motivation of the study in an abstract.	39
Table I	I find difficulties in using tenses for conclusion in an abstract.	39
Table II	I am confused in using tense for methodology in an abstract.	40
Table III	Division of Students` Difficulties in Using Tense in Abstract	40
Table XIV	Writing abstract is a scary subject for me because it is difficult	42
Table XV	I feel bad and cannot do homework about writing abstract....	42
Table XVI	I feel shy when I made a mistake in writing abstract.	43
Table XVII	Division of Students` Difficulties towards Classroom Anxiety	43
Table XVIII	I have no book about how to write a good abstract.....	45

Table XIX	I read a book of writing abstract before I write an abstract.	45
Table XX	The library does not provide enough book of writing abstract.	46
Table XXI	Division of Students' Difficulties towards Lack of Reference	47
Table IV	The Result of Students' Response Percentage	49

LIST OF FIGURE

Figure 1	An Interactive Model By Miles & Huberman.....	30
Figure 2	Percentage of Students' Difficulties in Writing Components Abstract	35
Figure 3	Percentage of Students' Difficulties in Writing Length of Abstract	38
Figure 4	Percentage of Students' Difficulties in Using Tense of Abstract	41
Figure 5	Percentage of Students Difficulties towards Classroom Anxiety	44
Figure 6	Percentage of Students' Difficulties towards Lack of Reference	48
Figure 1	Percentage of Students' Difficulties in Writing Abstract.....	48
Figure 8	Percentage of All Students' Response.....	50

LIST OF APPENDIXES

- 1. Surat Keterangan Penunjukan Dosen Pembimbing**
- 2. Surat Izin Penelitian**
- 3. Surat Keterangan Telah Melakukan Penelitian**
- 4. Surat Pernyataan Karya Sendiri**
- 5. Lembar Kuisisioner Mahasiswa**
- 6. Biography**
- 7. Photo Copy Kartu Bimbingan Skripsi**

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

In academic writing, essays, articles, and reviews often begin with a summary, called an abstract. An abstract is a brief summary, a few sentences, that helps researcher to decide whether she/he wants to locate and read the entire article.¹ Writing an excellent abstract is vital to encourage readers to obtain the full paper, read it, and cite it. Writing a good and effective abstract for an article or a thesis is a sub-skill of the writing skill in the field of TEFL as well. Like a paragraph writing for example, it should meet some criteria. The essential components of abstract are the background, the problem, the methods, the results, and the implications of study. According to American Psychology Association (APA) Style, abstract should be interesting and containing all the key words and avoids complex sentences. It is written after the report is completed, although it is intended to be read first.² Writing abstract is one of an essential part, which contains of short summary from thesis. It is highly specialized form of academic writing. The abstract of an article, a paper or a thesis is a very important part for the researcher as well as the reader.

Abstract has function and purpose in theses as well. Many abstracts are published without the complete paper itself in abstract journals or in online

¹Brenda Spatt, *Writing From Sources*, (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2011), 310.

²Mahsoub Abdul-Sadeq Aly, "An Analytic Study of the Postgraduate Students' Difficulties in Writing Abstracts in English," Benha University, November 13 2006, (accessed 20 May 2013).

databases. Thus, an abstract might serve as the only means by which a researcher determines what information a paper contains. Moreover, a researcher might make a decision whether to read the paper or not based on the abstract alone. Because of this need for self-contained compactness, an abstract must convey the essential results of a paper.³ Thus, an abstract is important because its function is providing the information about the study in the thesis.

Student who had finished their thesis should write and produce a good and effective abstract. To write a good one, students need to comprehend writing the way or technique in producing a good abstract well. Moreover, they should comprehend on the techniques and structure of writing a good abstracts and usually systematically practice this skill during their undergraduate study and graduate study. Nevertheless, the students who had made abstract still could not produce the abstract which reach good criteria of abstract itself when they wrote their abstract. However many writers still find out difficulties in writing effective abstract. For example, as the writer analyzed some graduate students' abstract, most of them made mistake in using tense for abstract. They used "Simple Present Tense" when they are referring to the methodology. In fact, the appropriate tense for methodology or what they did during the research in abstract is "Simple Past Tense".⁴ Moreover, others still miss some components of abstract and the length of good and effective abstract. Due to the above discussion, it can be assumed that most of the students still do not understand in writing good and effective abstract.

³John December and Susan Katz, "Abstracts," The Writing Centre, January 12, 2005, <http://www.rpi.edu/web/writingcenter/abstracts.html> (accessed 20 May 2013).

⁴Robert Weissberg & Suzanne Buker, *Writing Up Research: Experimental Research Report Writing for Students of English*, (USA: Prentice Hall, 1990), 192.

Based on the above description, there is possibility that students still face difficulties in writing abstracts. Therefore, the writer wants to do a research by entitled **“Students` Difficulties in Writing Abstract of English Department Students in STAIN Zawiyah Cot Kala Langsa”**.

B. Research Question

This study seeks to investigate learners` writing abstract difficulties. Following are the specific points studied:

1. What are the difficulties of graduate students of English department at STAIN Zawiyah Cot Kala Langsa in writing abstract?
2. Why do graduate students of English department at STAIN Zawiyah Cot Kala Langsa face difficulties in writing abstract?

C. The Purpose of the Study

The purpose of research is to discover answers to questions through the application of scientific procedures. The main aim of research is to find out the truth which is hidden and which has not been discovered yet. Therefore, the prominent purposes of this thesis are:

1. To find out the difficulties of graduate students of English department at STAIN Zawiyah Cot Kala Langsa in writing abstract.
2. To describe the reason of difficulties of graduate students of English department at STAIN Zawiyah Cot Kala Langsa in writing abstract.

D. Scope and Significance of the Study

The scope of this research is limited to the description of the difficulties and reason made students difficult in writing abstract.

The significance of this study is as follow:

1. Theoretical

The writer hopes that this thesis would be useful to improve the learners understanding about writing abstract. Besides, the writer hopes this thesis can provide the readers some information about the essential of an abstract. Therefore, the result of this research can be benefited by readers to solve their difficulties to reach their target in writing abstract and finally could finish their thesis easily.

2. Practical

The writer hopes this thesis can be a reference for others in the field of teaching and learning, especially for lecturers and undergraduate students in finishing their study.

E. Theoretical Framework

Difficulties are factors causing trouble in achieving positive result or tending to produce negative results.⁵ Writing abstract is very common in academic writing. An abstract is a concise summary of a research study, project, or journal article. If the abstract summarizes a research study, it usually includes the problem statement, the design and methods, the results, and the implications of the findings. If the abstract is based on a project or journal article, key points are identified and described according to a specific format designated by the conference organizers or journal editor.⁶

⁵Febrina, *The Boarding Student' Difficulties in Listening English Dialogues Spoken by Native Speaker*, (Darussalam: Syiah Kuala University, 2007), 8.

⁶ Suzanne C. Beyea and Leslie H. Nicoll, "Writing and Submitting an Abstract," *Research Corner* 67, no. 1(AORN 1998): 273-274.