

**THE DIFFICULTIES OF EFL LEARNERS IN WRITING AN ARGUMENTATIVE  
ESSAY**

**A THESIS**



**Gregorius Ananda D.I  
1213019015**

**English Language Education Study Program  
Faculty of Teacher Education  
Widya Mandala Surabaya Catholic University  
July 2023**

**THE DIFFICULTIES OF EFL LEARNERS IN WRITING AN ARGUMENTATIVE  
ESSAY**

**A THESIS**

Presented to Teacher Education Faculty  
Widya Mandala Surabaya Catholic University  
in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of  
Sarjana Pendidikan in English Language Education



**Gregorius Ananda D.I  
1213019015**

**English Language Education Study Program  
Faculty of Teacher Education  
Widya Mandala Surabaya Catholic University  
July 2023**

## SURAT PERNYATAAN

### SURAT PERNYATAAN Jalur Skripsi

Bersama ini saya:

Nama : Gregorius Ananda Dwi Inuestiyanta  
Nomor Pokok : 1213019011  
Program Studi : Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris  
Jurusan : Pendidikan Bahasa dan Seni  
Fakultas : Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan

Menyatakan dengan sesungguhnya bahwa skripsi saya yang berjudul:

The Difficulties of EFL Learner In Writing an Argumentative Essay

benar-benar merupakan hasil karya saya sendiri. Apabila Skripsi ini ternyata merupakan hasil *plagiarisme*, maka saya bersedia menerima sanksi berupa pembatalan kelulusan dan/atau pencabutan gelar yang telah saya peroleh.

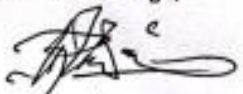
Demikian surat pernyataan ini saya buat dengan sesungguhnya dan dengan penuh kesadaran.

Surabaya, 11-1-2023

Yang membuat pernyataan,



Mengetahui,  
Dosen Pembimbing I,

  
Rendi M.  
NIK: 121990372

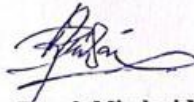
Dosen Pembimbing II,

NIK: \_\_\_\_\_


**APPROVAL SHEET**  
**(I)**

**APPROVAL SHEET**  
**(I)**

This thesis entitled “**Difficulties of EFL Learners n Writing an Argumentative Essay**” prepared and submitted by Gregorius Ananda D.I. (1213019015) has been approved to be examined by the board of examiners.



**Dr. Ruruh Mindari M.Pd.**  
Thesis Advisor



**Matheus Yumarnamto, Ph.D.**  
Examiner 1



**Dr. B. Budiyono, M.Pd.**  
Examiner 2

## SURAT PERSETUJUAN PUBLIKASI KARYA ILMIAH

### SURAT PERNYATAAN PERSETUJUAN PUBLIKASI KARYA ILMIAH

Demi perkembangan Ilmu Pengetahuan, saya sebagai mahasiswa Universitas Katolik Widya Mandala Surabaya:

Nama Mahasiswa : GREGORIUS ANANDA D.I.  
Nomor Pokok : 1213019015  
Program Studi Pendidikan : Bahasa Inggris  
Jurusan : Pendidikan Bahasa dan Seni  
Fakultas : Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan  
Tanggal Lulus : \_\_\_\_\_

Dengan ini ~~SETUJU/HAK SETUJU~~ Skripsi atau Karya Ilmiah saya,

Judul: The Difficulties of EFL Learners in Writing  
An Argumentative Essay

Untuk dipublikasikan/ditampilkan di Internet atau media lain (Digital Library Perpustakaan Universitas Katolik Widya Mandala Surabaya) untuk kepentingan akademik sebatas sesuai undang-undang Hak Cipta yang berlaku.

Demikian surat pernyataan ~~SETUJU/HAK SETUJU~~ publikasi Karya Ilmiah ini saya buat dengan sebenarnya.

Surabaya,  
Yang membuat pernyataan,



Gregorius Ananda D.I.

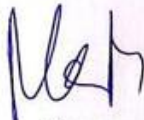
NRP: 1213019015

*' coret salah satu*

**APPROVAL SHEET  
(II)**

**APPROVAL SHEET  
(II)**

This thesis entitled “Difficulties of EFL Learners n Writing an Argumentative Essay” prepared and submitted by Gregorius Ananda D.I. (1213019015) has been examined by the board of examiners.



**Matheus Yumarnamto, Ph.D.**  
Chair



**Dr. Ruruh Mindari M.Pd.**  
Secretary



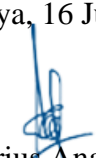
**Dr. B. Budivono, M.Pd.**  
Member



## **STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY**

I declare that this thesis is my own writing, and it is true and correct that I did not take any scholarly ideas or work from others dishonestly. All the cited works were quoted in accordance with the ethical code of academic writing. I will take all the consequences if plagiarism is found in this thesis.

