

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

This chapters presents the general issues related to the present study. These include the background of the study, research questions, purposes of the study, significance of the study, scope of the study and definition of key terms central to study.

#### 1.1 Background of Study

Writing is crucial to the on going emergence of the modern scholarship. Scientific truth is not discovered by debate, but by experiment and observation, and conveyed best by plain and simple language, and it must be displayed rhetorically. This signifies the importance of rhetoric in academic writing. This is because the importance of academic writing is to express acquired knowledge in a specific subject area and demonstrates particular theories or arguments in relation to a specified discourse. Rhetoric helps to achieve that purpose.<sup>1</sup>

Rhetorical problem is a problem faced by the writers where they to engage in difficult knowledge transforming operation to adapt what they know to meet the rhetorical goals.<sup>2</sup> The goal of rhetoric in writing is to engage the readers attention and to make the readers understand about the writing. This study defines the rhetorical problem as the writer difficulties in writing their research background.

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<sup>1</sup> L.J Carey –Linda Flower, *Foundations for Creativity in the Writing Process: Rhetorical Representations of Ill-Defined Problems* (New York: Plenum Publishing Corporation.1982), 2

<sup>2</sup> L. J. Carey–Linda Flower, *Foundations for Creativity in the Writing Process* ..... 2

Moreover Gerard Hausers in his *Introduction to Rhetorical Theory*, defines rhetoric as an instrumental of language in which one person engages another person in an exchange of symbols to accomplish some goals. It is kind of persuasion aimed at getting something done.<sup>3</sup> Rhetoric, therefore, includes both as reasoning and ways of appealing to an audience. In writing, to form an argument writers need to consider the rhetorical element. In a study, Trish Roberts-Miller analysed that rhetorical elements include audience, author, text and content.<sup>4</sup> Those elements are likely found in some academic writings like in essay, thesis, research article and research proposal.

For university students a research proposal is very important assignment before they start to write a thesis. Prof Nelleke Bak states that research proposal is a planning document that outlines writer's thinking about a research problem and describes what is to be studied and how.<sup>5</sup> The strenght of research proposal is in its argument. Therefore in writing a research proposal, the writers must have a strong argument about the research. They have to persuade the readers why it is important to search, the benefit of the research and the process to do it.

To achieve its purpose, a good research proposal must follow certain rules. These include the language used, the grammatical structure, punctuation, the technique of citing, quoting and referencing, the technique of paraphrasing and

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<sup>3</sup> Steve Lynn, *Rhetoric and Composition* (New York: Cambridge University Press. 2010), 7.

<sup>4</sup>Roberts Miller Trish, *Understanding Misunderstandings: How to do a rhetorical analysis* (Department of Rhetoric and Writing:The University of Texas at Austin, 2008).

<sup>5</sup> Nelleke Bak, *Research Proposal Guide, Developing and submitting a research proposal*. (University of Western cape)

summarising, and the organization of ideas. In addition to those, what distinguishes a research proposal as an academic writing from other kinds of writing is the organization of ideas and language used. Both of them are related to the rhetorical elements.

To structure these rhetorical elements in writing is not an easy task. The writer should follow some certain steps. Walter Zapotoczny states that students need to work hard to finish research writing. They need help in narrowing down topics, forming research questions, conducting library searches, writing with focus, and correcting grammar.<sup>6</sup> Luna Jing Cai also states that in the process of organizing ideas, i.e. , the students have to follow some certain steps in order to make it easy for the readers to understand the proposal. These steps include address the problem (state the overall area of concern), arouse the reader's interest (tell the reader what to expect in the rest of your paper), provide brief statistics to indicate the incidence of the problem, and discuss how this problem area affects individuals, communities, and society as a whole.<sup>7</sup> Those are needed to make a good introduction of research proposal.

As parts of a research proposal, introduction needs a special attention. Philippe C. Schmitter in his book *The Ideal Research Proposal Guideline* states that proposal has to be introduced. This is because reader will be evaluating a large number of proposals and may well not go much further than the first two paragraphs

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<sup>6</sup> Zapotoczny Walter, *How to Write the Introduction to Research Proposal* (eHow: Culture & Society Charities & Organizations, 2010)

<sup>7</sup> J.H Kahn, *Sample APA paper for students interested in learning APA 6th edition*. (<http://my.ilstu.edu/~jhkahn/APAsample.pdf>, accessed on May 20, 2014).

of the introduction. Khan states that introduction is the opening of the paper, and because of its unique location, it does not require a heading or label. It provides an introduction and statement of the problem that will be studied (or reviewed).<sup>8</sup> Moreover it should demonstrate why the question was important to search by providing brief background information.

