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## Students' Difficulties and Strategies in Writing Essay at Ma'soem University

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*Received : Apr' 2025 Revised : Apr' 2025 Accepted : Apr' 2025 Published : Apr' 2025*

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### ABSTRACT

Essay is writing activities for practice or exercise, such as composing sentence with their knowledge. The purpose of this study focuses on students' difficulties and the strategies to overcome the difficulties faced in writing essay at Masoem University. To collect the data, a questionnaire adapted from was distributed to all of 4th semester students and semi-structured interview was addressed to nine participants. The questionnaire from contains various difficulties in essay writing process that include prewriting, coherence, cohesion, lexical and mechanic difficulties. The interview guideline from was employed to collect data regarding strategies used by students in overcoming their difficulties in essay writing. The results show that the most difficulties is occur in mechanic, it can solved with five strategies such as making outline, find the appropriate resources, drafting, pause and reading, edit and revising. The implication of this research is useful for students as guideline for essay making, and for lecturer to make essay subject more complex.

**Keywords :** Essay Writing; Student Difficulties; Writing; Writing Strategy.

### ABSTRAK

Salah satu aspek mempelajari bahasa Inggris adalah menulis, salah satunya dengan esai, dimana berguna untuk pengetahuan dasar, seperti menyusun kalimat berdasarkan pengetahuan mereka. Tujuan penelitian ini berfokus pada kesulitan mahasiswa dan strategi mengatasi kesulitan yang dihadapi dalam menulis esai di Universitas Masoem. Untuk menemukan kesulitan, peneliti menggunakan kuesioner sebagai temuan untuk seluruh mahasiswa semester 4 dan wawancara semi terstruktur yang ditujukan pada sembilan responden. Dalam penelitian ini, menggunakan metode kualitatif sebagai implikasi. Terdapat kuesioner untuk mencari kesulitan yang dihadapi saat membuat esai berdasarkan yang terlihat pada kesulitan dalam pramenulis, koherensi, kohesi, leksikal dan kesulitan mekanik dan interview sebagai metode mencari strategi. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan kesulitan terbesar berada di koherensi dan mekanik, dimana dapat diselesaikan dengan lima strategi yang dikemukakan pada data yaitu membuat kerangka, mencari sumber yang sesuai, menyusun, menjeda dan membaca, mengedit dan merevisi. Sebagai hasil dari penelitian ini, dapat diimplikasi untuk siswa sebagai kata kunci dalam menulis esai, dan untuk dosen dapat menjadikan subjek menulis esai lebih efektif.

**Kata Kunci :** Kesulitan Mahasiswa; Menulis; Menulis Essai; Strategi Essai.

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### INTRODUCTION

English as a Foreign Language has an important role in learning, especially for communication and education. There are four skills of learning English: starting from listening, speaking, reading, and writing. One of the skills associated

in learning a language is writing. Writing is one of important aspect in learning English, requires good knowledge of reading, grammar, and vocabulary (Cited by Morehouse, 2017 in Siti Yuliah). Writing is producing sentences in written form to communication, based on their ideas [1].

Essay writing can gain many purposes, especially in academic writing that require a good knowledge to write in university. In Indonesia, the mastery of English is still general, especially in writing is generated low [2]. This also supported that the number of English lecturers in universities is still low, so they do not teach students effectively. This phenomenon is not surprising that writing skills in Indonesia are relatively low [2] Most of EFL student have struggled to acquire their English language, and the process inside writing class contains essay writing. EFL students must take writing classes to acquire their writing abilities; an essay is one of the writing activities that every EFL student is able for writing exercises [3].

Essay can be taken for their first practice of writing in academic context. Academic writing is useful for their studying language. Writing English essay is important to take for EFL students, it can gain comprehension ability such as reading, grammar and vocabulary [4]. In the process of writing essay, many students has experienced problem in making essay. The problem faced by student is the lack of English, they difficult to generating ideas and developing sentences. The student should be mastering academic writing, such as essay because it gain more knowledge and critical thinking [5].

