# Typology of Indonesian Language and Literature Department Students' Thesis in Universitas Negeri Makassar: Meta-Analysis

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## Abstract

Currently, there is limited publication on typology of language learning and social issues in undergraduate thesis. This research article aims to address this issue. This article aims to identify patterns of bachelor thesis typology in Indonesian Language and Literature Department, State University of Makassar. The sample of the study included 371 undergraduate thesis from 2015-2017. The results of the study indicate that there are different types of thesis typology and methodologies issues used by students in this study. More importantly, there was a redundancy of themes appeared in the undergraduate thesis. Therefore, it is suggested that students' needs to inform about the themes researched earlier. As a consequence, this dissemination can improve sensitivity to their research issues and competencies.

**Keywords:** research, meta-analysis, undergraduate student, thesis

## Introduction

Information about the results of the student research has been widely available in the form of a thesis and easily accessed through various campus publishing facilities either print or online documents. However, research with a meta-analysis approach that explains the typology of the whole or a part of existing thesis is still difficult to find. Information about the typology which includes the types of concern issues and the variety trends of methodologies applied in the thesis is not yet found at this time. Therefore, this research was conducted to fill this gap.

The knowledge gained through meta-analysis of thesis is very important to localize the possibility of potential duplication. Another interest is facilitating the efforts to identify social issues in learning settings which are still neglected or under-researched. Both aspects must get attention because it involves the institution control to ensure the efficiency, expediency, and optimization in organizing higher education and leading to. The implementation of research by students with the same phenomenon repeatedly is wasteful action which is useless and it can be a violation of academic ethics. At the same time, the accumulation of the research on certain issues cannot create the overall of students' scientific knowledge.

The study about thesis typology is very urgent to conduct regarding to the era of digital innovation has been accompanied by the internet usage in the general public and universities. Various studies have shown that academic activities in the educated circles in this country and abroad are facilitated by the use of internet to gather the information. Indonesian internet user in 2016 reach 132.7 million people with the percentage was 80% aged 15 to 19 years from all users (Muhasim, 2017). There were 60% of sample students at Mindanao State University - Iligan Institute of Technology always use the internet, 36 % of sample students said they often used the internet while only 4% students seldom used the internet. Of that amount, there were 58.03% of the respondents used the Internet for 1 – 14.7 hours per week and there were 5.18% of those who used the internet for the longest time, it was 56.2 –

70 hours per week (Acut, 2015). According to Tantarangsee, the internet usage by the students of the English Department, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University in Bangkok reach between two and eight hours per day (Tantarangsee, 2017). Internet usage is also driven by the government policies. One of Indonesian polices is the implementation of information and technology-based learning development. This situation also happened in United Kingdom even though the documents relating to the strategy of using technology to help learning in higher education do not offend an innovation (Flavin, 2018).

The widely use of internet can provide convenience as well as pose a threat in writing thesis, especially for the students at Indonesian Language and Literature Department, Faculty of Language and Literature, Universitas Negeri Makassar (ILLD-FLL, UNM). That is because the technology has a dualism as a convenience giver and disruption maker (Flavin, 2018). The availability of library information on the internet and another printed source for thesis writing should provide convenience for students to compose a high novelty thesis. Social issues about the background of learning and language education that are worthy to conducted by students are available in abundance, but it is not yet known how the tendency of students to choose the issue or theme in their thesis writing process. Therefore, this study was conducted to answer the question,

## Methodology

This research is a study of undergraduate thesis documentation of ILLD's students, FLL, UNM. The sample of this study were 371 thesis which taken randomly from whole thesis produced from 2015 to 2017. The entire samples are printed documents which are available as an archive in the office of the Indonesian Language and Literature Department and in the library of the Faculty of Languages and Literature. The data was collected by recording techniques and analyzed descriptively by using a meta-analysis approach.

## Results and Discussion

The issues examined by the students from 2015 to 2017 were gathered under nine themes. The themes are given in Table 1:

Table 1. Students' Research Theme of ILLD-FLL UNM from 2015 to 2017

| No. | Theme | The Number of Thesis | | | Total |
|-----|-------|------|------|------|-------|
| | | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | |
| 1 | Language Proficiency | 44 | 33 | 5 | 82 |
| 2 | Contents of Literary Text | 22 | 20 | - | 42 |
| 3 | Teaching Ability | 1 | 27 | - | 28 |
| 4 | The effect of Learning Techniques | 2 | 9 | 17 | 28 |
| 5 | Contents of Non-literary Text | 6 | - | 15 | 21 |
| 6 | Language Skill | 4 | 91 | 33 | 128 |
| 7 | Pragmatics | 1 | 11 | - | 12 |
| 8 | Culture | 1 | - | 25 | 26 |
| 9 | Educational Policy | - | - | 4 | 4 |
| | Total | 81 | 191 | 99 | 371 |

Table 1 shows that the number of research themes which conducted by the students were different from year to year. There were 8 themes examined by the students in 2015 and each 6 themes in 2016 and 2017. Of all the themes, there were three themes are examined in every year, namely language proficiency, the effect of learning techniques and language skill. Most of themes are investigated repeatedly in two consecutive years or not, they are content of literary texts, teaching abilities, contents of non-literary, pragmatic, and

cultural. Another theme is about the education policy which a new study in this last year (2017).