A good introduction needs a reasonable background of the research. The introduction should be at a level that makes it easy to understand for readers with a general background in the research field. In the background, the writers have to stated the problem clearly. In writing background of research students have to write their argument rhetorically. The rhetorical features that students should write in the background are addressing the problem, stating the overall area of concern, arousing the reader's interest, telling the reader what to expect in the rest of paper and providing brief statistics to indicate the incidence of the problem and discuss.<sup>9</sup> In Carey, Khan and Scardamalia studies, though, suggest that rhetorical problem may exist while writing the background of research proposal. Khan found that in some cases, if the subject is complex or new, students will not have available pre-packaged or organized pieces of information which can simply be slotted into the text. Rather, they will have to engage in difficult knowledge transforming operations to adapt what they know to meet the rhetorical goals of, for example, involving and interesting a particular audience.<sup>10</sup> Another study by Scardamalia and Bereiter's indicates that inexperienced writers often take a "knowledge telling"

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<sup>8</sup> Kahn, J.H, *Sample APA paper* ..... 5

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid*

approach to background of research writing; they simply write all they know about a topic without considering rhetorical features such as audience and purpose.<sup>11</sup> Similarly, Langer found that having a lot of information on a topic did not necessarily help students to write coherently on that topic; they were unable to structure their knowledge into an appropriate rhetorical pattern to develop, for example, a cause/effect essay.<sup>12</sup> Furthermore, in Carey's study found that writers who are focus only in the content plans, they produce texts which were less well adapted for audience and purpose.<sup>13</sup> In some previous studies found that students experienced some rhetorical problems in writing. Bryan Ricke in his thesis found that verbal claim is supported by refutative visuals. This is just one recent example of how the ideas presented in his thesis have a great deal to offer other visual rhetorical texts difficulties.<sup>14</sup> A study of Frankel and wallen present similar view and highlight several common mistakes made by the students as the beginning researcher in preparing a background in research proposal.<sup>15</sup> Fraenkel and Warren study also show that students often experience problems in particular genres, especially in writing a research report as their thesis<sup>16</sup>. Based on them the powerful, but demanding processes in writing are a potential source of both adaptive and

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<sup>11</sup> M, Scardamalia – C, Bereiter. *Knowledge-telling and knowledge transforming in written composition*. In S. Rosenberg (Ed.), *Advances in Applied Psycholinguistics, Vol. 2*, (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1987).

<sup>12</sup> Langer. *A validated analysis of scientific text structure, English for Specific Purposes*. 1994. 47-49

<sup>13</sup> Carey Flower , L, et al., *Differences in Writers' Initial Task Representations*. (Pittsburgh, PA: Carnegie Mellon University, 1986).

<sup>14</sup> Bryan Ricke, a thesis: "*Rhetorical Problem and Cinematic Solustions: The Visual Arguments of the "Obama Informecial"*". (Clemson University : 2010)

<sup>15</sup> J. R Fraenkel - N. E Wallen. *How to design and evaluate research in education* 5<sup>th</sup> ed. (Boston: McGraw-Hill Higher Education, 2003).

<sup>16</sup> J. R Fraenkel - N. E Wallen. *How to design*..... 34

original solutions to rich rhetorical problems. There is a need to increase research - based knowledge of students' problems in writing a research proposal since the researcher has found that in the research site, many students find it is difficult to write a background of research proposal.

Therefore writing a good research proposal needs a good background which consist of content and rhetorical planning. A rhetorical planning is usually defined as a planning of writing which presents information in a new and valuable way to meet the needs and constraints of its audience and purpose.<sup>17</sup> If the students' writing can not draw the audience and the purpose of the research, it means that the students are in rhetorical problem. Those two things play an important role and influence one another in background of research proposal. Writers need to emphasize their research purpose to make the readers understand to the research.

