

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides the explanation of the essential aspects that contribute to conducting the study. It includes the background, statement of the problems and the objectives of the study. It also describes how the study was undertaken, the list of key terms and the organization of the paper.

1.1 Background

Writing a research paper is a challenge for university students to present their understandings in their fields. The most important thing in writing a research paper is its process, starting from writing the proposal, conducting the research and reporting it as a research paper. During the process, the students are taught how to write a good academic writing based on the guidelines in writing the research paper. Moreover, Alwasilah and Alwasilah (2005) argue that the students need a lot of sources in order to enrich their knowledge. The sources are used to support the students' papers. They are often cited in the text with a certain format suggested by the university guidelines. By using the guidelines, the students are directed to use a proper citation style when they are using other's ideas or words.

One way of elaborating sources is through writing a literature review. It helps the students to elaborate their way of thinking with the existed and credible sources which are related to their research. Nevertheless, the students' ideas need to be as original as possible in writing the literature review. It means they only use sources to support their research paper, not to present them as their own ideas. It is important for the students to display their understanding by their own words so they can assure public that they are capable as scholars. If the students are failed to do so, their work

can be regarded as plagiarism. Consequently, their research paper may be perceived as fraud and their academic positions may be executed.

Plagiarism itself has been a crucial academic problem in Indonesia because nowadays many Indonesian scholars are trapped in plagiarism practice. They seem to neglect the academic writing code of conduct, for example, the plagiarism case by a former Economic lecturer in one of the universities in Yogyakarta. He was considered to plagiarize Hatbonar Sinaga's article entitled *Menggagas Asuransi Bencana*. His essay was similar to Sinaga's article. As the consequence of this academic violation, the lecturer was resigned from the university (Maharani, 2014). This case shows how plagiarism can derail an academic reputation.

The academic writing violation like plagiarism happens when a writer claims that an idea or words are his or her own when in fact they are someone else's. This is in line with Wray, Trott and Bloomer's (1998) assertion that plagiarism is the theft of other people's words and ideas. In the attempt to avoid plagiarism, the students need to write literature review which is cited accurately. It needs to be done because reader needs to know the trace of the sources used in the paper. As discussed by Sarno and Herdiyanti (2010, p. 32), "the list of references and the use of in-text citing help the readers to clarify the credibility of the research paper".

From the earlier explanation, it can be inferred that the students need to understand and apply the proper use of citing and referencing style based on the available guidelines such as American Psychological Association (APA), Modern Language Association (MLA) and Harvard styles. By using one of those guidelines, the students can acknowledge the authors' existences of the sources used in the paper. In addition, the students also have to consistently use one citation and reference style in the entire paper so they can construct credible paper.

Moreover, the appropriate use of citation and reference can affect the credibility of scientists as sources of environmental information. Checile (1991 as

cited in Sprecker, 2002) explains that the scientists and environmental information are highly interconnected, contain much uncertainty and risk, entail long time periods and involve great political and economic pressure. When scientists cannot deliver their research studies with proper acknowledgement, the public may question whether their work are trustworthy. Clearly, credibility is valuable, fragile and highly expected for the scientific papers.

Regarding the use of citation and reference in the scientific papers, there are some studies on citation and reference analysis. Among others is a study by Junandi and Zulaikha (2010) that examines the relevancy and use of foreign journal by the research reports and seek the currency of the cited foreign journal. Furthermore, Löfström (2011) also conducted a research study on citing but her work focuses more on the relationship between academic writing, citing and the students' understandings of plagiarism. However, it can be seen that there is no study that investigates the way the inappropriate citation and reference contributes to plagiarism in the students' research papers. Based on that consideration, this study is conducted to discover whether the students can use citations and references properly.

As mentioned before, the purpose of using proper citing and referencing style is to avoid plagiarism. This idea is used as the foundation of the research paper entitled *Citation and Reference in Students' Academic Writing: A Case Study in the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences Education and Faculty of Engineering and Vocational Education Study Programs in Indonesia University of Education* . This paper was conducted to examine how appropriate the students, in the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences Education and Faculty of Engineering and Vocational study programs in *Indonesia University of Education*, use citations and references in their research papers. The consideration of this study is that the issue of citing and referencing and its relation with plagiarism is rarely discussed in Indonesia.

Fathimah Salma Zahira, 2014

Citation and Reference in Students' Academic Writing:

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1.2 Statement of the Problems

Research problems of this paper are formulated in these following questions:

1. What kinds of citation and reference sources are used by students in their research papers?
2. How does the use of inappropriate citation and reference contribute to plagiarism?
3. What kinds of mistakes are made in citations and references?

1.3 Aims of the Study

Related to the research questions above, this paper aims to find the following:

1. the kinds of citation and reference sources used by the students in their research papers;
2. the way the use of inappropriate citation and reference contributes to plagiarism and;
3. the types of mistakes in citations and references.

1.4 Scope of the Study

The focus of the study was to investigate the sources of citations and references which were used by the undergraduate students and how well they organize it. The citations and references were taken from the students' research papers in 22 different study programs, in the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences Education and Faculty of Engineering and Vocational Education, in Indonesia University of Education, Bandung. The graduation year of the submitted papers was limited to 2013 only.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The significance of the study was to give a depth analysis on citations and references in relation to their appropriate use. This study also shows how citation and reference can indicate plagiarism in academic writing, particularly in the undergraduate

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students' research papers in the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences Education and Faculty of Engineering and Vocational Education in Indonesia University of Education, Bandung. This paper was also expected to enrich the students' knowledge on citing and referencing in order to make a trustworthy research paper which is free from plagiarism.

1.6 Classification of Key Terms

The following terms are classified in order to avoid misunderstandings:

- a. Citation: mentioning the idea of someone else's work with the source in the research paper text (Wray et al, 1998, p. 232).
- b. Reference: a list of details of the books and articles that have been mentioned in a text. It is found at the last page of the research paper, before appendices (Wray et al, 1998, p. 230).
- c. Plagiarism: the use of other people's words and ideas as writers' own work. (Wray et al, 1998, p. 241).

1.7 The Organization of the Paper

The paper consists of five chapters. The first chapter is the introduction, which includes the background, statement of problems, the objectives, the reasons and the limitation of the study, the research methodology and the organization of the study. The second chapter is the literature review. The third chapter is the elaboration of conceptual frameworks and methodology. The fourth chapter is the results and discussions of the analysis of the research papers taken from the study programs in the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences Education and Faculty of Engineering and Vocational Education in Indonesia University of Education. The last chapter is the conclusion and suggestions, followed by the references and appendices.