With EFL students, it can gain more information data regarding this research more complex. In this new implication of study, researcher conduct what kinds of difficulties that facing in essay writing and strengthen essays using strategies. Study of this researcher is to showing the difficulties can be discovered with a strategy in writing essays. Strategy as a guideline for making essays; it can minimize and solve some essay difficulties.

Therefore, the major point to be highlighted in this study is investigating the difficulties of EFL Student in Ma'soem University thought essay writing and what strategy they use. As the continuation of determining the students' difficulties, this study also find a strategy in essay writing. In addition, this study examined those EFL students experience in writing an essay.

## **METHOD**

This research design used Qualitative Descriptive as a design of this study. Qualitative research an approach for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to their own or human problem [6]. A qualitative descriptive focus on person studies, it has different point of views regarding to human life. It study to learn human development; those sources are useful to human itself. This research was conducted at one of private university in Bandung, Masoem University in the 2023/2024 academic year with 4th semester of English Education Department with 24 students. Masoem University located on

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Jalan Raya Cipacing No.22, Cipacing, Kec. Jatinangor, Kabupaten Sumedang, Jawa Barat 45363.

To collect the data, it contain observation, questionnaires and interviews. In observation, researchers turn live to the field real time to observe their learning as raw materials. Observation need to take in this class for investigate their progress of essay writing, researcher do a check of their essay for looking the progress of essay writing. This observation to check their progress also can affect their writing process, which the researcher also do a feedback to their essay writing

In this items, answered by choosing one of responses that student pick; based on their experience of difficulties while essay writing. This four supporting answering responses in each items of every tables contains; Research Methods are scientific ways to obtain data with specific purposes and uses. Sugiyono [7] explains that the Likert scale is used to calculate the data obtained to measure a phenomenon and get answers from the research results. With a Likert scale, the variables to be measured are translated into indicator variables. The reason this research uses a 1-4 Likert scale is to avoid respondents answering neutral answers. This step analysis is based on [1] that in his research delivered how to calculate the data obtained after giving questionnaires to students.

This step follows by; Formula:  $T \times P_n$  (number of respondents) x  $P_n$  (number of Likert score choices for each item)

$$24 \times 4 = 96.$$

1. Multiply all the numbered answers according to the variable number selection category
2. After all the answers appear, then add all the four answers that have been calculated.
3. After the results appear, divide by the formula  $(T \times P_n) / 96$  and multiply by  $\times 100\%$ .
4. To find the mean value for the entire table, simply add up each result item in the form of a percent (%) and divide (:) the number of items in the table. After these following steps and the result of percentage delivered, it can make conclusions of the items in each indicator below;

**Table1. Likert Scale for Grouping**

Category	Score
Very Difficult (VD)	4
Difficult (D)	3
Easy (E)	2
Very Easy (VE)	1

**Table 2. The Result of Percentage Grouping**

Percentage	Result
0% - 25%	Very Easy
26% - 50%	Easy
51% - 75%	Difficult
75% - 100%	Very Difficult

Every single each item in all of 5 indicators has their result, which can be known based on the conclusion percentage that has been calculated based on the terms above. single percentage grouping can describe result of the questionnaire form as the result. This interview data can be taken after do an observation to the student, while do an observation the researcher do a grouping of their writing abilities for take this interview method. In this technique, there are 3 indicators that required of interviews; it is for student about their difficulties of essay writing. This indicator conclude (1). Student who active in this class, that write a good essay, good understanding and good writing abilities, (2) Student who not really active in the class, they are passive with mid essay writing, (3) Student who not active in the class, they are not good understanding in essay writing and low writing abilities.

