
THESIS

As a Partial Fulfillment of The Requirements for The Sarjana Pendidikan Degree in Teacher - Training Faculty

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This thesis entitled *An analysis of the structure of argument in the argumentative compositions of the sixth-semester students of the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya* which is prepared and submitted by Davy Budiono has been approved and accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Sarjana Pendidikan Degree in the Teacher-Training Faculty by the following advisors:

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ABSTRACT


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Argumentative writing skill is the most essential writing skill required to be mastered by the students of the English Department of UWM to be able to compose a scientific writing. A well-composed argumentative writing requires the clear, logical, and systematic presentation of data in reaching the goal of an argument that is convincing the reader.

Seeing that some students still have difficulty in producing a sound and convincing argument, the writer devoted this study to find the solutions for this phenomenon. Thus, he decided to analyze the structure of argument, based on the Stephen Toulmin's model of argument pattern, contained within the argumentative compositions to be able to recognize the cause of the argument errors and their remedies.

For this purpose, the writer selected the E class of the 1994 academic year as his subject of the study to represent the sixth-semester students of the English Department. He analyzed their final-exam compositions for the Writing V subject by using the Toulmin's model of argument as his theoretical framework. Since the nature of the argument in this study was a pro and contra one, the writer also included the Falsification method that includes refutation strategies in the process of data analysis.

Based on the findings, the writer had come to the conclusion that the errors that caused an argument to be faulty can be recognized through the analysis of its structural pattern. By knowing the effective and proper argument patterns, the students are expected to be able to compose a sound argument, in which the claim of the argument must be backed up with relevant and sufficient supporting data while any opposing data against the claim must be refuted.

The writer hoped that the findings in this study would contribute something to the development of the argumentative writing teaching. He also gave some suggestions that first, the English Department should expand the
materials for the reading subject so that the students will have plenty resources in producing a well-composed argumentative writing and second, the lecturers of Writing V should emphasize initially on the fundamental structural patterns of argument based on valid reasoning patterns in logic and discourse analysis theories.

Finally, the writer wished that there would be further studies on this topic since there was still a wide area of argument structure that he was unable to cover due to the limited time. He suggested the study of the effectivity levels of the argument on different argument patterns and refutation strategies and implementation of the logic and discourse analysis in the argumentative writing teaching.