Students' Thesis Statement in Essay Writing Class

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Abstract. *Writing an essay is quite tricky since it needs more than pouring all ideas in written form. Those ideas must be organized well since different essays were structured in different ways. However, the core of an essay lies in its thesis statement. It is the answer of the topic question, in which the construction of the rest parts of the essay was dependable on it. Therefore, it is imperative that the students accurately determine correct and focused thesis statement so that their essay will be a good one. Thus, this article tried to analyze students' thesis statement and the possible causes to not good thesis statement. The results of analysis revealed that students' thesis statement could be categorized into good thesis statement, good thesis statement with some focus, good thesis statement with too broad focus, quite good thesis statement, and not good thesis statement. The possible causes that emerged and influenced students' thesis statement were students' grammatical mastery level and their topical knowledge.*

Key words: *essay writing; thesis statement*

A. INTRODUCTION

Learning to write is challenging for non-native students. Having rich vocabulary, mastering grammatical structure, and familiarizing text organization are crucially beneficial to produce an acceptable writing. Therefore, those three aspects should be emphasized in teaching writing for non-native students. Besides, another aspect which should be taken into an account is idea(s) which needs a special concern since it is core of writing to be extracted by the reader(s). In this case, integrating those aspects in writing becomes main priority to serve reader(s) with acceptable and informative writing.

In writing, especially in writing an essay, it needs to understand more than those aspects because writing an essay demands students to construct logical ideas orderly. The ideas should reflect on the answer of topic question which controls the flow of idea(s) to be presented in writing. However, presenting only idea(s) or argument(s) is insufficient without presenting the evidence(s), fact(s), or example(s). It needs a well-reasoned and coherent argument that is backed by authoritative evidence (McClain & Roth, 1999). Serving such an authoritative evidence will strengthen the idea or argument proposed.

Evidence is one type of support to the argument. Chesla (2006) classified type of support into specific examples, facts, reasons, descriptions and anecdotes, expert opinion and analysis, and quotations from the text. It is possible for those classifications to overlap one to another. A fact, for instance, commonly becomes a specific example. Therefore, there is no clear boundary which characterizes the classification.

Ideas and supports seem to be very crucial in writing and supporting an essay. However, those ideas and supports are worthless if they are not relevant to the topic question being pointed. In this case, understanding topic question yields a promising start to write relevant ideas. If topic question says "Should euthanasia be legal in Indonesia?", the possible related idea is by pointing out arguments or ideas, and supports that strengthen them like by discussing social, ethical, religious, and constitutional aspects as considerations to legalize the act. The idea becomes irrelevant if it is not answering what topic question calls. Thus, constructing good and relevant answer of topic question is vital.

Schaum (1999) mentions that a thesis statement is the answer to your topic question. In this case, inability in understanding topic question has effect on thesis statement. For instance, topic question like "Should euthanasia be legal in

Indonesia?" will be misjudged by declaring thesis statement like "Euthanasia may be legal if it is the right decision to do". Since this thesis statement is likely answering the topic question, however, it is irrelevant to the topic question. The expected answer would be by stating our claim of the topic question and providing reasons for the claim.

Good thesis statement reflects the understanding of topic question. There are several aspects need to consider in building good thesis statement. Good thesis statement is short and simple, limited to one main idea about the topic, and in a declarative sentence that contains no qualifiers (Schaum, 1999). Further, Chesla (2006) points out that a good thesis statement makes a strong, clear assertion that conveys the attitude about the subject. It strikes the right balance between too broad and too narrow. It needs to be focused enough to encompass just enough material to cover within the spatial confines of the essay, and narrow enough to include enough material that can be supported by evidence. It is not simply an announcement of the subject matter. It needs to tell readers what you are going to say about your subject. It is not simply a question or list of questions. It is also a statement of fact.

The aspects proposed by Chesla (2016) are appropriate to judge if the thesis statement good or not. To sum up her ideas, it can be retracted that there are five aspects to consider: strong assessertion, balanced, not an announcement, not a question, not a statement of fact. Therefore, the writer is going to use Chesla's aspect to judge students' thesis statement.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

This is a descriptive qualitative research which analyzes students' thesis statement based on Chesla's aspects of good thesis statement. Descriptive approach refers to research questions that use only descriptive, not inferential statistics and qualitative research could be classified as one type of descriptive research using

this definition and framework (Gliner, Morgan, & Leech, 2017). Thus, this research described the phenomenon qualitatively without employing inferential statistics in making the conclusion.

The participants of this research were English department students of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training Faculty, UIN Raden Intan Lampung, who joined the writer's essay writing class, class C of the forth semester. There were 39 students who joined the class. The data were the thesis statements found in students' essay writing works of their final test. The given topic questions were "*Should prostitution be legal to decrease sexual violence such as rape?*" and "*Should marijuana be a medical option?*". The students were allowed to choose one of those two topic questions to construct their essay.