This 3 indicators that taken for this class is very important and useful to conduct an interview question. Each indicators has take 4 students, it means total there are 12 students that has be interview regarding their abilities in essay writing.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

This chapter presents the results of research regarding (1) Student Difficulties in Writing Essay at Masoem University (2) Student strategies to overcome the difficulties faced in Writing Essay at Masoem University. The researchers' findings and discussion are explained below.

### **Student Difficulties in Writing Essay at Masoem University**

This finding of the questionnaire was adapted from [1] to indicate the students' responses on writing difficulties. In first difficulties, it delivered with five indicators as instrument for collecting data on students' difficulties in essay writing at Masoem University. There are various difficulties found after the questionnaire was delivered to EFL students. Each item in the table has various difficulties, most of each item in table is difficult, but there also another result, such as easy and very difficult. Each indicator divided that contain their difficulties of essay writing. These five indicators tables are contain of all supporting questionnaire is:

**Table 3. Student Difficulties**

No	Difficulties	Mean
1.	Prewriting Difficulties	64.31%
2	Coherence Difficulties	66.66%
3	Cohesion Difficulties	65.09%
4	Lexical Difficulties	65.88%
5	Mechanic Difficulties	71.51%

Based on this discussion, the researcher analyse the students' responses to writing difficulties by questionnaire. After the findings are delivered, the researcher concludes the result by [1] based on the data analysis, there are four indicators for generate the result. The result of each item indicate: Very Easy (VE) 0-25% , Easy (E) 26% - 50% , Difficult (D) 51% - 75% ,and Very Difficult (VD) is 76-100%. Take a look from the findings, researcher show the discussion of difficulties below:

**Table 4. Prewriting Difficulties**

No	Indicators	Items	VE (1) F	E (2) F	D (3) F	VD (4) F	Interpretation %
1	Prewriting Difficulties	1. Choosing the topic of writing	3	15	6	0	53.12 Difficult
		2. Generating relevant and consistent ideas to my Topic	2	9	13	0	61.45 Difficult
		3. Planning interesting and relevant Topics	1	10	10	3	65.62 Difficult
		4. Planning unfamiliar topics	1	4	11	8	77.06 Very Difficult
Mean						64.31	Difficult

Prewriting is the first step of the writing process, it can have various strategies to use such as listing or making a note without thinking of structure [3] In first difficulties, it shown prewriting was difficult for EFL learner when making an essay. Writer should make a plan for the topic, but planning a topic that is interesting and relevant topic is hard to do. When a writer plan a title that "up-to-

date" or unfamiliar topic, it can be difficult because it should gain relevant topic that deliver to the essay. In this statement, [8] describe essay must bring relevant argument based on the ideas. If the essay does not deliver with relevant topic, it can make the essay not trustworthy and confuse to reader.

Choosing a topic in prewriting is difficult because to choose the topic for essay is not easy to do. Essay can bring ideas, argument to answer those question or problem regarding the title of the topic [8]. Based on this item, topic is crucial and it is important aspect for essay making. Based on the result, it generate writer must avoid unfamiliar topics because it has make the essay hard to deliver the topic, and confuse the writer in generating the ideas of the essay. With the result from the item below, it also supported take from interview, it shows:

Data 1

R7: *penting untuk tidak membuat essay yang berat, umm jadi dari judul harus yang ringan.. yang bisa diketahui dipegang.*

R7: It's important to avoid hard essay, umm so the title should be easy... like the title u can be known to be held.

Based on the interview, it showed to make easy essay, it should make with title that writer understand. It is important because title as a guideline to actual essay, it refer to the ideas, make sure to choose title carefully. [1] described student must be able to mastering the ideas of the topic to make essay easy to write. Based on the statement, it is true to avoid choose the unfamiliar topics in the essay. If writers still make plan for unfamiliar topic, it means they has be hard to make, and it affects the essay; they did not master the topic and lack ideas.

