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THE ANALYSIS OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS' RESEARCH PROPOSALS DURING THE PANDEMIC ERA

(A Descriptive Research in Language Education Study Program of FKIP UNTAN in the Academic Year of 2020 to 2021)

Kevin Damara, Urai Salam

English Education Study Program FKIP, Tanjungpura University

Article Info	ABSTRACT
<p>Article history:</p> <p>Received: 15 September 2022</p> <p>Revised: 18 Oktober 2022</p> <p>Accepted: 24 Oktober 2022</p>	<p>This research aims to see the trend during the pandemic on what undergraduate students choose a title for their research proposal and to identify the phenomenon on it. The method in this research is descriptive research. The research was conducted by gathering titles from March 2020 until December 2021 with 140 titles. By conducting the descriptive research with analysis, it was found that students who chose four language skills as their category of research were 39%, language elements were 21%, teaching and learning 30%, English literature 10%, and English linguistic 0%. It was found that 40% of students chose descriptive research as their method of writing a research proposal. Most students chose development research with 21%. 16% of students chose action research. 14% of students chose case study research. 4% of the students chose pre-experimental research. 5% of students chose another method instead of those mentioned methods. In other words, many students chose descriptive research as their method to conduct a research proposal in the pandemic era.</p>
<p>Keywords:</p> <p>Research Proposal, Pandemic, Descriptive, Category, Method.</p>	
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Corresponding Author:

Kevin Damara
Universitas Tanjungpura, Jalan Ahmad Yani, Pontianak
Email: kevindamara48@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION

Students must write a thesis to achieve a bachelor's degree at Tanjungpura University. However, before writing a thesis, students must write a research proposal. A research proposal is simply a formal

document that explains what a topic to research, why it is worth researching, and how to investigate it. The purpose of the research proposal is to convince the research supervisor and university that the research is suitable and manageable. The Teacher Training and Education Faculty students must study an educational topic.

Typically, many students in English Education Study Program focus on two methods. The methods were pre-experimental research and classroom action research. However, the COVID-19 pandemic struck Indonesia in March 2020. Many restrictions brought to the 2 popular methods cannot be implemented because the schools were prohibited. As a result, many students were forced to change their methods to suit the pandemic. With this phenomenon, the researcher was interested in conducting descriptive research on students' research proposals during the pandemic.

A research proposal is a document written by a researcher that provides a detailed description of the proposed program. It is like an outline of the entire research process that gives a reader a summary of the information discussed in a project. Research proposals are written in future tense and have different points of emphasis. Like scientific articles, research proposals have sections describing the research background, significance, methods, and references. According to Sudheesh, Duggappa, and Nethra (2016), a proposal needs to show how the research proposal fits into what is already known about the topic and what new paradigm will it add to the literature while specifying the question that the research will answer, establishing its significance, and the implications of the answer.

Based on the background study, the questions of this research are what is the most trend issues category design by students of English Education Study Program applied in the research proposal submitted to English Language Education Study Program from 2020 to 2021?, and what is the most trend of the research methodology applied in the research proposal submitted to English Language Education Study Program from 2020 to 2021?.

From previous research titled "The Research on Listening Conducted by the Students of English Education Study Program" by Susanto in 2016, the researcher would analyze the most trend categories and methods during the pandemic era. Those categories, for example, are grammar and language skills. The researcher was interested in conducting this research compared before and during the pandemic.

The present research will analyze the most trend categories and methods during the pandemic era written by the students in their undergraduate research proposal submitted to English Language Education Study Program from 2020 to 2021. The data would be taken from the research proposal kept in the English Education study program office.

METHOD

In order to achieve the aim of this research, it is necessary to apply a suitable method. It is essential to determine the appropriate method to fulfill the needs to obtain the data. This research investigated the students' research proposal on the pandemic era. In order to address the objectives, a descriptive method implemented in this research.

This research designed to determine the research proposal conducted by undergraduate students in the English Education study program. McCombes (2019) states that descriptive research aim to accurately and systematically describe a population, situation, or phenomenon. A descriptive research design can use various research methods to investigate one or more variables. In terms of data, according to Remler and Ryzin (2015, p.127), qualitative research involves various kinds of non-numeric or qualitative data, such as interviews, written texts or documents, visual images, and observations of behaviour, case studies and so on. This method is appropriate because it can describe

or present existing phenomena. The function of analysis is to describe research in the type of vocabulary and most frequently vocabulary applied in thesis writing.

The researcher applied the corpus method in order to obtain the data. Corpus linguistics uses computers to rapidly search and analyze natural language databases (Vaughan, 2016, p.1). The use of corpus in this research is to gather keywords that are needed to analyze based on a research proposal conducted by undergraduate students of FKIP listed in English Language Education Study Program office of Tanjungpura University. The researcher used corpus to identify undergraduate students research proposals title as a tool to analyzed the subject of research. Corpus linguistics incorporates the accumulation and examination of the collection of spoken and written texts as the source of proof for describing the nature, structure, and use of language. The subject of this research were the titles of undergraduate students research proposals within the period March 2020 to December 2021 in English Language Education Study Program of Tanjungpura University.

