

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Background of the research

As a part of the academic community of a college, a student has the obligation to carry out research which is then written as a thesis or produce papers published in scientific journal. That obligation based on Circular (*Surat Edaran*) of the Director General of Higher Education, Ministry of Education and Culture no. 152/E/T/2012 which states that to graduate an undergraduate program must produce papers published in scientific journals. (DirJen DIKTI. Kemendikbud, 2012)

Before do a research they have to compile a proposal that becomes the basis for conducting research. A thesis proposal consisting of an introduction, literature review, and reseach methodology. In writing proposal, the students must follow the exixting rules and have many sources of data as research material and as comparison material. According to Kemendikbud that a scientific paper must fulfill a rule consisting of six characteristics, namely: logical, objective, systematic, reliable, design, and accumulative. (Tim Pusat Pendidikan dan Pelatihan Pegawai Kemendikbud, 2018). Added also by (Budyanto) who explained that to find out the position or to place the contents of a scientific work in the midst of the relevant scientific arena, usually the author makes observations or a comprehensive evaluation of previous scientific work, either in the form of research or thought contained in various literatures. This was done

so that the writer can know and understand the position of his writings within the relevant scientific framework and broader scientific framework.

To find the right previous scientific work or literature review according to the research, a researcher must have information literacy (IL) skills. According to the American Library Association, "Information Literacy is a set of abilities requiring individuals to 'recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information.'" (Madison College Libraries, 2020). The following IL elements are consistent with the definitions of IL developed for use in higher education and, are applicable across all domains of human development.a. Recognise information needs. Locate and evaluate the quality of information. Store and Retrieve information. Make effective and ethical use of information. Apply information to create and communicate knowledge. The nature of these IL elements is outlined below and the implications for the development of IL indicators are identified. (Catts & Lau, 2008; Catts & Lau, 2008).

Although IL skills are considered an important part of writing scientific papers, in fact there are still many people in Indonesia lack or does not master IL skills. Based on data from (The World Bank, 2018) that "more than 55% of Indonesian people who complete their education are Functional Illiterate". It's meant that the ability to read Indonesian society is still at level one, which is only able to read writing or reading without understanding the contents of the reading or looking for main ideas so that they are unable to make conclusions from the text being read.

At STKIP PGRI Sidoarjo, the students' IL skills are still low. This can be seen from the results of their chapter one plagiarism check which averaged over 40% as a tolerable similarity standards in STKIP PGRI Sidoarjo. So that often they have to repeat plagiarism check up to 2 to 3 times. The data got from 93 students of undergraduate program academic year 2019/2020 who take thesis lecturing showed that the result of plagiaism check of 40 students was more than 40% similarity, 35 students got similarity on their thesis was 0-24% and only 17 students that their similarity was under 25%.

Academic writing as one of main subject that must be taken by the students before they write thesis. The aim of this subject is to develop the students' ability to write scientific paper and develop the students' information literacy competency as skills to find and manage references material as sources of writing. The students' knowledge that they get in academic writing class will affect their writing result, especially in thesis writing.

The students' knowledge in academic writing and the results of the plagiarism check in chapter one of the student thesis are the basic reason in this study because in chapter one the authenticity of the ideas and rationale for thesis writing is stated. In chapter one, students determine the background that must be based on facts and opinions from experts where the source of quotations and the writing of citation sources must be correct and precise so that the percentage of plagiarism check result can be minimized.

Seeing the background above, assigns the author to do research with the title “Information Literacy Competency in Undergraduate Students’ Thesis Writing of STKIP PGRI Sidoarjo”.

## **1.2. The Statements of The Problems**

In connection with the background of study, the problems which will be analyzed in this study are formulated as follows:

1. How are the students’ information literacy competency in writing thesis ?
2. How is the implication of students'information literacy competency towards 'academic writing' learning outcomes?

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

Based on the statements of the problems above, this study aimed:

1. To describe the students’ information literacy competency in writing thesis.
2. To describe the implication of students'information literacy competency towards 'academic writing' learning outcomes.

## **1.4.Significances of the study**

The students’ competency in information literacy affect to their writing result. Information literacy is a skill that a person possesses in finding, analyzing, evaluating, and using the information received and then utilized appropriately, therefore by having information literacy competency it is expected to reduce the percentage of similarities in the result of the plagiarism check. By knowing how much information literacy competency students have and knowing the



implementation of information literacy competencies on academic writing learning outcomes, it is hoped that it can provide input to lectures in academic writing class and to curriculum policy makers at STKIP PGRI Sidoarjo to develop information literacy competency for students so that can improve the quality of students' scientific writing especially theses and can reduce the percentage of similarities in the plagiarism check result.

### **1.5.Scope and limitation of research**

This research is limited only to describe the students' information literacy competency in writing thesis and to describe the implication of students' information literacy competency towards 'academic writing' learning outcomes.

### **1.6. Assumption for the study**

One of obligation that must be filled by the undergraduate students to complete their study is writing thesis. The students also have to do plagiarism check before they held thesis examination. Maximum standard of similarities in plagiarism check that they have to fill is 40% for chapter one, four and five. Information literacy competencies are needed so students can write their thesis article correctly and reduce the percentage of similarities in plagiarism checks. "Information literacy competency augments students' competency with evaluating, managing, and using information, its now considered by several regional and discipline-based accreditation association as a key outcome for college students" (Assosiation of College and Research Libraries, 2000).

Information literacy knowledge is one of the materials taught in academic writing subjects. Undergraduate students generally get this course in fourth or fifth semester and become a compulsory subject which is a prerequisite for submitting a

thesis writing. Information literacy competency that possessed by the students will help them to produce a properly scientific paper (thesis) that logical, objective, systematic, reliable, design, and accumulative.

### 1.7.Operational definition of terms

To gain the same perception for some words or phrase, some items are defined in order to give a better understanding. They are:

- **Information Literacy Competency** : The ability to search, sort, determine, and use information that will be used both in writing scientific papers and making decision.
- **Thesis** : a final project in the form of scientific writing that must be made by someone to get a bachelor's degree.
- **Undergraduate Student of STKIP PGRI Sidoarjo** : a person who is studying for a bachelor's degree at STKIP PGRI Sidoarjo in field of teacher training and education.
- **Academic Writing Learning Outcomes** : what students are expected to know or be able to use appropriate writing strategies; plan and structure the writing effectively; paraphrase, summarise, synthesise and use quotation to reference correctly from the source; use academic language appropriately and effectively in written work, and produce essays with appropriate content.