The frequencies of prewriting difficulties is 64.31% and it conclude this items is difficult. In this result of the "Prewriting Difficulties" is difficult, research can conclude that EFL writer should take notice of the topic very much because it has have an impact on their essay making. Based on the result of four items, choosing a topic must be carefully and students should be mastering the topic. Student must avoid unfamiliar topic, because it has difficult to make a good essay [1]. Make sure to choose topic that already know, so it make the deliver of ideas has easier to do.

**Table 5. Coherence Difficulties**

No	Indicators	Items	VE (1) F	E (2) F	D (3) F	VD (4) F	Interpretation %
		1. Writing a good introduction to the essay	5	16	3	0	47.91 Easy
		2. Writing a good thesis statement to the essay	0	11	13	0	63.54 Difficult
2	Coherence						

Difficulties	3. Writing a good main idea for essay paragraphs	0	11	12	1	64.58	Difficult
	4. Writing relevant main ideas to the thesis statement	0	4	15	5	76.04	Very Difficult
	5. Developing main idea into complete Paragraphs	0	3	17	4	76.04	Very Difficult
	6. Expressing controlling idea in one paragraph only	0	4	14	6	77.08	Very Difficult
	7. Writing a good concluding sentence for each Paragraph	2	6	13	3	67.70	Difficult
	8. Writing a good concluding paragraph to the essay	1	12	11	0	60.41	Difficult
Mean						66.66	Difficult

Coherence is the part of writing process; which contain the writer ideas in essay. Coherence refers to meaning resting on relations of connectedness. Academic essay should elaborate in the structure of essay [9]. Coherence difficulties occur when writing an essay, because it occur the structure of the text.

Coherence has a role inside of each paragraph in essay writing. Coherence discusses logic, understanding, development of ideas towards conclusions, clear paragraphs, and organization [9]. Main body of essay is the most important because contain ideas about the topic. This also supported by excerpt data based on interview result:

Data 2

R5: *Susah di developing sentences nya kayak kurang, apalagi di ide sama topik harus sesuai (Responden 5)*

R5: It's difficult to develop sentences, it seems like it's lack of idea especially when ideas and topics have to match (Respondent 5)

A good thesis statement is when the writer show their good main idea in a professional and trustworthy statement, it makes sense to hard deliver inside the essay. Writing a good idea in a paragraph is difficult, because it requires a good

statement supporting the writer's abilities and how much information is obtained from that source. Developing the idea in main topic is not easy to do, because it should understand by the reader [1]. Developing the main idea to complete paragraphs is very difficult, because the writer must be able to deliver many ideas to complete the essay itself. Essays also need to be coherent and complex in content of the essay, which make writing a good thesis statement difficult because it depends on the writer's writing skills.

The frequencies of second difficulties is 66.66% with difficult, based on all eight items above. In this result of the "Coherence Difficulties" is difficult, research can conclude that EFL is difficult to deliver ideas. Make sure the writer should master in title and generate idea with good controlling each paragraph. Based on result in eight items, paragraph is crucial of the process on essay making. Make sure the writer has good abilities to deliver ideas and statement, each paragraph should be deliver with good understanding in the first essay making.

**Table 6. Cohesion Difficulties**

No	Indicators	Items	VE (1) F	E (2) F	D (3) f	VD (4) F	Interpretation %	
3	Cohesion Difficulties	1. Linking sentences and paragraphs using appropriate cohesive devices	0	7	17	0	67.70	Difficult
		2. Using reference ties in your writing	5	15	4	0	48.95	Easy
		3. Using substitution	0	6	16	2	70.83	Difficult
		4. Using ellipsis	0	4	18	2	72.91	Difficult
Mean						65.09	Difficult	

Cohesion is the part of writing process; it contain the writer ideas that has describe. Cohesion hold the framework together internally, it connect the paragraph and ideas in essay writing. Cohesion is a words and phrases that connect sentences in writing, how it connects grammatical from beginning to the end. [1] Using linking sentences is difficult, because the writer must be careful to make each paragraph is cohesive. It also supported with results of the interview shows:

Data 3

R8: *kendalanya kesulitan di pengembangan ide, kayak mengatur paragraf di menyambungkan argumen.. Terus struktur nya harus logis dan membuat kohesif harus bagus*

R8: The problem is difficulty in developing ideas, like arranging paragraphs to connect arguments... then the structure must be logical and make it cohesive must be good

Developing idea should be deliver with good understanding from the topic. Based from the data, it shown they difficult to elaborate their ideas to their essay writing. The difficulties of coherent in essay writing is expressing ideas in formulate a good thesis statement, how it can connect from relate relevant main ideas to each paragraph in thesis statement to the essay [1].

Subtitution is difficult to use because it occur as an element to substitute a word that mostly used in repetition or particular item. To use subtitution, writer should mastering vocabulary and be able to write with good sentence. Using ellipsis in essay can affect the sentence, so make sure writer is careful and take notice when using linking sentences. Elipsis facing as presupossed item and it difficult to how it stated to make good statement of the structure [11] Linking sentences can affect to the paragraph, that make this cohesion abilities in essay writing is difficult.

The frequencies of cohesion difficulties is 65.09% and the result is difficult. In this result of the cohesion is difficult, research can conclude to EFL writer difficult of organize sentences in each paragraph. Based on the result in fourth item, paragraphs in cohesion must be able to deliver in good writing and make sure take notice of the usage of linking sentences. Writer should have good controlling paragraph in expressing ideas, it should be considered to make the essay is valuable [11].

**Table 7. Lexical Difficulties**

No	Indicators	Items	VE (1) F	E (2) F	D (3) F	VD (4) F	Interpretation %
4	Lexical Difficulties	1. Using appropriate vocabulary in writing	0	10	14	0	64.58 Difficult
		2. Using word synonyms	0	13	10	1	62.50 Difficult
		3. Using word Antonyms	1	13	10	0	62.50 Difficult
		4. Using idioms and word collocations in writing Correctly	0	3	19	2	73.95 Difficult
							65.88 Difficult

Lexical is the part of writing, it generate the word process from writer to deliver a ideas. In essay writing, essay should involve the correctness of vocabulary, spelling and punctuation [5]. Lack of vocabulary can affect their essay; how it express what they want to write.

Vocabulary should be mastered because it can make the writer easier to deliver a statement or generate ideas. It is also in supported with the result from interview below :

Data 4

R1: *ada banyak yang saya temukan.. dimulai dari merangkai kata kata, saya kurang bisa menyajikannya sesuai dengan apa yang dituju*

R1: I found a lot... starting from arranging words, I wasn't able to present it according to what was intended

Arranging words should be mastered with good vocabulary abilities. Essay should be readable that has a good sentence. Effective essay contain related understanding topics and choose good vocabulary [2]. Choosing the words is important to make a beautiful sentence and not confuse readers. Bad vocabulary can make ambiguous that can misunderstand the real meaning of words.

Using lexical item must be able to understand their items and how the use these structure. Using word synonyms, antonyms, and idiom and collocation refer to vocabulary, it is make sense difficult to use. Lack of vocabulary can affect their essay; it can not express much what they want to write [2]. Writing correctly with various vocabulary properties like synonyms, antonyms and good sentence is hard to do.

The frequencies of the lexical difficulties is 65.88%, and it showed as difficult. Essay writing involve the correctness of vocabulary, spelling and punctuation [5]. To conclude, EFL should have a good understanding to produce a text based on the usage of the vocabulary. By mastering the vocabulary, writer can use spelling word and punctuation easily.

