

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

This chapter presented findings and discussions from data collected and reflected in reflection sheets. It was intended to answer the research question. The researcher reported the findings during data collection at student-teachers class A in the second semester in the batch of 2020.

#### **4.1 Findings**

This study focuses on exploring students' beliefs in the process of learning English, especially in writing skills. This study uses a qualitative design where this analytical method is used to collect research results. This study determined a qualitative analysis plan that was appropriate for the research purposes because, as confirmed by Bailey & Nunan (1996), “Qualitative techniques allow us to summarize significant data sources and promote connections beyond levels and overtime”.

This study succeeded in exploring students' beliefs about writing skills in the process of learning English. Based on the results of this study, two types of findings were found about students' beliefs about writing skills in the process of learning English. The first finding, students' beliefs about some challenges and difficulties in certain aspects that are believed to be inhibiting factors for the learning process in developing abilities in writing skills include difficulties in grammar, limited vocabulary, and also insight of developing

idea. The second finding, students' beliefs regarding the efforts and strategies that students believe can help develop students' writing skills in the English learning process such as reading, writing exercises, having a large list of vocabulary and using online learning media.

#### **4.1.1 Using Proper Grammar in Writing Skills.**

Based on the results of student data analysis, it was found that as many as 18 students believed that grammar was their biggest challenge in developing writing skills. Not a few students have difficulty using proper grammar in writing, especially in the learning process in the classroom and outside the writing class. The students listed these difficulties in several statements as follows:

*“According to my belief, grammar is the biggest challenge in writing class. I think grammar is an important aspect of writing. Therefore, from the many grammatical rules in writing, I often find it difficult to write an essay. Moreover, I often focus on one rule and forget about other rules, and this is also influenced by my ideas and content that I want to develop in my writing” (ST1)*

From the statement above, the students concerned believe that grammar is one of the biggest challenges in writing, especially in learning writing skills in English. According to them, grammar has a lot of rules or rules, which causes them to often find it difficult to apply these rules in their writing. In addition, several other student responses related to the belief that grammar is a challenge in writing and can affect the quality of writing, including student statements:

*“I think grammar is the most difficult thing and the first challenge for me, because in grammar rules we have to know the formulas and rules for every sentence we make. This makes it difficult for me to develop my writing, both when doing lecturer assignments and in my own practice”. (ST 2)*

Based on the students' statements above, the students explained that their beliefs regarding difficult things and their first challenge in writing activities were grammar. This grammar is considered the most important aspect in writing. Writing will have no meaning if it is not written using the correct grammatical rules. According to students in English grammar there are lots of rules or rules in writing, maybe the same as the tense rules, where writers have to adjust whether the story they will write is in past or present or even future form, besides that there is also descriptive text, explanation text and many other grammatical materials that are usually used in writing. According to students writing is an activity like conveying a message and grammar is a tool used to convey messages well, if the use of grammar in writing is good, then the writing will be easy to understand and the message in the writing will be conveyed well.

Therefore, these rules are considered difficult by students, especially since they are novice students. Therefore, students believe that the main challenge in writing activities is to use good and correct grammar, because according to students, writing that uses good and correct grammar will produce good, beautiful and interesting writing for readers as well as writers. The following are statements from other students regarding difficulties in writing activities as follows:

*“Grammar was the first thing that was difficult for me. Because there are some rules in grammar that must be understood properly. According to my belief, if we write specifically in English and then don't follow the grammar rules properly, it will affect the quality of the writing, both in terms of structure and meaning”. (ST 3)*

Based on the two student representatives above, they stated that according to their beliefs, grammar is the most difficult aspect because it has many formulas, and a complex structure to understand, but is considered important in an essay, especially writing in English. Even students believe that grammar can affect the quality of their writing both from the sentence structure, content and meaning of the writing. This thing becomes one of the challenges for students in developing students' writing skills, especially in the process of learning English in the classroom and outside the classroom.