Moreover applied linguist agree that the authors' purpose is crucial importance in creating a certain genre in background of research.<sup>18</sup> A pioneer of genre analysis is considered to the work of Swales on article introductions. Swales proposed a system of analysis which categorizes the discourse units found in the introduction section of research articles into three communicative moves. His system of analysis is often calles "move analysis". Swales model analysis was adapted by many researchers especially those who deal with research papers, dissertation, journal, articles, etc. Swales model is also calles as Create a Research

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<sup>17</sup> L. J Carey. - Linda Flower. *Foundations for Creativity in the Writing Process: Rhetorical Representations of Ill-Defined Problems*. (New York: Plenum Publishing Corporation.1989)

<sup>18</sup> Igor Lakic. *Analysing Genre: Research Article Introductions in Economic*. (Institute of Foreign Language, university of Montenegro).

Space (CARS). Swales analysis divide the move into 3 which each move has some certain steps. Through his research, Swales found that the introduction articles contain repeated pattern and are similar to one another.<sup>19</sup> Therefore, Swales model is a good tool to analyse the introductions structure.

English Education Department is one of the departments in UIN Sunan Ampel, Surabaya. This department is included in the faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training. Like the students of the other departments in UIN Sunan Ampel or other universities, the students of English Education Department should conduct a research to acquire the bachelor degree. As the result, the students should compose a thesis as the research report. Before they write a thesis, they should write an academic research proposal. In UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya especially in English Education Department there are some writing course. In the writing course, the students are taught about how to write an academic writing start from the essay up to the research proposal. Writing for academic purposes becomes part of the writing class syllabus in English Education Department. As the result, academic research proposal writing begins to be taught before semester 8. The aim for this is that the students are expected to be better in writing a thesis proposal. As it is stated that the skill of academic writing can be learned and anyone who wants to improve their academic writing can acquire such skills.<sup>20</sup> In conclusion, the academic writing skill of a student can be improved by learning academic writing matters. But in reality, students still find difficulties to start write a thesis. The researcher assumed that it

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<sup>19</sup> J Swales - C Feak., *Academic Writing for Graduate Students*. (Ann Harbor: the University of Michigan Press. 1994).

<sup>20</sup> Paul Oliver, *Writing Your Thesis*, (Great Britain: Sage, 2004),14.

happens because they have problem in writing their research proposal. Through the research, the researcher wants to analyse the background structure and rhetorical problem in students research proposal. To conduct this research, the researcher has some reasons, as follows:

First, the researcher wants to complete the previous research. The topic dealing with research proposal is not new in UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya, but there is little research about rhetorical problem in background of research proposal. the previous thesis conducted by Muh.Yusuf which are success in analysing students' problem in writing element of research proposal, but he didn't analyse the rhetorical problem, he only analyse the element aspect of problem in research proposal. Through his study he found that 46,6 % percentage students faced problem in writing introduction. Therefore the researcher wants to complete the previous research finding in research proposal problem by doing a research which focus on the rhetorical problem in background of research proposal.

Second, based on the researcher's experience and observation as the eight semester students of the English Education Department in UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya, the researcher find that the students still find difficulties although they have join research method and seminar thesis course before. Based on the researcher's preliminary study which has done on the two research proposal background of the eight semester students, to do the preliminary study the researcher use the CARS analysis by Swales. There are many research which analyse rhetrical problem in research article introductions, but in here the writer wants to test the CARS model can be used to analyse the rhetorical problem in



research proposal background or not. Through the preliminary study, the researcher found students problem in writing their research background. Some problems which the researcher has found are addressing audience, to show their purpose in writing background of research and many problems exist in their text. There are many paragraph which have more than one main idea, so it will confuse the readers. Therefore, the researcher wants to continue the preliminary research finding to this study. By doing the research, the researcher hopes that it will acknowledge lectures and the students about rhetorical problem in background of research proposal.

Third, the researcher know that good background in research proposal is very important. If the background is not appropriate to the rhetorical background features, the research will be difficult to understand by the readers. Therefore this research is important to do because it will help the students to know their rhetorical problem in order to write a good background in research proposal.

Based on the reason above, the researcher aims this study to examine the rhetorical structure in the background and the rhetorical problem of background in research proposal. Therefore, the researcher decide to conduct a research entitled “An Analysis of Language Problem in Academic Proposal Writing, A Case Study of 8<sup>th</sup> semester students in UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya”

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

1. How is the rhetorical schematic structure of research proposal background of the eight semester students in UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya?

