

C7 Analysis of the Difficulties in Preparing a Thesis Encountered by the Students of Fashion ..

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1

Education Quality: Diversity of Interpretations and Analytical Approaches

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Abstrak

Kualiti pendidikan merupakan satu konsep kritikal dalam bidang pembangunan keilmuan untuk dianalisis secara mendalam. Dari satu perspektif, konsep ini merupakan satu 'sasaran yang sentiasa bergerak' dan secara lumrahnya dinamik. Daripada perspektif yang lain pula, konsep kualiti pendidikan difokuskan kepada sesuatu aspek dalam pembangunan pendidikan seperti kualiti kurikulum dan pelaksanaannya dalam bilik darjah, kualiti pendidikan dan perkhidmatan guru, kualiti prasarana dan kelengkapan pendidikan, kualiti pencapaian dan prestasi pelajar melalui sistem penilaian dan peperiksaan, dan sebagainya. Justeru, kepelbagaian fokus ini amat bersandarkan kepada perspektif pemikir-pemikir yang menganalisis ciri-ciri dari mana mereka melihat isu-isu yang berkaitan mengikut latar belakang keilmuan mereka. Dari satu perspektif, pakar-pakar ekonomi menganalisis kualiti pendidikan daripada sudut kualiti output pelajar yang dihasilkan oleh sesuatu sistem pendidikan. Pakar-pakar sosiologi pendidikan pula menganalisis kualiti pendidikan dari sudut kesamarataan, akses, ekuiti, efikasi dan sebagainya. Pakar-pakar sosial-psikologi pula melihatnya dari sudut proses pembudayaan dan iklim pembelajaran dalam organisasi sekolah dan sebagainya. Pakar-pakar kurikulum pula menilai kualiti pendidikan dari sudut kualiti program dan kandungan kurikulum serta proses penterjemahannya di dalam sesebuah institusi pendidikan seperti sekolah atau universiti. Sebaliknya, para pemimpin, ahli-ahli politik dan penganalisis dasar kerap memperbahaskan kualiti pendidikan dari sudut integrasi nasional, matlamat, dasar, kesan dan manfaat diperolehi oleh para pelajar dari sistem pendidikan yang disediakan. Kertas ucap utama ini akan mengupas aspek-aspek ini secara menyeluruh dengan melihat isu-isu yang kerap diketengahkan oleh para penyelidik dan penilai program pendidikan secara holistik.

Abstract

Education quality is a concept that is critical in the realm of knowledge development for in-depth analyses. From one perspective, the concept is a 'continuing moving target' and dynamic in nature. From another perspective, education quality is focused on a particular aspect in education development such as quality of curriculum and its implementation in the classroom, quality of teacher education and services, quality of educational infrastructure and facilities, quality of student achievement and performance through evaluations and examinations, and so on. On the one hand, experts in economics analyze educational quality more by examining finance and costs incurred, and quality of student output as produced by the education system. Educational sociologists analyze education quality from the perspective of equality, access, equity and efficacy, and so on. Also, many social psychologists look at

1 ANALYSIS OF THE DIFFICULTIES IN PREPARING A THESIS ENCOUNTERED BY THE STUDENTS OF FASHION DESIGN EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM OF FACULTY OF ENGINEERING OF STATE UNIVERSITY OF YOGYAKARTA

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Abstract

2
This research are aimed to: 1) identify the difficulty encountered by students in preparing a thesis viewed from internal factors; 2) identify the difficulty encountered by students in preparing a thesis viewed from external factors; 3) serious efforts need to be made by PTTB Study Program to help the students overcome the difficulties they encounter in preparing a thesis. The type of this research is descriptive research. The population of this research is all students of Fashion Design Education Study Program who had been writing Thesis. The sample of this research is the students who had made thesis proposal until those who had made research report amounting to 35 people. The sampling technique used is *Purposive Sampling* technique. Meanwhile, the data were collected by questionnaires. The data analysis technique was descriptive analysis. The results of this research show that: 1) the difficulties encountered by the students viewed from internal factors are problems finding, the low motivation of the students, lack of understanding toward the problems studied, lack of knowledge of research methodology, lack of idea for preparing a thesis, afraid to consult with the advisor, difficult to write the idea into writing; 2) the difficulty encountered by students viewed from external factors are lack of references, unimplemented suggestions from the advisor, does not use the guideline for thesis writing as the reference, difficult to look for the validator; and 3) the efforts related to the students' difficulties are providing the theme and structured schedule of consultation, maximizing the frequency of consultation every week, using consultation sheet, providing facilities such as books, journal, and internet, having contact with the students, creating innovation model of consultation, research, collaborative research between lecturer and students, and consultant's motivation.

