

Trend mapping of students' thesis in English Education Study Program of IAIN Palangka Raya

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Abstract

This research aims to map out the trend of students' thesis in English Education Study Program of State Islamic Institute of Palangka Raya from 2012 to 2016. This research belongs to qualitative approach and the design is case study research as the objective of this study is to identify, analyze, and map the thesis trend among the students of English Education Study Program of IAIN Palangka Raya. To make this research focus, writers limit the research only in mapping out the subject of the study, the topic/theme of the study, and the method of the study. The findings show that from 317 theses, junior high school students are the most targeted subject where there are 104 theses conducted on them. Meanwhile, writing is the most explored topic/theme as 88 theses are administered toward it. Lastly, there are 139 of theses by the students of English Education Study Program of IAIN Palangka Raya from 2012 to 2016 that apply experiment method which makes it becomes the most used method.

Keywords: thesis trend, mapping, English Education Study Program

INTRODUCTION

Thesis (*Skripsi*) is a required subject to students of English Education Study Program of Faculty of Teacher Training & Education of IAIN Palangka Raya which has been serving for more than a decade. A number of theses have been done by them as a part of the completion of their studies. This subject became a parameter for the students to graduate from bachelor degree (S1).

A research about this topic had been conducted by Nirwanto (2015). It showed that there are two methods of defining terms: dictionary approach and authoritative reference. The writers of the theses do not apply other kinds of methods in defining concepts or terms because the concepts or terms are familiar for the readers.

There are some requirements that need to fulfill by the students in order to be able to conduct thesis. They have to accomplish minimum 100 SKS, passed on Research Methodology and Scientific Writing subject and attended 15 seminars of thesis proposal.

There are many topics that can be taken by the students in conducting a thesis. They can take something that is related to English teaching learning, English teaching methods, problems solving, survey, perception, etc. Based on the writers' observation, most students indeed focus their theses on several particular education topic or theme of thesis, moreover there are also some theses that are not related to education. However, it is difficult to have a frame of the nature of English Education thesis that has been done since there is no meta-analysis has been done before. Therefore, it is important to provide a brief frame of thesis' trend mapping.

Trend of Education Research

Trend of education research especially on English Education significantly showed continuous changes. Some of the important changes were research method employed and the topic addressed in the study (White, 1997). In terms of methodology, research tends to move from experimental towards descriptive studies that are based on interviews, observation instead of test. White (1997) also noted a number of topics disappear and new topics emerge or re-emerge.

Meanwhile, Jenkin (2001) declared that education research trend in Europe commonly reveal on the issues related to teacher, student, textbook, pedagogy, curriculum, and assessment. Based on his review he proposes a number of issues for the next research, such as research on policy and practice, research on teaching rather than learning, research that less directly concerned with practice but sharpening thinking, clarifying issues, and encouraging debate. These areas of research are not yet sufficiently explored but may contribute to the improvement of science education.

Furthermore, Duit (2007) mentioned that teaching and learning has drawn the attention of most researchers since a long time. In the 1980s students learning was the central focus, especially students learning of particular concepts or principles. It was then followed by research on constructivism and conceptual change that are very often done in the 1990s. Another topic becoming more significant area of research is issues related to the nature of science. Duit (2007) found that science education research is mostly done in simplicity ways. He suggests that in the future science education research

should move toward more interdisciplinary, should not be restricted to investigation of what works but also problems and deficits of normal instruction practice, and should link science subject matter as well as pedagogical and psychological issues.

METHOD

This research belongs to qualitative research. Qualitative research is a research which the data in the forms of written or oral words are analyzed descriptively. According to Kothari (2004, p.3) qualitative research deals with data that are in the form of words or pictures rather than numbers and statistics. Moreover, as the data was in the form of words and documents, so the data are analysed qualitatively.

Design of this research is case study research as the objective of this research is to identify, analyze, and map the thesis trend. Case study research focuses on a single unit, produces an in-depth description, is anchored in real life, uses multiple data collection techniques, provides a rich, holistic description of context, etc (Ary, et.al, 2010, p.452). This research is limited only to the theses from 2012 to 2016 made by the students of English Education Study Program, Faculty of Teacher Training & Education, State Islamic Institute (IAIN) Palangka Raya.

The source of data of this research is English Education students' theses from 2012 to 2016. In this research, the writers deal with the subject, topic and method.

There are several instruments which are needed in collecting the data. The first is the writers themselves. According to Ary et.al (2010, p.421), the primary instrument used for collecting the data in qualitative research is the researcher him- or herself, often collecting the data through direct observation or interviews. Then, the second instrument is checklist. It is used to map the subject, topic and the method.

Data collection procedure is as follows: collecting the theses and tabulating the data. Meanwhile, data analysis procedure is as follows: classifying the collected data, counting the collected data and concluding the results.