#### **4.1.2 Limited insight in writing**

Based on the results of the research that has been done, it was also found that there were seven students who believed that the insight or number of ideas could affect the quality of the content in writing. Students believe that more and less knowledge can be a supporting or inhibiting factor for students in exploring the contents of the writing. This is certainly one of the challenges for students in writing activities, especially in developing students' writing skills. As explained by the following students:

*“The most difficult thing in my opinion is Content, I have a lot of difficulty in developing ideas, and the most important thing in writing is having lots of ideas and insights so that they can be presented in an article. The thing that often hinders my mind when writing is the lack of insight so that I cannot explore the contents of my writing.” (ST 1)*

Based on the statement of one of the students above, it can be illustrated that some students do have limited knowledge so that students believe that the difficulty they experience when writing is to develop and explore ideas. When students practice writing inside and outside the classroom, students often have obstacles in developing the content of their writing, these obstacles are due to lack of insight and also limitations in exploring their ideas so that this is believed to be a difficulty as well as a challenge for the students themselves.

*“In writing, sometimes we need to pay attention to the content of the writing before we write. I think one of the challenges is the idea. Why are ideas one of the most difficult aspects for me to write? Because, I often feel that my ideas have run out, and it is difficult to develop them. And I always take ideas from daily activities and it's very boring for me when I write things that I have written over and over again” (ST 2)*

From the students' responses above, it can be illustrated that before writing students must pay attention to the content of their writing. Talking about content, students believe that one of their difficulties in writing is developing ideas. Why ideas are considered important? because according to students a good idea will create good quality writing and is also interesting to read. However, not a few of the students believe that developing ideas is something that is difficult because of limited insight from them. Therefore, students believe that in writing, they must be very careful in writing so that later their writing can be interesting to read, including in the selection of ideas or ideas. The other students also give the statement such as:

*“Difficulty finding ideas, this is due to a lack of experience and knowledge of something. I have a habit of being lazy to read, because of that my insight is very limited, so it is very difficult for me to develop my ideas and I am often stuck writing because I no longer have interesting ideas.” (ST3)*

Judging from some of the students' statements above, students said that developing ideas was also one of their difficulties when writing. The reason is that students find it difficult to find ideas when writing, not only that, students also find it difficult to explore ideas so that they are broader and are able to determine the main ideas in writing. In addition, limited ideas also make students feel limited in choosing a topic in writing and students also have difficulty placing the right words in expressing their ideas. According to students, this is because the students concerned lack experience and also have little interest in reading so that students' knowledge is very limited. The limitation of ideas, which is a problem that many students experience, can be seen in the statements of the three students above who state the same thing, namely they are less able to choose, explore, plan and also put their ideas in writing. Therefore, sometimes they have obstacles when writing, namely their sentences do not develop and the content of their writing looks monotonous because their writing is not accompanied by creative thinking so that according to students, student writing can look less attractive.

#### **4.1.3 Limited vocabulary in writing.**

Results based on the analysis of respondents' data, the researchers found that as many as five people believed that the amount of vocabulary they had was very influential in the process of their writing activities, especially inside and outside the writing class. Some of the obstacles that often occur in nature related to limited words are not being able to explore writing ideas that

have a lot of ideas, besides that students often have difficulty in correct vocabulary, this greatly hinders their activities. These statements are allowed by students in the following data:

*“In my opinion, the most difficult thing in writing is, I believe that when our vocabulary is lacking, it can hinder writing activities. Due to limited vocabulary, I often have difficulty in developing writing, even though I have lots of ideas. In my opinion, as a student majoring in language, it is very good to have a lot of vocabulary stock, because it makes it very easy for us to learn” (ST 1)*

Based on the statement above, the students concerned admitted that one of the obstacles that could hinder them in writing was their lack of English vocabulary. According to students, vocabulary is the most important part in writing articles, students often have difficulty in writing because of limited vocabulary while the content ideas they have are very many. Students cannot explore their ideas well because of limited vocabulary. According to students, as language learners it is very important to have a lot of vocabulary stock because it will help them in learning languages, especially English, including writing skills. In addition, several other students also had the same response as follows:

*“The most difficult thing that I often experience when writing is developing the content in the writing. This is because my vocabulary is still small, so writing and writing stories is very limited. I believe that vocabulary is the main thing that must be learned by students, especially language students, because a small vocabulary will greatly hinder our learning activities, especially in this writing class” (ST 2)*

From the statement above, students believe that limited vocabulary will greatly affect them in developing writing. This is also one of the biggest difficulties and challenges for students in their activities in writing class. According to students, the difficulty that students often experience when

writing activities is not being able to express ideas because the amount of vocabulary they have is very small. The two student representatives above represent five other students who participated in this study, they believe that a lot and lack of vocabulary can hinder them in writing activities, especially in developing their ideas and thoughts when writing in class or outside writing class. In addition, several other students also had the same response as follows:

*I have another difficulty, namely that my vocabulary is very minimal. In my opinion, vocabulary is the main key when writing, when we have a lot of insight, even if we master grammar, we will not be able to write, we lack vocabulary. I have a weakness in memory. That's why my vocabulary is very small and sometimes I forget the spelling when I use it to write.”(ST3)*

Regarding the three student representatives above, they said that according to them vocabulary is a word that is known and used by someone both when communicating directly, including when someone is writing. In writing, students know that in writing activities, we must choose the right words to help phrases, clauses and finally the writing takes the form of sentences to paragraphs that have meaning. The three students above stated that the thing that became a difficulty as well as a challenge they often encountered when writing activities, especially in learning English, was the limited amount of English vocabulary they had. The limitation of vocabulary has its own impact on students such as not being able to develop their ideas, not being able to freely express the words in their writing, and also often experiencing errors in spelling words and misplacing words that fit the written context. Of course this is very difficult for students to have good writing quality, beautiful and also interesting.



Furthermore, several findings and other exploration results related to student beliefs focused on EFL students' beliefs about difficulties that students believe are challenges in writing skills, especially in the English language learning process.

#### **4.1.4 Reading in Improving Writing Skill**

Based on the results of the research that has been done, students believe that reading can improve students' writing skills. This is evidenced by the reflection sheets distributed to students. It was found that 11 students believed that by reading a lot, their writing ability would improve. Several student statements regarding this matter, such as:

*"Yes, I have a strategy, namely reading because by reading I can increase my vocabulary and also develop my knowledge so that it helps increase my creative thinking in writing". (ST1)*

Based on the statement above, students believe that one of the strategies that can help students in developing their writing skills is to read a lot. Students believe that by reading, especially reading that uses English, it can help them increase their vocabulary and also broaden their horizons so that they can increase creativity in developing ideas during writing activities. This was followed by another student's statement as follows:

*"I believe that by reading a lot, my vocabulary will increase and by reading a lot we pay more attention to how to write English words correctly, especially in grammar, so that it can help reduce grammatical errors in writing". (ST.2)*

Based on the statement above, students believe that reading will not only enrich their vocabulary and insight, but also have many other benefits, such as

knowing the correct spelling of words, knowing the correct grammatical structure, so that without realizing it, they will get many benefits without realizing it with just one activity. Therefore, they believe that by reading a lot, it can really help them in developing their writing skills, especially in learning English. In addition, several other student statements related to strategies that are believed to be helpful in improving writing skills are as follows:

*“A strategy that I believe can help develop my writing skills are to read a lot of stories, articles, and journals. When reading, I always pay attention to the grammar, how they compose the writing which is really neatly arranged and the ideas that are poured out are always related to the previous ideas.”(ST3)*

From some of the students' answers above, students believe that reading has many benefits related to improving writing skills. Through reading activities students can acquire and add new vocabulary that can be used in the writing process, reading activities can also broaden students' horizons so that students can have many ideas about what they will write. In addition, students also believe that reading a lot can also train students how to compose the correct writing according to the rules and rules of grammar. Students can practice their writing skills by reading some reading materials such as stories, articles and journal.