The obtained data were analyzed by using Chesla's aspects of good thesis statements. Before analyzing the data, the writer identified thesis statement in each student's essay. After identifying the thesis statement, he classified students' thesis statement into two classifications: no thesis statement, and thesis statement. Those essays which contain no thesis statement were discarded from the research data, only those which contain thesis statement were analyzed. Having classified students' essay, he analyzed the thesis statements based on Chesla's aspects by identifying whether Chesla's aspects contained in those thesis statements.

C. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION
Findings
To obtain the data, the writer collected students' worksheet on essay writing final test. The topic questions were "*Should prostitution be legal to decrease sexual violence such as rape?*" and "*Should marijuana be a medical option?*", in which students chose one of them.

Identifying thesis statement

In identifying thesis statement in each essay, the writer selected the first paragraph of students' essay in which the thesis statements located. After selecting the first paragraph of their essay, the result showed that there were 22 essays out of 38 essays which contained thesis statements. Those 16 essays contained no clear thesis statements nor irrelevant answer of topic questions. So, they were discarded. Next, the 22 thesis statements would be analyzed individually by using Chesla's aspects.

Analyzing thesis statement

To analyze those thesis statements, evaluating table was employed to check whether the aspects had been found in each thesis statement. The first aspect evaluated whether the thesis statements stated clear assertion which showed students' attitude about the subject. There were no assertion, mild assertion, and strong assertion. The second aspect dealt with the focus of the discussion of the thesis statements. There were too broad, some focus, focused, too narrow, and balanced classification. The third aspects evaluated if thesis statement was not simply an announcement of the subject matter or not. The fourth aspect examined if thesis statement was not simply a question or list of question. The last aspect evaluated if thesis statement was not simply a statement of fact (Chesla, 2006).

Since there were some indicators in each aspect, the writer encodes the term for each indicator. In the first aspect, assertion, the indicator were No Assertion (NA), Mild Assertion (MA), and Strong Assertion (SA). In the second aspect, focus, the indicator were Too Broad (TB), Some Focus (SF), Focused (F), Too Narrow (TN), and Balanced (B). In the third aspect, idea, the indicators were Announcement (A) and Thesis Statement (TS). In the fourth aspect, idea, the indicators were Question (Q) and Thesis Statement (TS). The last aspect, idea, the indicators were Statement of Fact (SoF) and Thesis Statement (TS).

The 23 thesis statements, after identifying 38 students' essay, were analyzed by putting each of them into table and giving Y for Yes if it possess the aspect.

The first thesis statement was the third students' paragraph on marijuana.

3	Thesis Statement	Marijuana should not be medical option. Islam forbid us to use marijuana because it is included of narkotika												
		Assertion			Focus					Idea		Idea		Idea	
		NA	MA	SA	TB	SF	F	TN	B	A	TS	Q	TS	SoF	TS
				Y		Y					Y		Y		Y

This thesis statement from the third students' paragraph was stated in strong assertion which meant the student clearly showed his attitude towards the topic by directly saying "*should not be*". It also focused the discussion from Islamic point of view with unclear limitation. It was clearly not an announcement since the student clearly stated his attitude. It was not a question since the statement was not stated in interrogative sentence. It was also not a statement of fact since it was the student's opinion towards the topic or subject. Therefore, this statement was a good thesis statement with some focus of discussion.

The second thesis statement was the fourth students' paragraph on marijuana.

4	Thesis Statement	In my opinion marijuana should be a medical option. Because it has a lot of advantage for human's body.												
		Assertion			Focus					Idea		Idea		Idea	
		NA	MA	SA	TB	SF	F	TN	B	A	TS	Q	TS	SoF	TS
				Y			Y				Y		Y		Y

This thesis statement from student's paragraph was stated in strong assertion which meant the student clearly showed his attitude towards the topic by directly saying "*should be a medical option*". It also focused the discussion only on the advantage of marijuana on human's body. It was clearly not an announcement since the students clearly stated his attitude. It was not a question since the statement was not stated in interrogative sentence. It was also not a statement of fact it was student's opinion towards the topic or subject. Therefore, this statement was a good thesis statement.

The third thesis statement was the seventh student's paragraph on marijuana.

7	Thesis Statement	In may opinion marijuana must be stopped to use in medical or in consume it own. Marijuana shouldn't be a medical option.												
		Assertion			Focus					Idea		Idea		Idea	
		NA	MA	SA	TB	SF	F	TN	B	A	TS	Q	TS	SoF	TS
				Y	Y						Y		Y		Y

This thesis statement was stated in strong assertion which meant the student clearly showed his attitude towards the topic by directly saying "*must be stopped*" and followed by another strong assertion "*shouldn't be*". It did not focus specifically to certain discussion since he only asserted to stop using marijuana as a medical option without giving any specific reason or stopping it. It was clearly not an announcement since the students clearly stated his attitude. It was not a question since the statement was not stated in interrogative sentence. It was also not a statement of fact it was student's opinion towards the topic or subject. Therefore, this thesis statement is good thesis statement with too broad discussion.