Surabaya, 16 July 2023

  
Gregorius Ananda D.I.  
1213019015

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

First of all, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to God for His blessings and guidance throughout the completion of this thesis. I would also like to express my gratitude to those who genuinely assisted, advised, guided, and supported me while I was conducting research and writing this thesis.

1. Maria Josephine Kriesye S., M.Pd. as the Head of English Education Study Program.
2. Dr. Ruruh Mindari, M.Pd., as my advisor who has consistently provided me with help as well as guidance in finishing this thesis.
3. Mateus Yumarnamto, Ph.D. and Dr. B. Budiyo as my thesis examiners who have given me insightful comments, advices, and feedbacks for this thesis.
4. All lecturers of the English Language Education Study Program at UKWMS.
5. My beloved mom, dad, and brother who have provided unwavering support and encouragement throughout my studies from the 1<sup>st</sup> semester until the 8<sup>th</sup> semester.
6. My beloved friends (Icha, Philia, Jeje, Ivanna, and Ignatia) who have never been tired in supporting me to finish this thesis.
7. Lastly, the participants of this study.

Gregorius Ananda D.I.



## ABSTRACT

Gregorius Anannda D.I. (2023). Difficulties in Writing an Argumentative Essay. Thesis. English Language Education Study Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Widya Mandala Surabaya Catholic University.

Advisor: Dr. Ruruh Mindari, M.Pd.

Keywords: *writing, writing aspects, writing difficulties, argumentative essays, descriptive qualitative.*

Writing, which is considered one of the language skills, appears to be the most challenging ability for some students to master. Evaluating students' writing proficiency involves considering five key areas: content, organization, vocabulary, language use, and mechanics. This present research descriptive qualitative method to investigate the obstacles students face when writing argumentative essays, identify the factors contributing to these difficulties, and explore the strategies they employ to overcome them. The data for this study were collected from students enrolled in the Reading & Writing for EPT course at Widya Mandala Surabaya Catholic University's English Department. Interviews and document analysis were utilized as data collection methods. Two participants, demonstrating moderate achievement levels, were individually interviewed in three separate sessions. Additionally, two essays per participant were examined.

The findings indicate that, with regards to the five writing aspects, the primary challenge experienced by the participants was related to the language use aspect. Furthermore, a shared factor contributing to their difficulties was a lack of reading and short time limit. Additionally, all participants commonly resorted to searching on the internet and using Grammarly as a strategy to overcome their writing challenges.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

SURAT PERNYATAAN .....	iii
APPROVAL SHEET (I) .....	iv
SURAT PERSETUJUAN PUBLIKASI KARYA ILMIAH .....	iv
APPROVAL SHEET (II).....	vi
STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY .....	vii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	viii
ABSTRACT.....	ix
TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	x
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION .....	1
1.1 Background of the study.....	1
1.2 Research Question.....	2
1.3 Research Objectives.....	3
1.4 Theoretical Framework.....	3
1.5 The significance of the study .....	4
1.6 Scope and limitations of the study .....	4
1.7 Definition of key terms .....	5
1.8 Organization of the Thesis.....	6
CHAPTER II REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE.....	7
2.1 Writing Definitions.....	7
2.2 Difficulties in Writing .....	8
2.3 Purposes of writing.....	8
2.4 Stages in Writing .....	9
2.5 Argumentative Essay.....	10
2.6 Previous Research .....	11
CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHODS .....	13
3.1 Research Designs .....	13
3.2 Participants.....	13
3.4 Data Sources .....	15
3.5 Instruments.....	15
3.6 Data Collection Procedure .....	17
3.7 Trustworthiness and Triangulation .....	19

CHAPTER IV DATA ANALYSIS, FINDINGS, AND DISCUSSION.....	20
4.1 Data Analysis.....	20
4.1.1 Participants' Experience in Writing Argumentative Essays .....	20
4.1.1.1 Difficulties in Composing Argumentative Essays .....	20
4.1.1.2 Factors Causing the Difficulties Encountered by Participants .....	31
4.1.1.3 Strategies in Overcoming the Difficulties in Writing an Argumentative Essay .....	34
4.2 Findings and Discussion .....	35
4.2.1 Participants' Difficulties in Writing Argumentative Essays .....	36
4.2.2 Participants' Causes of Difficulties in Writing an Argumentative Essay.....	37
4.2.3 Participants' Strategies in Overcoming Difficulties in Writing an Argumentative Essay .....	39
CHAPTER V CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS .....	42
5.1 Conclusion .....	42
5.2 Suggestions.....	42
REFERENCES .....	43
APPENDICES .....	46
Appendix 1: Interview Transcript.....	46
Appendix 2: Argumentative Essays .....	68
Appendix 3: Interview Protocol.....	75
Appendix 4: Essay Mistakes Analysis .....	78