In addition to reading, the following findings show that students also believe that practicing writing can also improve the quality of their writing. This is evidenced from the reflection sheets that have been distributed to students, found 12 students who believe that writing exercises can develop the quality of their writing skills. This is indicated by several student statements as follows:

*"I believe there is a specific strategy to help me develop my writing skills, namely that I practice writing more so that I can develop my ideas, and my writing creativity." (ST1)*

Based on the student's statement above, the students said that they believed that one of the strategies that could help students develop their writing skills was to practice writing a lot. Students believe that practicing writing can improve their writing skills because with a lot of practice they will get used to it so they will be very good at developing ideas and also their creativity in writing. In addition, other students' statements were also followed as follows:

*"I'm sure that by writing often we will get used to it. Starting with easy writing like writing about ourselves, vacation experiences or something else. We can write it down in a diary, cellphone memo, or other writing tools, so that I will always remember my vocabulary and even increase it by always practicing." (ST2)*

Based on the statements of the two student representatives above, it is known that writing exercises have many benefits including students being able to more easily develop their ideas and creativity in writing. In addition, another benefit of writing is that students also believe that by practicing writing a lot, their vocabulary will be much more developed and they will not easily forget because it is often used in writing exercises. Students can practice their skills by increasing writing exercises such as writing life experiences and diaries of daily activities. In other state also come from other students such as:

*"I believe, a good strategy to develop my writing skills is to practice a lot, the lecturer also advised us to practice writing a lot like writing daily activities. This is believed to be able to keep the vocabularies from forgetting, and also get used to being more creative." (ST3)*

Based on the student's statement above, it is stated that students believe that there are several strategies or efforts that students can take to develop their writing skills, one of which is by increasing their writing practice. The three

student representatives in the previous statement also share the same belief that writing exercises are a good way to develop their writing skills. The reason is that by increasing the practice of automatically students' vocabulary can also increase and it is also not easy to forget because it is often used in writing activities. In addition, other benefits described in the student statements above also lead to sharpening students' grammatical skills if they are often used for writing, then in addition to grammar students can also develop creativity related to their ideas and content and are able to develop sentences in writing. So that the writing will look more beautiful and interesting to read. It can be said that good writing is very important for every student. So, readers can easily understand what is written by an author, and make readers able to capture the author's ideas. So to become a good writer and develop, students must know how to write or make good writing.

#### **4.1.6 The important Vocabulary Enrichment in Writing Skill**

In addition to reading and writing, the other 6 students also believed that vocabulary enrichment could also improve the quality of their writing, where students often made special notes on the new vocabulary they found to remember the vocabulary. Among student statements, such as ours:

*“I believe that by listing every new vocabulary I find, I can increase my vocabulary and I can remember the vocabulary better if I write it down. (ST1)*

From the student's statement above, it is explained that students believe that by enriching vocabulary, it will really help students in developing their writing skills. In the statement above, students describe several strategies to

enrich vocabulary, especially English vocabulary by making a list of new vocabulary notes that are found so students are able to remember much new vocabulary. In addition to making a list of vocabulary notes, other students also describe other strategies in enriching vocabulary. Students as follows:

*“I believe that what I can do to help develop my writing skills is to get used to listening to English recordings or songs, then I write down the new vocabulary I find, so that I will have more new vocabulary so it is easier for me to use it when I write text in English”. (ST2)*

From some of the students' answers above, it is known that making new vocabulary notes every day has many benefits. Students have various strategies in enriching their vocabulary. The two student representatives above explained that by making a list of new vocabulary notes, writing vocabulary from listening to songs can help them add new vocabulary. Of course when students' vocabulary can grow, students are much better able to remember, and it becomes easier to write when they have a large supply of vocabulary. Besides that the other students also said:

*“One of the things I have to do to develop my writing skills is to make a list of new vocabularies that I find. Vocabulary can be from songs, movies and also reading that I think I just discovered. That way every day my vocabulary will increase, then when writing I will not be hampered anymore by limited vocabulary.” (ST3)*