**Table 8. Mechanic Difficulties**

No	Indicators	Items	VE (1) F	E (2) F	D (3) f	VD (4) F	Interpretation %
5	Mechanic Difficulties	1. Writing grammatically correct sentences	0	3	14	7	79.16 Very Difficult
		2. Applying the correct punctuation in writing	0	7	14	3	70.79 Difficult
		3. Writing correctly spelled words	2	7	14	1	64,58 Difficult
Mean						71.51	Difficult

Mechanic is the part of writing, which contain writer ideas has deliver. To have a good essay, the students need to master the grammatical rules and their immediacy in writing (Ashrafiyani, 2020). Grammar very important when have to write something for academic needs. Using grammar in English is difficult,

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especially make a correct sentences. To make correct sentence, require a good grammar ability. It is supported with result of the interview shows:

Data 5

R6: *Nah aku banyak koreksi dari segi grammar samakontennya, biar topiknya ga kemana mana.*

R6: I make a lot of corrections in terms of grammar and content so that the topic doesn't go anywhere.

Grammar should be mastered in essay writing, in this mechanic difficulties grammar was very difficult. The writer must pay attention of choose correct grammar structure to make understable tenses without changing the meaning to make it clear. The essay is not good because of lack of vocabulary and grammatical knowledge [2]. However, if the writer not pay attention with the grammar, it can make bad tenses that make readers do not understand with unclear sentence.

Punctuation must be clear because it can make essay quality is impossible to write perfectly. Punctuation must be convey to refer the ideas of the text. Writer can control and create meaningful words, especially in essay writing it should be clear sentence. Make sure use correct punctation, because it convey the meaning just as the words do [11]. Make a spelling word with right sentence is difficult because it should have good mechanic capitalizatuon, good understanding of choosing the right spelling word [11]. Spelled words are difficult and it must able to have good understanding to use, spelled words have rules and need to know use it correctly.

The frequencies of mechanic difficulties is 71.51% with difficult. Based on the result, the findings can conclude that EFL writer difficult to make the text good and readable, such as as the grammar, punctuation and have good structure. Based on result in lexical difficulties, write essay it need a good grammar, content or ideas [9]. Make sure writer has good abilities to deliver sentences or careful to using word, and each paragraph should be delivered in essay making. EFL student might difficult to write good abilities, regarding the person writing skill.

Beside of the result in the indicator of difficulties, there also several items that shown very difficult of all these indicator above. This related result of per item that shown as very difficult, such as planning unfamiliar topic, generate main ideas with relevant statement, develop and controlling ideas in one paragraph only, and writing grammatically correct sentence. In Prewriting, make unfamiliar topic is the most difficult to do because writer should be able to mastered the topic before generating ideas. Topic is so important because it can be guidine of all essay ideas, if the topic are unfamiliar to deliver, it means writer should put more effort to conclude data

Many EFL learner facing the lack of generating essay ideas with paragraph controlling in coherence difficulties. It shown in coherence difficulties, there are three items shown as very difficult, it is generate main ideas with relevant

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statement, developing ideas in paragraph and controlling ideas in one paragraph only. The ideas of essay writing should be explained clearly, it connect the ideas of the topic by the writer abilities. Many student is still difficult to make their text is coherent, how the writer knowledge can affect of the topic the essay [11].

To conclude this first study of this research, it is shown the mechanic is the most difficult, especially in grammar sentences that shown the highest number result of all item in each indicator difficulties. Beside the grammar, planning unfamiliar topic is also generated very difficult, because it affecting their essay ideas. This also supporting with three items in coherence shown very difficulties such as generate main ideas with relevant statement, developing ideas in paragraph and controlling ideas in one paragraph only. Make a good ideas is not easy to do, especially with controlling each paragraph what ideas has deliver.

### **Student Strategies to Overcome the Difficulties in Writing Essay at Masoem University**

In this study used semi-structured interview to collect the data and the interview guideline was adapted from [2] to exploring student essay writing difficulties. The researcher make few updates to the interview question to make it more emphasize to the title of this research. To answer this second research question, nine respondents were interviewed with five interview questions related to the strategy of essay writing. The result of the findings are found, there are five strategies of essay writing, such as : making an outline, finding the appropriate resources, drafting, pausing reading and revising.