The comparison of the types of research themes intensity in three years is presented in the figure 1 below:
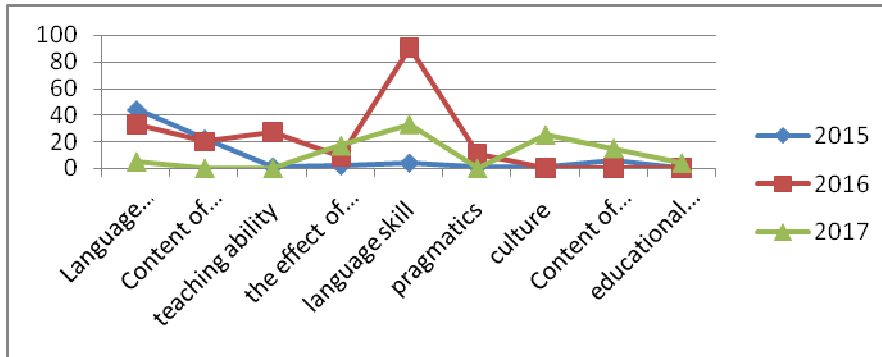


Figure 1. The Comparison of selecting themes intensity of ILLD-FLL UNM students, in 2015 to 2017

Figure 1 shows that the most researched theme is language skill which is mostly conducted in 2016 and 2017. The theme that is also often researched is language proficiency in 2015 and 2016 but it decreases in 2017.

The research approach that has been applied in the students' research of JBSI-FBS, UNM and the intensity of its selection from year to year is presented in figure 2 as follow:
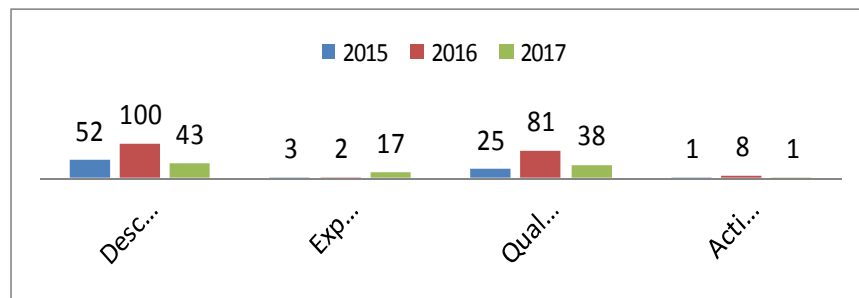


Figure 2. Research Approach Used by Students of ILLD-FLL UNM in 2015 to 2017

Figure 2 shows that the research approach which mostly applied the most widely applied in each year is quantitative descriptive research and qualitative research. Both research approaches are very often applied especially in 2016. It is in line with the number of theses produced at that time. The application of a particular research approach is carried out on particular research themes as well. The following table shows the intersection table between the research theme and the research approach.

Table 2. The Application of Research Approaches Based on the Research Themes in 2015 to 2017

| Theme | Approaches | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Descriptive Quantitative | Experiment | Qualitative | Classroom Action Research |
| Language Proficiency | yes | No | no | No |
| Contents of Literary text | yes | No | Yes | No |
| Teaching Ability | yes | No | No | No |
| The effects of learning techniques | no | Yes | No | Yes |
| Content of non-literary text | yes | No | Yes | No |

Cont. Table 2

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Language skill | yes | Yes | No | Yes |
| Pragmatics | yes | No | No | No |
| Culture | no | No | Yes | No |
| Education Policy | ye | No | No | No |

Table 2 shows that the themes of language proficiency that are most often studied are examined only by using descriptive approaches. This is different from the theme of language skills which are also often researched. This study is examined by using a variety of research approaches, namely descriptive quantitative, experimental, and classroom action research.

The data shows the tendency for the selection of themes and approaches of students' research in ILLD-FLL UNM and the intensity of the selection or application. The results of this study which emphasize by meta-analysis approach have shown that this typology of research is also an overview of the quality of research. A research that uses a series of research results as a base of its analysis can be categorized as an assessment research. This research has been reported by Cabral (2014) in the context of research in Europe which has been implemented by using the Multidimensional Research Assessment Matrix. This methodology describes the objectives, procedures and steps for the multidimensional development methodology to make the institutional comparison. It also contributes in improving the quality of research and in developing comparative assessments of European institutions (Cabral, 2014).

This study found that the typology of ILLD-FLL UNM student thesis is the issue compiled in 9 themes. This theme is still very small compared to learning issues related to the subjects in the ILLD-FLL UNM curriculum. This finding indicates that there are still many themes that need to be prioritized in the preparation of the thesis.

The tendency of themes that is very often researched by students suggests the need for a good arrangement in guiding the preparation of the thesis at ILLD-FLL UNM. Even though the thesis has not been expected to present reliable scientific findings, the preparation process is part of the formation of student knowledge. Students should not only be involved as scanners looking for a way of asking as Lawrence (2015) intended. Institutions must run the system of preparing a thesis fairly because they have the responsibility for producing useful knowledge (Cabral, 2014).

Efforts to avoid research typologies that tend to accumulate on certain issues or methodologies in higher education must be carried out by thesis supervisors and all department lecturers. The involvement of students in disseminating research results is very important to increase sensitivity to the issue of teaching extensively. Dissemination of research results in higher education does not only stimulate sensitivity to the issues under study. Dissemination is also beneficial because it increases the response to changing trends in development and improving the quality of life of citizens in a country and emphasizes internal planning accountability and external accountability (Anumaka, 2014).

## Conclusion

The issues that reflected on the student research theme in three years are varied and are not much different in each period of research implementation. The frequency of each research theme is disproportionate. Therefore, there are themes that are very often examined, but some are still less. These themes have been studied with all the approaches which are applied selectively in the research, and the intensity of the research approach usage is also not balanced with each other.

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