From the student representatives above, it was stated that one of the strategies in developing writing skills, students believed that enriching vocabulary was one way to improve writing skills. The three students above stated that the failure in learning language, especially one of the writing skills, was a lack of vocabulary mastery. Therefore, it is very important for students to have a large vocabulary so that it will be easier for them to master various skills including writing skills. Students believe that in order to enrich their

vocabulary, there are several things that must be done, namely, first, make a note of a list of new vocabulary encountered every day by searching for the vocabulary in songs, articles, journals or films. This, of course, is believed to help students in enriching their vocabulary. So that when they have a lot of vocabulary, they believe they will easily apply it in their writing without having to feel hampered. In addition, students believe that by having a large vocabulary they are able to develop their creative thinking into interesting ideas in writing. In addition, students also believe that they are able to develop sentences with varied word choices so that their writing will look neat, beautiful and interesting to read.

#### **4.1.7 Learning online Media**

The next finding related to students' beliefs in improving the quality of writing is to use learning media. A total of 7 students believe that the media is a place of learning that can be used to develop the quality of students' writing. Media that students refer to as learning media such as Google and Youtube, among the student statements are:

*“What I often do is read articles and watch visual videos on YouTube. That way I get a lot of new knowledge and also references so it's easy for me to develop ideas to write something good.” (ST1)*

From the student statements above, it can be illustrated that what students believe they can do to help improve their writing skills is to use internet media such as searching for English articles or journals on Google and then reading them, besides using Youtube media such as watching learning

videos, films and others in an English context. It is believed that students can help them in adding references and vocabulary so that it will be useful in their writing activities. Other efforts are also described by students in the following statement:

*"An effort that I believe in and I often do to improve the quality of my writing is to look for various references on the internet about how to develop writing skills, so that I can learn and apply them in my writing". (ST2)*

Based on the statements of the two student representatives above, it is known that students believe that by utilizing existing media they can easily learn wherever and whenever they need. The media in question include Google and YouTube, students use Google to read some references such as reading English text to add insight so that it is not difficult to develop ideas when writing. Likewise with Youtube, students use Youtube to listen or watch English learning content about writing. After that the other student also gives the state such as:

*"Always looking for new things, always reading articles and online journals. I think there are many references from the internet that can be accessed for learning. I often use google and youtube to find additional references about writing skills. Including searching for new vocabulary and new insights." ( ST3)*

Based on the students' statements above, students believe and recommend learning about writing skills can be done through online media. The three student representatives above explained that students believe that one of the efforts that can be made to develop their writing skills is to develop online media as a reference source. By using online media such as google, students are able to access various sources of information such as reading journals, articles, or reading short stories in English which are believed to help

increase their vocabulary, as well as their insights.

In addition to Google's online media, online media such as YouTube are also believed to be able to help students even in a wider reach in finding references. Through youtube media, students are able to access short videos about tips on learning to write, then can listen to songs to increase vocabulary, then can access various kinds of material including material about grammar which is one of the important aspects in writing. Therefore, students believe that online learning media is also an alternative that can be accessed anytime and anywhere to help and facilitate students in learning, especially learning about writing skills.

#### **4.2 Discussion**

This section presents a discussion of the research results. This describes the responses of EFL students' beliefs about writing skills, where data were obtained using an instrument in the form of a reflection sheet given to students. Pretty and Jensen (1980) argue that writing is a process of expressing thoughts, thoughts and feelings and shaping experiences, and is an important medium for self-expression, for communication, and for the discovery of meaning. Based on this data, the researcher found that there are three indicators that students believe to be difficulties and challenges that become obstacles in writing activities including difficulties in determining grammar rules, limited insight and also limited vocabulary. In addition, there are several other exploration results which found that there are four indicators that students believe are able to support the



development of their writing skills and also three indicators of challenges or difficulties that students believe are an obstacle for them in writing activities. Among the four supporting indicators are students' beliefs about writing in terms of reading, writing exercises, vocabulary enrichment, and learning media.