Key Words: analysis of difficulty, writing thesis, students' difficulty

Introduction

As part of academicians, students are obliged to make final task in the form of Thesis Final Assignment or Tugas Akhir Skripsi (TAS), as the form of their responsibility to develop knowledge, technology and arts through a research. In nature, Thesis Final Assignment is one of scientific works in the form of scientific research report. In preparing a thesis, students are demanded to master knowledge and skills in writing scientifically, thinking scientifically, logically, and critically. Besides, the students must master research methodology, especially quantitative method.

For the students who have been preparing a thesis, scientific writing is not an easy work to do. Even, there are some students who feel that thesis is something frightening to do. If they have some experiences in writing, reading a lot, and attending scientific meetings, discussion will

support in thesis writing. However, if the students are lazy to read, influenced by their friend's bad habit, and frequently at home or rarely with their friends in campus, it can be predicted that there will be difficulties in writing their thesis.

Based on the observation in Fashion Design Education of Faculty of Engineering of State University of Yogyakarta, there is a tendency for the students of being long in preparing a thesis. The data in the study program show that the time average used to finish a thesis is about 9.4 months. The time length to prepare a thesis automatically will influence on the length of study and costs needed to pay tuition fee.

The results of interview with most students who were writing thesis, it is found that actually students stated that they faced a lot of problems. After the researcher discussed further with them, it is known that the difficulties faced by the students were varied, either the difficulty from the students or out of them. The difficulty seemed signified by the restrictions they encountered in writing thesis. Consciously, many students find difficulties in writing thesis. One of them is in terms of proposing the thesis title. In this case, students usually have to revise the title several times because it does not reflect the problem studied. Feeling how hard looking for the problems to solve through a research is creates annoyed feeling, anger and feeling lazy, so that the students tend not to finish their thesis.

As the lecturer as well as thesis consultant, I am encouraged to help the students solve their problems in thesis writing. The study program actually has done the best to always help the students through various ways, but the results have not been maximum. Therefore, through this research it is expected that the difficulties faced by the students either internally or externally and the solutions can be found. Thereby, the purpose of this research are: 1) identify the difficulties faced by the students in preparing a thesis viewed from internal factors; 2) identify the difficulties faced by the students in preparing a thesis viewed from external factors; and 3) serious efforts need to be done by the Study Program of Fashion Design Education for helping the students overcome their difficulties in preparing a thesis.

Thesis And Research

Thesis is a scientific paper done by a student reflecting ability to do scientific thinking process and system through a research activity; it is also a culmination of scientific thinking process according to the field of science, which is prepared to fulfill the requirement to obtain a bachelor degree. Writing thesis aims at establishing the student's knowledge and experiences in doing scientific work by giving them opportunities to formulate ideas, concepts, way of thinking and creativity which are comprehensively created and communicated in a compulsory form used in a scientific society (Team, 2011:1-2)

The results of scientific research are delivered by writing. This writing communication should be able to anticipate the readers' misconception. Thus, the student is demanded to be able to write clearly and completely in order to the readers can get information that is needed. Through this writing in the form of a well prepared research report, the readers will easily comprehend the writer's intention. The preparation process of a scientific paper in the form of thesis systemically and efficiently is not an easy work. Hence, programmed thinking through good writing

procedure should be aforesought. Without this programmed thinking, the writing process of thesis will face many difficulties.