The technique used in this research is qualitative. The research data collected using corpus linguistic analysis. Aull (2013) stated that corpus linguistic analysis is the computer-aided analysis of linguistic patterns in and across naturally-produced texts. The researcher collected the data by corpus linguistic analysis of the research proposal of English education students of Teacher Training and Education Faculty of Tanjungpura University within the period 2020 to 2021 in English Language Education Study Program office.

There are two steps of data analysis used in this research. First, the researcher analyzed the most categories applied in research proposals submitted to English Language Education Study Program during the pandemic era from 2020 to 2021. Second, the researcher analyzed the method applied in the research proposal during the pandemic era submitted to English Language Education Study Program from 2020 to 2021.

The category classified as language skills, language elements, teaching and learning, English linguistic and English literature. The term of language skills may vary from speaking, writing, listening, and reading. The terms of language elements may vary from grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation. The terms of teaching and learning is classified from method, media, motivation and others. The terms of English linguistic is classified from phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics. The terms of English literature is classified from book, movie, and music. If the researcher finds another category, the researcher included it as a category applied. From what the researcher explains about the category in the research proposal, the researcher classified and analyzed what most categories applied in the research proposal during the pandemic era with corpus analysis.

The researcher classified methods applied in the research proposal such as action research, pre-experimental research, descriptive research, case study research, and development research. The researcher analyzed the most frequent method applied in the research proposal. The most frequent method applied was calculated when each title has been gathered and classified with the corpus technique.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

Data Collection Tool Validity

This chapter presents the result of the research, which was obtained from English Language Education Study Program office. To get the aim of the research, the researcher analyzed the data carefully and accurately. It began with the researcher asking permission from the office staff to gather the data. After getting the permission, the office staff sent the data to the researcher, and the researcher

started moving the data to the sheet to calculate the data. The researcher described the findings in this chapter in two parts. The results of the finding are described as follows. The researcher received 140 titles from March 2020 to December 2021 with various titles. The researcher found that some titles had familiar names, and some were uncommon. Then the researcher starts to classify all the titles with suitable keywords.

Analysis of The Most Category Applied in The Research Proposal.

For four language skills, the researcher used several keywords such as “Listening”, “Speaking”, “Writing”, and “Reading”. For language elements, the researcher used keywords such as “Vocabulary”, “Grammar”, “Pronunciation”, “Verb”, “Preposition”, “Structure”, “Indirect”, and “Tenses”. For teaching and learning, the researcher used several keywords such as “teaching”, “Learning”. For English Linguistics, the researcher used keywords such as “Phonology”, “Morphology”, “Syntax”, “Semantics”, “Pragmatics”. For English literature, the researcher used keywords such as book name, song name, and movie name. If none of those words belongs, it can be concluded that it is classified as etcetera. The researcher found that undergraduate students who used four language skills in their title were 55 titles. The researcher found that 30 proposals who used language elements category. The researcher found that 41 proposals used teaching and learning category. The researcher found that 0 proposal used English linguistic category. The researcher found that 14 proposals used English literature category. The researcher used the formula to count how many per cent of each category was used during the pandemic. The result is shown in the following table.

Table 1. Percentage of Category Applied

Four language skills 55 Proposals	$\frac{55}{140} \times 100 = 39\%$
Language Elements 30 Proposals	$\frac{30}{140} \times 100 = 21\%$
Teaching and Learning 41 Proposals	$\frac{41}{140} \times 100 = 30\%$
English Linguistic 0 Proposal	$\frac{0}{140} \times 100 = 0\%$
English Literature 14 Proposals	$\frac{14}{140} \times 100 = 10\%$

The diagram showed as follows:

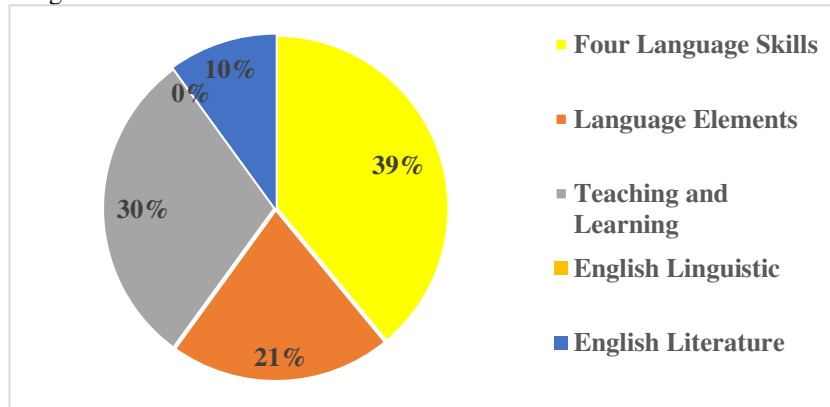


Figure 1. Diagram of The Most Category Applied

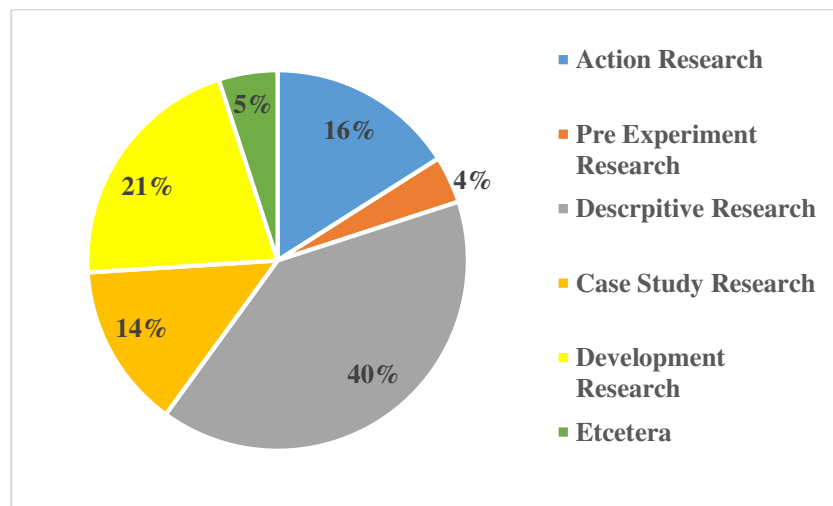
Analysis of The Most Method Applied in The Research Proposal.

For the most method applied, the researcher used keywords to classify each method used. The keywords for action research were “Improving and “Classroom Action Research”. The keywords for pre-experimental research were "The Effect", "The Effectiveness", and "Pre-Experimental". The keywords for descriptive research were "Analysis" and “Descriptive Study”. The keywords for case study research were “Study” and “Case Study”. The keywords for development research were “Designing” and "Developing". The keywords that did not belong on those belong to, etcetera. The researcher found that 23 titles used the action research method despite the pandemic era and six for pre-experiment research. Descriptive research was the most used in the pandemic era, with 56 titles used. The case study also had several numbers used for their method, with 19 titles used. Development research was another option for undergraduate students for their research proposal, with 29 titles used. The researcher also found other methods, such as survey research and library research, with seven titles. The result is shown in following table.

Table 2. Percentage of Method Applied

Action Research: 23 Proposals	$\frac{23}{140} \times 100 = 16\%$
Pre-Experiment Research: 6 Proposals	$\frac{6}{140} \times 100 = 4\%$
Descriptive Research: 56 Proposals	$\frac{56}{140} \times 100 = 40\%$
Case Study Research: 19 Proposals	$\frac{19}{140} \times 100 = 14\%$
Development Research: 29 Proposals	$\frac{29}{140} \times 100 = 21\%$
Etcetera: 7 Proposals	$\frac{7}{140} \times 100 = 5\%$

The diagram is shown in the following figure.

**Figure 2. The Most Method Applied**

Discussion

Based on the research findings, it has proven that the trend of category issues and research methodology are related to the situation of the pandemic by which social distance was imperative. The research was usually doable with physical contact, but when the pandemic hits, everything changes, and we are forced to adapt to that condition. For the final semester students, they must conduct a research proposal with minimal physical contact to minimise the spread of the virus. As a result, the students who conduct research with physical contact must change their methods to advance. The researcher also felt that the first researcher's research proposal was about classroom action research. However, when the pandemic struck, the researcher changed to descriptive research with help and advice from the supervisor.

It is shown that 40% of titles were about the descriptive studies, whether they researched by analyzed books, films, surveys in a small group, online surveys, or thesis. Development is the second method used in the pandemic era, with 21% of titles used. The students used development research because of minimal physical contact and efficient study of the pandemic. Many students must often conduct development research because it is suitable for our educational system and the teaching system's regeneration. Classroom action research was still used despite the pandemic with 16% of titles. Some schools did offline learning but with strict protocol, and the cases in some areas were not raised significantly. Students can still conduct action research but with little option of school opening. Same with pre-experiment research with 4% titles, they had little option to choose which school opened during the pandemic. Some students conduct surveys and library research, which the researcher just heard, and 5% belong. The most category applied was four language skills with 39%. The second category applied was teaching and learning category with 30%. The third category applied was language elements with 21%. The fourth category applied was English literature with 10%. The fifth category applied was English linguistic with 0% or none had applied this category. This phenomenon is suitable with pandemic situation because many undergraduate students choose the doable category based on situation that caused no social contact as a part of research proposal writing.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion

Referring to the discussion above, most undergraduate students chose descriptive research as their method during the pandemic era because the condition of descriptive research requires non-physical contact and could be made without an audience or sample. Development research was the second undergraduate students chose their method applied. Similar to descriptive research, development research had only one man mandatory who designed teaching materials and tested their product with a smaller group to prevent the spread of the virus. These two methods were a good choice for undergraduate students who conduct research in a pandemic era without waiting for the cases to go down or for the spread to be controlled.

Suggestion

Student of English Language Education Study Program

The researchers can choose any research methods which does not need physical contact such as descriptive analysis and development research .Because we never know whether the virus will spread or not. In conclusion, descriptive and development research is the most suitable method to apply during the pandemic.

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