Some of the results of the exploration of other findings are students' beliefs regarding the most difficult things that are students' challenges in writing. There are three aspects of these findings including the first difficulty is the use of good and appropriate grammar in writing. The students believed that grammar was their biggest challenge in writing. From the reflection most of the students had the same difficulty in writing, namely the limited mastery of grammar. According to students, grammatical writing skills are the main aspect that must be considered because this will greatly affect the quality of their writing. Writing skill is a person's ability to express what they have read and heard and applied in writing. That's why grammar is one of the supports for their writing. According to Hughes & Suharni, (2016) mechanics of writing are related to grammar, spelling, and punctuation, citation of reference, neatness and appearance. The next finding related to students' difficulties in writing skills is limited insight. In this aspect, the students said that the thing they believed to be a barrier to their writing activities was their limited insight so that they had difficulty developing ideas in writing.

Kartawijaya, (2018) The importance of content in an article is related to how well students put statements in their writing, of course this is supported by exploration of ideas, this can be in the form of personal experiences, illustrations, facts, opinions, cause/effect and the use of descriptions. Therefore, if students

have limited insight, it will be very difficult to develop their writing when studying outside or in writing class. The last aspect related to difficulties that students believe is an obstacle to writing activities is the limited vocabulary. Behind the difficulties of students in developing their ideas, knowledge or abilities according to Bailey in Utami, (2018), there are several things that must be considered regarding the vocabulary used in writing and several guidelines for vocabulary used: (1) use vocabulary accurately, (2) avoid using idiomatic, (3) avoid adverbs, (4) avoid using phrasal verbs and etc. Therefore, vocabulary is also one of the important things to consider in writing activities, especially in writing skills.

Then behind the difficulties that students believe are challenges in writing activities, the researcher also describes the findings that there are four indicators of students' beliefs about strategies in developing writing skills in terms of reading. In this aspect, some students believe that reading can develop their writing skills. According to students, besides helping to develop writing skills, reading can also increase knowledge about grammatical structures, add insight and add new vocabulary. According to Kartal, et al (In Linuwih & Winardi, 2020) also stated that reading is a model of language, reading provide opportunities to study language such as; vocabulary, grammar, punctuation, and the way to construct sentence, paragraphs, and text. Besides reading, some students also believe that writing exercises can be done to develop their writing skills. Students believe that writing exercises can be carried out in various versions, such as writing stories, experiences, and diaries of daily activities. It is believed that if

students get used to writing automatically, they will get a lot of benefits and students' writing skills will also develop.

According to Oshima & Hogue in Kertawijaya, (2018) state that; learning practice in writing will improve your writing for three reason as follows; it will help us to organize our ideas, learning practice will help our write more quickly, and the last learning practice will improve our grammar skill. Based on the explanation, it can be said that more practice is a good way to improve writing skill. So we do not to worry about logical order because we can organize the idea systematically. Then the next aspect is vocabulary enrichment. Students believe that vocabulary enrichment is a strategy that can develop their writing skills. Based on students' beliefs, vocabulary enrichment can be done by making a list of new vocabulary in a book or small note so that it is easy to remember so that students' vocabulary can increase every day so that it can be easily used when writing. Students believe that the more vocabulary they have, the easier it will be to explore ideas and content without having to be hampered by limited vocabulary. Furthermore, the last aspect is learning media, where students believe that these media can be used as learning media, for example like google and youtube, by looking for references about learning to write, reading articles and journals and watching learning content about developing writing skills. Students believe that using both will help develop their writing skills.

The results of this study have differences and similarities with previous studies. Where in previous studies there were differences in students' beliefs about writing skills, which lie in aspects that are believed to be difficulties and also challenges

in writing and then in addition, there are also aspects related to efforts or strategies that are believed to be able to develop quality of student learning. These aspects include students being able to improve their writing in 2 ways, first by practicing critical thinking about their own writing. Both broaden the concept and understanding of various aspects of academic writing (Wan, 2014). Among these differences, this study also has similarities with previous studies, which are both focused on students' positive and negative beliefs about aspects that are believed to be challenging and also aspects that help them develop writing skills.

