

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of The Study

Motivation stands as an important thing in any aspect of human life when doing activities, especially in the learning process. In a study conducted by Amrai et al., (2011) which discusses the relationship between academic motivation and academic achievement among students, the data analysis shows a positive and significant correlation between academic motivation and academic achievement. It shows that motivation for academic achievement is very important. Tan et al., (2014) also define motivation as an important factor in influencing human behavior and performance. Moreover, motivation also has physiological factors that can boost ambition, create feelings of joy and enthusiasm for learning.

Motivation is very influential as an educational researcher revealed that motivation is one of the most important factors in student achievement and in ensuring sustainable achievement. This is in line with Lestari (2012) that motivation is an effort that encourages someone to generate, manage, maintain, and channel behavior towards a single goal, as well as carry out a series of activities that lead to the achievement of certain goals. To achieve one of these goals, in this case writing a thesis in which Lestari (2012) includes as one of the learning processes for undergraduate students, students need motivation. Furthermore, writing a thesis is a graduation requirement in college to get a bachelor's degree. In the process of accomplishing the thesis, the students also need a lot of time, process, and effort. Moreover, the students will find a lot of difficulties and they clearly need something to boost themselves.

The issue of motivation in writing a thesis is found at a university in Indonesia, more specifically in West Java. According to the preliminary study, it is reported that from 70 students having high GPA, 22 of them did not graduate on time. Fifty percent of them were indicated to have the experience of low motivation. Four of those said that the reason why they experience low grades is that they have started working so the time to work on the thesis is interrupted. Another reason is because the supervisor rarely opens a guidance session and it is difficult to contact the supervisor, and lastly they also feel that they have got a job that does not require a college diploma. This phenomena intrigues the researcher's curiosity to investigate further through conducting the study in this area.

Understanding that motivation contributes to the students' success in thesis writing, Diasti and Mbato (2020) in their research support that motivation plays an essential role for students so they can achieve their goals. In short, it can be concluded that being on time in accomplishing a thesis depends on the students' motivation and this motivation might appear from internal or external factors. It can come from the students' themselves or it can also be a stimulation from other people or the surrounding environment that can affect the psychology of the person concerned (Rahman et al., 2017).

There have been several studies that focused on motivation in a thesis writing which mostly used self-determination theory. One of them is the research conducted by Diasti and Mbato (2020) which focuses more on the regulation of motivation strategies with six strategies used as theoretical bases and Mbato and Cendra, (2019) investigate how Indonesian EFL undergraduate students self-regulated their thesis writing process and to what extent their self-regulation assisted them to seek help and regulate their motivation. Since the previous studies concern the use of self determination theory to know how the theory helps students to regulate their motivation, the present study only focuses on investigating what are the motivation do the students have when accomplishing thesis writing by using the needs theory from David McClelland. With this in mind, it is expected that the researcher could obtain a more expanded answer of what makes students motivated.

1.2. Formulation of the Problem

The formulation problem of this research is what motivation the students have in accomplishing their thesis writing.

1.3. Operational Definition

1.3.1 Motivation

Motivation is a person's desire to complete a task (writing a thesis) on time based on several factors such as getting achievement, affiliation, and power.

1.3.2 Thesis Writing

Thesis writing is a process of completing the final project in the form of a scientific paper that discusses a problem/phenomenon in a particular field with applicable rules and must be done individually to get a bachelor's degree and graduate from college.

1.3.3 Indonesian EFL Students

Indonesian EFL students are the students studying English as a foreign language who are included in the current study.

1.4. Aim of The Study

This study was conducted to find out what motivation that students have in accomplishing their thesis writing.

1.5. Significances of The Study

1.5.1 Theoretical Use

This research will contribute to giving an overview of the motivation for the students in accomplishing thesis writing.

1.5.2 Empirical Use

The result of the study will expand the pedagogical approach in composing a research project proposal.

1.5.3 Practical Use

For lecturers, it is hoped that it can provide input related to motivation and difficulties faced by students in writing their thesis.

This research is dedicated to future thesis writers so that they are motivated to complete their thesis on time.