THE ACADEMIC WRITING STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS TOWARD PREWRITING ACTIVITIES: A QUALITATIVE STUDY ON ACADEMIC WRITING CLASSES

Dian Pratiwi

ABSTRACT

Prewriting activities like brainstorming and outlining are commonly conducted in academic writing class and teachers believe that such prewriting activities are beneficial and necessary to be conducted in the academic paper writing. Yet, students may have their own perceptions toward brainstorming and outlining, whether they are helpful and important or not. This study aims to investigate students’ perceptions toward brainstorming and outlining in academic writing class. Fifteen English Department students who already took academic writing class participated in this study. Semi structured interview was used to get participants’ opinions about doing brainstorming and outlining in academic writing class. Using descriptive written explanation the data from the interview was analyzed. The result showed that most of the participants shared the perceptions that brainstorming and outlining were helpful and necessary to be conducted in the prewriting stage. However, it was also found that there were a small number of students who did not need prewriting activities because of their preferences and writing habits. This study suggests that brainstorming and outlining were necessary to be conducted because of their positive contributions toward students’ academic papers.

Keyword : students’ perceptions, prewriting activities, brainstorming, outlining, academic writing