According to Joko Subagyo's opinion (1999:2), a project or research is an attempt or work to review something with particular method in a careful, systematical, and perfect way toward the problem, so it can be used to accomplish or solve that problem. According to Kuntjojo (2009: 10-37), research is thinking and action system, it means that there are various factors and acts which should be thought and done in order to achieve the objectives. As a system, research consists of various elements, such as: (1) problem, which means the gap between the expected (*das Sollen*) and the achieved one (*das Sein*). The problems show that there is inappropriate thing between the expected and the achieved one; (2) scientific theory and concept is the description of phenomena by determining the correlation of variables; (3) variable is everything that will be the object of research observation. In research, there is an objective, which is variable, so that variable is a phenomena which will be the focus of attention to be observed and measured; (4) hypothesis, in a quantitative research is considered as an important element in research. Therefore, before going to the field, the researcher should have formulated hypothesis of the research; (5) population, sample and sampling technique, population is the whole amount of unit or individual which its characteristics will be examined, while sample is a part of population which its characteristics will be examined. Sampling technique is sample derivation technique from population; (6) data, which can be classified according to to character (qualitative and quantitative), source (primary, secondary), and measurement scale (nominal, ordinal, interval, and ratio); (7) data collecting instrument, one of research procedure is data collecting. Data collecting technique is done by a particular technique and using particular instrument (research instrument); and (8) data analysis technique.

Then Sukardi (2003: 4-5) proposes that a research has aims at:

1. Obtaining new information
Researcher will usually relate to information and data which are considered new by the researcher
2. Developing and explaining
Researcher attempts to solve problem without expecting re working or energy using in vain. Researcher needs to explore from various relevant knowledge sources in order to describe the importance of problem which will be reached
3. Describing, predicting, and controlling a concept
Variable is a symbol that is used to transfer phenomena to research data. The researcher needs to know if there is independent variable and dependent variable in order to certainly understand the influence one to another variable.

Related to knowledge development, research work is one of media that is reliable to fulfill various functions, such: 1) discover new concept, 2) develop knowledge, 3) do validation of older theory, 4) find problem of research, and 5) enrich scientific knowledge (Sukardi, 2003: 8-10). Basically, research will obtain an expected scientific paper if the following requirements are fulfilled.

1. Adequate mastery of theories
2. Appropriate research method
3. Adequate fund

4. Adequate time
5. Adequate personnel (Joko Subagyo, 1999: 84)

Related to theory of learning, according to Haryu Islamudin (2012: 213), phenomena of difficulties in learning is clearly showed by academic performance or achievement of learning. In general, the difficulties of learning come from internal factors, such as things or situations which are caused by factors within the student him/herself (for example: motivation, mastery of knowledge, laziness, and tediousness). Whereas external factors are things or situations which occur from outside the student him/herself (for example: environment, teacher/lecturer, reading materials, and peer). Meanwhile, Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (2012: 812) defines difficult as hard to know, so hard, in a hard situation. Difficulty which is faced by the student in preparing a thesis is an aspect of difficulty in learning.

According to Slameto (1991: 2), learning is an attempt done by someone to consciously obtain a behavior change as a result of interaction with his/her surrounding. In line with that, Oemar Hamalik (1990: 21) states that learning is a form of growth or changing in someone itself expressed in new behavior due to experience and practice. The learning activity is complicated because it is a process influenced by various factors and involves various aspects either internally or externally.

The thesis written by the student is expected to have high quality viewed from academic aspect and be able to fulfill specified administration and standardized ethics of academy, both its process and its products. The ethics considerations needs to be fulfilled by the students are as follows.

1. Academic honesty which is reflected by: a) the prepared work that is truly its own work, not the product of plagiarism in whole or a part; b) mention the references used clearly; c) the preparation of the thesis is in accordance with the prevailing provisions.
2. Openness, is willingness to receive criticism or suggestions for improving the quality of work results
3. Do not force and harm the subjects of research.
4. Keep secrecy and safety of the research subject, such as not publishing the subjects' real name and identity except permitted (Team, 2011: 2-3).

Procedure of Research

This research was done in Department of Fashion Design Education, Faculty of Engineering of State University of Yogyakarta. The subject of this research is the students who have been writing thesis as many as 35 students. The sample technique used is purposive sampling with those who have been preparing the proposal until research report become the research sample.

