

ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to find out the difficulties faced by the undergraduate EFL students' in writing English argumentative essay at Universitas Islam Negeri Raden Fatah Palembang. It was carried out by using a qualitative research design as it attempted to describe the problems. The participants of this study were four students in the 4th semester of the 2022/2023 academic year taken by using maximum variation sampling technique. Interview was conducted to collect the data, and the data were analyzed by using thematic analysis. The finding showed that there were three categories of difficulties faced by the undergraduate EFL students' in writing English argumentative essay: (1) Linguistics factors; (2) Psychological factors; (3) Cognitive factors. The students faced difficulties in linguistics factors related to lack of grammar mastery, lack of mastery in content of argumentative essay writing, and vocabulary diction in writing argumentative essay. Psychological factors included laziness and mood in writing an argumentative essay. Cognitive factors were related to lack of students ability in organizing idea when writing argumentative essay, lack of using capital letters and punctuation, developing the paragraph, and lack of critical thinking. In short, the students still had difficulties with writing skills, especially writing English argumentative essay, and they were expected to develop their writing skills.

Keywords: *Difficulties, English argumentative essay, Essay writing.*