#### **1. Making Outline**

The first strategy of essay writing is prewriting. In prewriting, the writer can make an outline as the first process of essay writing, so it is important to plan the essay writing outlining. Outline, listing or talk-writing as a strategy by free writing, writer can make a note without thinking of structure [4]. Based on the statement above, it is important to writer make an outline before write the actual essay. This result is confirmed that found by interview in 4th Semester of EFL who said:

Data 6

R1: *strategi nya pertama bikin dengan bikin outline dulu.. ini penting biar bisa sesuai alur dan tau mau jelasin apa aja di essainya.*

R1: The first strategy is to make an outline... this is important because it can be guideline for what you want to explain in the essay.

As mentioned by the Respondents above, the strategy they use in the first essay making is outlining. Outline is one of strategy in prewriting, outline has be usage as guideline to include when start to write the topic [1]. In prewriting, they make an outline to make it easier to organize the essay. Outline considered as planning, it is the first step of writing activity.

## 2. Find the appropriate resources

The second strategy of essay writing is to find the appropriate resources based on their title. Journal is the supporting data for essay, it useful to make essay writing is complex and trustworthy. Theories and methods also added for findings to make it detail, it is additional references from research that has previously been carried out [4]. Find a journal is thinking to found and deliver data from the expert as supporting ideas for the essay. This result is confirmed that found by interview in 4th Semester of EFL who said:

Data 7

R4: *Selanjutnya nyari riset atau jurnal atau informasi terkait judul yang relevan, biar argumennya nanti ga lemah.*

R4: Next, I look for research or journals or information related to the title of my essay, it can make your argument strong.

Various sources can be take t make essay writing is trustworthy. Find a journal can be a useful as strategy by collecting data with deliver a valid statement to make essay quality is good and complex. Journal is trustworthy reference source, it generated with lot of information that suitable for essay based on the title below. [14].By reading journal, writer can also see the writing style and the creative ideas in it.

## 3. Drafting

In this third strategy, drafting is strategy in developing essay. When writer make a drafting, it means writer has already deliver an essay. The strategy must be used is relating the topic to past the experience [4]. Making a draft, or drafting is process of essay writing with various sub ideas, it useful to make the essay is easy to make. This result is confirmed that found by interview in 4th Semester of EFL who said:

Data 8

R3: *kalo nulis topiknya saya suka ngacak jadi dibikin per draft, asal sesuai sama outline nya.*

R3: When I write the topics, I like to randomize the general ideas hehe... so I make it per draft, as long as it matches the outline.

There are various strategy in drafting, in this respondent in generate idea it deliver their essay draft in randomize the ideas to make easier to brainstorming the topic below. Drafting as a strategy for deliver an ideas and develop the topic more complex, every topic have their draft. In the first draft, it should make a good to deliver an ideas and develop the topic more complex [4].

## 4. Pausing and Reading

In this fourth strategy, the strategy has been found is Pausing and reading. This activates is directly occur when the writer do an essay writing. Pausing is a kind of activity of resting in draft to the text. In this step, writers make a strategy for reading their text of what they have already written [13]. When

the writers feel overwhelmed for essay writing, they usually pause and do a break. Writers also pause when they feel running out of ideas, the strategy is reading the related materials from the topic [4]. There are two Data from two respondent described to edit and revise their essay. This result is confirmed that found by interview in 4th Semester of EFL who said:

Data 9

R2: *Saya suka pusing, apalagi kehabisan kata.. Nah itu saya pake buat banyak membaca teks saya sendiri. selain itu saya baca jurnal biar banyak cari inspirasi ide buat ngerangkai kata*

R2: When I getting dizzy, especially when I run out of words... umm well, I use to read lot of my own texts. Apart from that, I read journals! I can find lots of inspiration... it for ideas to putting together words

By reading from many points of view, there has be a lot of new information which has make it easier to process the words that can be written Beside of reading their own essay writing, there also activites that reading the journal sources to have new ideas imerge. Writers also pause when they feel running out of ideas, the strategy is reading the related materials from the topic [4].