2. What are the rhetorical problems in writing background of proposal research in UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya?

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

1. To know the rhetorical schematic structure of research proposal background of the eight semester students in UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya
2. To know the rhetorical problems in writing background of proposal research in UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya.

### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

The researcher hopes that this study has some significance:

#### **1. Theoretical Significance**

- a) Considering that academic writing is part of writing class syllabus and used in writing thesis as well, so the result of this research can give the input to improve the ability of the students of English Education Department, UIN Sunan Ampel in academic proposal writing, mainly in the rhetorical problem they overcome to write background of academic research proposal.
- b) The result of this research can be used as the reference to the other researchers who will conduct a research about the same topic.

#### **2. Practical Significance**

- a) The result of this research will give the information to the lectures of English Education Department, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya about the

knowledge and ability of the students of English Education Department UIN Sunan Ampel in research proposal writing, especially in rhetorical of the problem in academic proposal writing background.

- b) The result of this study will provide an overview and idea what lecturers of English education Department UIN Sunan Ampel should do and prepare to make their students competent in academic writing of proposal, particularly in rhetorical problem which appear in background of research proposal writing.

### **1.5 Scope and Limit of the Study**

This study analysed rhetorical problem in writing research proposal faced by the students in writing their background of research proposal. Trish Roberts Miller stated that rhetorical problem analysis can be focus into 4 things, there are context, text, audience and author. The author is someone who wrote the texts, an author wants the text to have a certain effect on some audience. Meanwhile the audience is the people who actually read or experience the text. They are the people the author intended to reach. Furthermore the rhetorical analysis can be done from the context and the text. The context is particular and immediate, and it is often explicitly mentioned. Then the texts often have one or more paragraphs in which the argument is summarized, and then one or more paragraphs in which the authors discussed implications, speculates on the

significance of this argument, or engages in a rousing exhortation.<sup>21</sup> In this study, the researcher will focus to analyse the rhetorical problem in the text of research proposal. The researcher wants to know the schematic structure of text in background of research proposal and the rhetorical problem of text itself.

The research is applied to the 8<sup>th</sup> of English Teacher Education Department students' research proposal background in academic year 2014 in UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Among all of the eight semester students' proposal, the researchers took the proposal which are joined the first session of research proposal examination. Therefore, the number of proposals which analysed by the researcher are 10 proposal. It is based on the number of students who are joined the first session of proposal examination.

## **1.6 Definition of key term**

### **1.6.1 Research Proposal**

Research proposal is a planning document that outlines our thinking about a research problem and describes what is to be studied and how.<sup>22</sup> In this study, the researchers defines a research proposal is a planning before doing a research for students' thesis.

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<sup>21</sup>Roberts Miller Trish. *Understanding Misunderstandings: How to do a rhetorical analysis* (Austin: University of Texas.2008.)

<sup>22</sup> Neleke Bak. *Research Proposal Guide*..... 4.

### **1.6.2 Research Proposal Background**

A research proposal background is section which sets the context for the proposed project and must capture the reader's interest.<sup>23</sup> In this study defines a research proposal background as reader's first exposure to research report, which should be at a level that makes it easy to understand for readers with a general background in research field.

### **1.6.3 Rhetorical Problem**

Rhetorical problem is a problem faced by the writers where they to engage in difficult knowledge transforming operations to adapt what they know to meet the rhetorical goals.<sup>24</sup> This study defines the rhetorical problem as the writer difficulties in deliver their purpose research to the readers in writing their research proposal background .

### **1.6.4 Rhetorical Schematic structure**

Rhetorical schematic structure is the structure of writing which has to follow some certain rhetorical step in order to make it esay to be understood by the readers.<sup>25</sup> This study defines rhetorical schematic structure as the structure in research proposal background which has to be follow the rhetorical rules.

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<sup>23</sup> Graduate School. *How to Prepare Thesis Proposal, A guide for MPhil and PhD Students*. (The University of Hongkong.2012)

<sup>24</sup>Carey L. J and Flower Linda. *Foundations for Creativity in the Writing Process*.....2

<sup>25</sup> Rakhmawati Ani. *English Research Articles by Indonesian Acedemics: Coping with Common Practices and Rhetorical Diversity*. (Australia: The University of New England.2010)