

ABSTRACT

Sabrowi, Moch. (2015). *Students' Reflection on Challenges in Academic Writing at State Islamic University of Sunan Ampel Surabaya*. A Thesis. English Teacher Education Department, Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training. State Islamic University of Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Advisors : Dra. Hj. Arba'iyah YS, MA and Ana Nurul Laila, M. TESOL

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Most university and college students are assessed through the production of written assignments. Many students are expected that they are able to write good papers because written assignments are significant measurement for students to get high predicate in passing the lectures of writing or graduating from university. However, many students are struggling to maintain their writing standards that are acceptable in higher education since academic writing has systematic rules and structure. Thus, they would probably encounter some challenges in academic writing. This paper investigates the difficulties faced by students in academic writing and their reflection on the challenges. The difficulties refer to 15 important skills in academic writing and the reflection refers to students' attitudes toward the challenges in academic writing. By applying both quantitative and qualitative approach, this study used questionnaire and in-depth interview to obtain better understanding about the issue. The result of this study showed that students experienced greater difficulties in language problems which has the average of 2,80 rather than general academic writing skills which the average of 2,68. Students also experienced greatest difficulty in using proper 'academic' language and vocabulary" which has average 3,24. Hence, they need to keep doing practice in academic writing by writing and reading academic text in order to be accustomed to academic style.