##### 5. Edit and Revise

The last strategy of essay writing, is edit and revise for make it clearly. Revising is a crucial step of essay writing, the reader must pay attention to the entire text so that there are no grammatical and punctuation and the form is relevant [13]. Revising and editing, is the last step of writing an essay. Sometimes there is more information that is not delivered, writer should be take notice to their essay writing [4]. In this step, writer be able to check their essay and do editing as the step for make it essay complete and suitable. There are two Data from two respondent described to edit and revise their essay. This result are confirmed that found by interview in 4th Semester of EFL who said:

Data 10

R2: *saya suka nulis bahasannya terlalu banyak.. nah itu saya parafrase dan itu perlu direvisi, biar enggak pemborosan kata.*

R2; I sometimes write discussion too much that makes not effective... so I paraphrased it and it needs to be revised, because I don't waste words.

In this statement, the respondent describe said to make a revise, such as paraphrasing words that may delivered too much information. Based on the respondent below, the strategy to make essay effective is revise the text especially do paraphrasing. This also supported that revising a essay that need to be editing is avoid incorrect structure that shows a surface writing error [14]Based on the result, the usage of edit and revising the text as the strategy by respondent two is must be take to make the essay effective. Check their essay text to find which part that contain too much ideas that not really suitable to deliver, it can be revised to make the text is complex and much to

have good statement. Revise is editing process from final draft that need check the small unit of writing. Based on respondent six, it generate to revise the content and structure of the text to make the essay match to the essay rules. There are several note that respondent do to revise, such as grammatical, generating content and topic below. This also supported by [13], writer should revise their essay to make it good writing such as grammar and spelling. At this stage, revise must be taken to make their essay is getting the satisfied writing result. lively and interesting ideas. With edit and revise, the essay is appropriate and the topic content in it is neatly structured. Edit and Revise is crucial step in essay writing, because it generate essay quality based from the writer. In this strategy to revise, it can solve to cohesion, lexical and mechanic difficulties that facing in essay writing. Essay must follow the academic writing rules so it is possible to have much edit and revise to make it match to the structure. Many essay draft not deliver with good writing abilities, it is impossible to have good essay draft with correct sentence, grammar, vocabulary, etc yet it must be revise to fulfil the difficulties. Writer must be able to produce a good essay, so it must have good grammar, lexical and cohesion inside the essay.

## CONCLUSION

Based on previous chapter in the findings, it discuss about first research question (1) Student Difficulties in Writing Essay at Masoem University, it answered with questionnaire shown many result based on their answer. The highest score of difficulties is mechanic difficulties, there also found related result of per item that showed as very difficult, such as planning unfamiliar topic, generate main ideas with relevant statement, develop and controlling ideas in one paragraph only, and writing grammatically correct sentence. Many EFL facing the lack of essay ideas with paragraph controlling in cohesion difficulties, and most of them avoid unfamiliar topic in prewriting. The most difficulties occur is writing grammatically correct sentences, based from mechanic difficulties that show grammar is the highest score from all the item in the questionnaire.

Meanwhile, to answer second research question (2) Student strategies to overcome the problems faced in Writing Essay at Masoem University, it answered with semi-structured interview. The result of this findings mentioned there are five strategies that this strategy also as solve for the difficulties in the first research question. The five strategy found for solve their difficulties facing in essay writing, it show (1) making outline, to solve difficulties in prewriting, (2) find the appropriate resources to solve coherence and cohesion difficulties, (3) drafting to solve coherence and lexical difficulties, (4) pause and reading to solve coherence difficulties, and (5) edit and revising to solve cohesion, lexical and mechanic difficulties.

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