Instrument used to reveal research the data was in the form of questionnaire. This questionnaire consists of two sections. The first section is an open description or open questionnaire in the form of questions which have to be answered by the students and it consists of three numbers. Whereas the second section is semi-open questionnaire containing the difficulties faced by the students both from internal and external factors. There are 36 numbers of alternatives to overcome difficulties in thesis writing.

Data analysis technique which is used in this research is descriptive analysis technique, which is describing the difficulties faced by students in thesis preparation considered by internal and external factors.

Research Results and Discussion

Based on the research results, it is shown that the difficulties which the students encounter during preparing thesis is so various, either from internal or external. The results of research viewed from internal factors are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Difficulties of Thesis Preparation viewed by Internal Factors

No	Description of difficulty	Percentage
1.	Confusion in determining problem	55 %
2.	Lack of understanding of the explored problem	71 %
3.	Difficulty of revealing idea into scientific language	73 %
4.	Difficulty of arranging sentences into a paragraph	48 %
5.	Lack of knowledge in methodology research	76 %
6.	Lazy and pessimistic due to inability to solve problems by him/herself	42 %
7.	Lack of motivation	25 %
8.	Fund difficulty (while working)	28 %
9.	Not understanding data analysis technique (weak statistics aspect)	76 %
10.	Poor time management	47 %
11.	Prioritize on other activities	17 %
12.	Lack of understanding of thesis writing's order	32 %

The difficulties derived from internal factors or from inside the student him/herself. Based on table 1 it shows that most students still feel difficult to find problems. Problems can be found through observation, discussion, reading, attendance in seminar, scientific meeting and so on. These activities have not been maximized yet by the students.

Viewed from the lack of mastery in research methodology, especially the procedure in writing the background of the problems, formulating problems, conceptual framework and research method (sampling technique, validity, reliability, and data analysis technique), the desire to keep learning research methodology becomes a special focus. In doing research, if knowledge and ability of methodology is still lack then it commonly effects on thesis writing. The student must master strong and fundamental theoretical background. Besides, the logic assumptions based on theoretical review must be also strong. If it is mastered well, it will lighten the work of preparing a thesis.

Knowledge regarding scientific writing that should be good actually becomes restriction in preparing a thesis. Expressing idea, making sentences in a paragraph, arranging the writing, writing references, and numbering are some mistakes frequently done by the students.

Meanwhile, in terms of time management, besides taking courses, some students work (receiving order). It is done to get money. Therefore, if they cannot manage their time well, the time for writing thesis is spent to do their work.

Self motivation of most students is still low. The students must be able to force themselves to wake up from laziness, bored and not confidence feeling and so on. Motivation is important thing must be grown. If motivation is less so it will effect on achievement.

The identification of difficulties faced by the stufents in preparing a thesis viewed from external factors is presented in table 2.

Table 2. Difficulty in Writing Thesis Viewed from External Factors

No	Description	Percentase
1.	Feeling afraid to meet the advisor	25 %
2.	Lack of reference (book, journal, internet, and media)	63 %
3.	The limited time provided for consultation	28 %
4.	Uncertain schedule for consultation	42 %
5.	Difficult to meet with the consultant to consult	40 %
6.	Time for data validation	45 %
7.	Annoyance from other parties (influenced by lazy friends)	18 %
8.	The advisor's suggestions which have not been implemented yet	12 %

Based on the results shown in table 2, most students feel afraid to meet their consultan due to some reasons. Those reasons are unrevised thesis draft according to the consultant's suggestions, inconfidence feeling, lack of mastery of the materials, afraid feeling when the students cannot answer the questions proposed by the consultant. In fact, advisor always helps, monitors, motivates, membantu, memantau, but sometimes the students are lack of knowledge kurang so that the afraid feeling will raise when they have a consultation. Thereby, if the sudents do not completely understand so they are confious with the problems, then they feel afraid to consult.