FINDINGS

A total of 317 theses were analyzed in this research. For the purpose of the research, theses were analyzed in terms of the subject of the study, the topic/theme of the study, and the method of the study.

Subject of the Study

The subject of the study is gained from the target of the research as follows: students of elementary school (SD/MI), junior high school (SMP/MTs), senior high school (SMA/SMK/MA), and university. Also it is gained from the students of English course and *Pusat Kegiatan Belajar Mengajar* (PKBM or literally called Community Learning Center). Moreover, it is gained from some material, such as, textbook, movie, novel, and song. The recap is in the form of table below:

Table 1. Findings of subject of the study

No	Subject	Total
1.	Junior High School	104
2.	Senior High School	101
3.	University	72
4.	Elementary School	12
5.	Novel	8
6.	Textbook	6
7.	Movie	6
8.	English Course	3
9.	Song	3
10.	<i>Pusat Kegiatan Belajar Masyarakat</i> (PKBM)	1
11.	Youth Exchange Participants	1
Total		317

Topic/Theme of the Study

The topic or theme of the study was gained from the research focus as the recap in the form of table below:

Table 2. Findings of topic/theme of the study

No	Topic/Theme	Total
1.	Writing	88
2.	Vocabulary	71
3.	Structure	35
4.	Reading	29
5.	Speaking	29

6.	English Syllabus & Material Development	15
7.	Linguistics	11
8.	Translation	6
9.	Listening	5
10.	Pronunciation	3
11.	Literature	2
12.	TOEFL	1
13.	Cross Cultural Understanding	1
14.	Language Acquisition	1
15.	Other	20
Total		317

Method

The method of the study is gained from the method that used by the students as the recap in form of table below:

Table 3. Findings of method of the study

No	Method	Total
1.	Experiment	139
2.	Descriptive	126
3.	Correlation	25
4.	Survey	13
5.	Research and Development	7
6.	Case Study	7
Total		317

DISCUSSION

The section is discussed the result findings above into deeper comprehending explanation which divided in term of subject, topic, and method of the study. Total 317 theses had been made by the students of English Education Study Program Faculty of Teacher Training and Education IAIN Palangka Raya from the latest five years (2012 to 2016).

Firstly, it can be seen from the findings in term of subject of the study that junior high school and senior high school are the most targeted subject from the theses that have been done by English Education students from 2012 to 2016 with total of 104 and 101 theses respectively, followed by university with 72 theses. In fact, the other subject on the field such as, elementary school, English course, *Pusat Kegiatan Belajar Mengajar* (PKBM), and youth exchange

participants, also non-field subject like textbook, movie, novel, and song have less of targeted subject than the three prior subjects.

Furthermore, it can give bright potential to the next English Education students to do research in those less amounts of targeted subjects of the study. Moreover, the subject of the study that never been done, such as, *pondok pesantren* (boarding school), kindergarten (TK/PAUD), or special school (SLB) can be as a reference to the further research subject.

Next, the findings in term of topic or theme of the study, it showed that writing is clearly the most explored topic or theme have been done by English Education students from 2012 to 2016 with total of 88 theses followed by vocabulary with 71 theses. Whereas, the least explored topic such as translation, pronunciation, TOEFL, literature, CCU, and language acquisition can be a potential topic to conduct a research. In fact, from the four English skills, listening has the less topic exploration instead of the other three skills. Afterwards, there are some theses that conduct beside those topics above, other topic or theme of research which explored about the perception, motivation, anxiety, and even British parliamentary debate system.

Thirdly, the findings in term of method of the study, it showed that experiment is the most used method have been done by English Education students from the latest five years from 2012 to 2016 with 139 theses followed by descriptive with 127 theses. Then, research & development, correlation, survey, and case study have significantly the least used method rather than the first two. In contrary, classroom action research, no student has never been used this method instead.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

It can be concluded that English Education Study Program students' thesis from 2012 to 2016 showed various kind of terms. But it is showed a dominant finding on those three terms; targeted subject, topic, and method. The findings showed that from 317 theses, junior high school and senior high school students are the most targeted subject with 104 theses. Meanwhile, writing is the most explored topic or theme have been researched with 88 theses. Lastly, experiment is the most used method have been researched with 139 theses.

The writers suggest for the future researchers, if it is possible, it can be for the potential research to conduct trend mapping from the first graduate of English Education Study Program IAIN Palangka Raya which is 2006. In addition, the next researcher can add others elements of research such as the issues of the study to the research, so it can be mapped the issue that addressed

by students such as learning media, learning approach, learning strategy, curriculum, etc.

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Authors' Brief CV

Haji Abdul Karim is a fresh graduate from State Islamic Institute of Palangka Raya which has been worked at Kampoeng Inggris Standford as a tutor.

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