CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses background of the research, scope of the research, statement of the problem, objective of the research, and significance of the research.

A. Background of the Research

English is taught as a foreign language in Indonesia. Students are learning English in order to reach higher qualification of mastering language. Mainly, the aim of English learning is to train the four skills which are listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Writing is an important skill in English besides reading, speaking, and listening that should be learned by the students at University level. Writing is a skill to transfers ideas, experiences and feelings into written form. By mastering the skill (writing) the student will be able to express their ideas, opinion, feelings, and thought in order to produce a text.

Writing is one of the basic skills related to communication ability. In writing student should understand well the grammar and mastery a lot of vocabularies, so that the messages of their writing will be clear, coherent and delivery to the readers. Writing is a crucial and familiar thing for everybody especially for the student. In daily activities, students have to write notes, task or information. Even, writing skill which is emphasized well by the student in school. The students should master grammar, vocabulary, spelling,

punctuation, and should pay attention to the criteria in good writing. The students, their writing can be understood by the readers. That is why, students should practice more.

However, the students at English language education study program at Khairun University, especially the fifth semester have difficulties in writing essays. The students may get difficulties in combining and constructing their ideas to produce sentences correctly. The students have lack of vocabulary, moreover in choosing words and arranging the words into a good sentence. The students' difficulties in writing English can be influenced by linguistics difficulty like vocabularies, and grammar, lack of written exercises and ideas. Not only linguistic difficulty but also the most difficult one compare to the Cognitive Difficulty (organization and mechanics aspects) and Physiology Difficulty (content aspect) as well. It is supported by Sulasti (2003) in Pratiwi (2012), the problems that they mostly face are about how to write, what to be written, and lack of vocabulary words as well as incompetence in structure.

Based on the background above, the researcher is interested in doing research about writing under the title **investigating students' difficulties in essay writing at English Language Education Study Program of Khairun University.**

B. Scope of the Research

This research investigates students' difficulties they face in writing essay.

C. Statement of the Problem

Based on the discussion in the background of the research above, the researcher formulates the statement of the problem as:

What are the students' difficulties in writing essay at Khairun University?

D. Objective of the Research

This research aims to find out students' difficulties in writing essays at Khairun University

E. Significance of the Research

This research is carried out hopefully to achieve the significance as follows:

1. Theoretically

This research could be one of literatures to enrich knowledge about students' difficulties in writing essays.

2. Practically

By conducting this research, the researcher could find out difficulties that students' at higher education usually face in writing essay and could be a source to solve the writing problem in the future.

a. For English Teachers and Lecturers

By identifying the difficulties in writing essays that students' commonly faced during writing process, hopefully English teachers and lecturers could design a new method in delivering writing subject to solve the problems.

b. For the students

After recognizing the difficulties, students' are expected to write better about writing essays in the future.

c. For the researchers

The result of this research can be used as a reference for the other researchers who are going to conduct further research related to writing essays.