Lack of reference also hampers the students' work. They often rely on journal, books and other reference existing in library. They are lack of efforts to find other literatures to accelerate thesis arrangement other than in the library. Indeed, there are a lot of supporting books, but the desires to read is still less. They will become good references if the students can prepare themselves before preparing a thesis. Books, journal, sample of thesis, and articles are available to be chosen and prepared according to the field of thesis study that will be done. Therefore, the references will be suitable with the research problems.

Viewed from the effectiveness of consultation related to schedule of consultation and limited time are the restrictions for the students in preparing a thesis. Besides, validation of the instruments takes a long time. Another factor is the long time taken for analyzing the questions which are not suitable with the grid made by the student. Even, the narrations of questions or statements have not been appropriate.

Table 3. Serious Efforts Needs to be Done by Study Program to Overcome the Difficulties

No	Description
1.	Themes are divided in some studies area.
2.	Library facilities such as journal, books, internet, article research results or idea) dictate should be improved.
3.	Optimizing the frequency of consultation per week.
4.	The use of consultation sheet is improved.
5.	Consultation model innovation (there is a renewal model of consultation)
6.	Collaborative research between lecturer and student
7.	Keep contact with the students
8.	Programmed consultation schedule

Based on the identification of the students in preparing a thesis explained, there are some things need to be done. The Study Program together with its consultant staffs seriously help student in order to prepare a thesis, they do not face difficulties or reduce difficulty. The serious efforts offered to Fashion Design Education Study Program are: the availability of themes which are divided into some study areas, which are beneficial to help students related to the areas studied.

1. Structured consultation schedule. It is better if each consultant can arrange the consultation schedule with his/her students. If the time for written schedule is clear, students will make structurally consultation program.
2. Optimization of consultation frequency per week and the frequency of consultation.
3. The use of consultation sheet needs to be optimized. In each consultation, the students are suggested to always fill consultation card signed by the advisor to signify parts which should be revised so that it can make the time efficient.
4. To support thesis accomplishment, the facilities such as books, journal, internet, article, and dictate in the library are improved.
5. Keep contact with the students to monitor their progress. Every student is obliged to give their active phone and the last living place to instructional division
6. Innovation of consultation model. So far, the lecturers still use dosen model that does not give model which gives contribution to the students, it is better to use other models.
7. Improvement in collaborative research between the lecturer and the student. With collaborative research, the student will have internal motivation and can exercise to do research

Conclusion and Suggestions

Conclusions of this research are:

1. The difficulties derived from internal factors are: the lack of self motivation to find problems, mastery of research methodology (composing background of the problems, formulation of the problem, theoretical background, research method). Knowledge concerning scientific work writing is still weak, time management, and fund difficulty

2. The difficulties caused by external factors are: the lack of reference owned by the students, consultation frequency optimization, library facilities (article, journal, books, dictate, internet), and do not pay attention to the advisor's suggestion as well as effectiveness in using consultation sheet.
3. Serious efforts must be made by Fashion Design Education Study Program through optimization consultation; improving library facilities (books, journal, article, internet, dictate; always keep contact with the students, improving collaborative research between the lecturer and students, innovation of consultation model.

Suggestions:

1. Students need to be aware or have self motivation to finish thesis dilligently and actively, confidently to study research methodology deeply and completely. Besides, knowledge concerning the procedure of scientific writing must be mastered well, for example: writing arrangement, numbering, reference writing and so. The problems related to manage the time well must be solved (tentatively receiving sewing order must be stopped), and now more focus on the thesis accomplishment.
2. Paying attention to the advisor's suggestions, serious in consultation, keep looking for and reading references either books, article, journal, and browsing on internet, are the activities must be done seriously. Serious efforts will produce optimum results. In the process of consultation, the advisor must always give motivation and encouragement to make the students always be serious and concentrated in finishing thesis.
3. Serious efforts are made collaboratively by the Study Program of Fashion Design Education and Faculty of Engineering of UNY and the advisors to improve untuk ability in writing thesis through intensive monitoring, discussion, presentation of progress in consultation group.

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Instructor

PAGE 1

PAGE 2

PAGE 3

PAGE 4

PAGE 5

PAGE 6

PAGE 7

PAGE 8

PAGE 9