The fourth thesis statement was the eighth student's paragraph on prostitution.

8	Thesis Statement	Prostitution shouldn't be legal to decrease sexual violence because prostitution can make moral destruction and that is not allow in religion.												
		Assertion			Focus					Idea		Idea		Idea	
		NA	MA	SA	TB	SF	F	TN	B	A	TS	Q	TS	SoF	TS
				Y			Y				Y		Y		Y

This thesis statement was stated in strong assertion which meant the student clearly showed his attitude towards the topic by directly saying "*shouldn't be legal*". It specifically focused on the discussion based on moral aspect and religious aspect. It was clearly not an announcement since the students clearly stated his attitude. It was not a question since the statement was not stated in interrogative sentence. It was also not a statement of fact it was student's opinion towards the topic or subject. Therefore, this thesis statement is good thesis statement.

The fifth thesis statement was the ninth student's paragraph on marijuana.

9	Thesis Statement	In the health marijuana can't be use marijuana because marijuana is make someone to use stupid, lazy, and make someone forgetten.												
		Assertion			Focus					Idea		Idea		Idea	
		NA	MA	SA	TB	SF	F	TN	B	A	TS	Q	TS	SoF	TS
		Y				Y				Y			Y		Y

This thesis statement was not an assertion since the student used the words "*can't be*" which provided information, not showed his attitude towards the topic. It was not completely focus discussion, only focusing on the effects (stupid, lazy, forgetten) without discussing the how marijuana caused those effects. It is likely an announcement, rather than thesis statement although it was stated in positive sentence, not a question. It was not a statement of fact. Therefore, this thesis statement was not good thesis statement because the student did not clearly show his attitude and it was lack of focus and regarded as an announcement.

The sixth thesis statement was the tenth student's paragraph on marijuana.

10	Thesis Statement	I think marijuana not be medical option because marijuana forbid in Agama and marijuana sesuatu yang haram. Telah grafting in Al-Quran Surah Al-Baqarah ayat 219, Al-Araf 157 and Fatwa of friend Imam Syafi'i.												
		Assertion			Focus					Idea		Idea		Idea	
		NA	MA	SA	TB	SF	F	TN	B	A	TS	Q	TS	SoF	TS
			Y					Y			Y		Y		Y

This thesis statement was not a strong assertion since the claim is not followed by clear attitude towards the topic. The focus was too narrow since it discussed marijuana based on religious point of view with some facts. It was clearly not an announcement although the students weakly stated his attitude. It was not a question since the statement was not stated in interrogative sentence. It was also not a statement of fact it was student's opinion towards the topic or subject. Therefore, this thesis statement was a good thesis statement with too narrow focus of discussion.

The seventh thesis statement was the eleventh student's paragraph on marijuana.

11	Thesis Statement	I agree that marijuana should be a medical option because it be safe to user with good dosage.												
		Assertion			Focus					Idea		Idea		Idea	
		NA	MA	SA	TB	SF	F	TN	B	A	TS	Q	TS	SoF	TS
		Y			Y				Y		Y		Y	Y	

This thesis statement was a strong assertion since the student clearly stated his attitude towards the subject by stating "*I agree*" and "*should be a medical option*". It focused the discussion on the safety of using marijuana on the right dosage. It

was clearly not an announcement although the students weakly stated his attitude. It was not a question since the statement was not stated in interrogative sentence. It was also not a statement of fact it was student's opinion towards the topic or subject. Therefore, this thesis statement was a good thesis statement.

The eighth thesis statement was the twelfth student's paragraph on marijuana.

12	Thesis Statement	In the health marijuana can be use for process medical option, but marijuana can be use a little total. Marijuana can be option to health but, somtime marijuana make people do it crime.												
		Assertion			Focus					Idea		Idea		Idea	
		NA	MA	SA	TB	SF	F	TN	B	A	TS	Q	TS	SoF	TS
		Y			Y					Y			Y	Y	

There was no assertion in this thesis statement since the student did not clearly state his attitude towards the topic. The focus was too broad. He discussed the two-sided usage of marijuana without giving specific claim towards it. It was likely an announcement and was a statement of fact. Therefore, this statement was not a good statement because of his unclear attitude towards the topic and broad focus.

The ninth thesis statement was the thirteenth student's paragraph on prostitution.

13	Thesis Statement	I believe that prostitution should not be lagal to decrease sexual violence such as rape.												
		Assertion			Focus					Idea		Idea		Idea	
		NA	MA	SA	TB	SF	F	TN	B	A	TS	Q	TS	SoF	TS
				Y		Y					Y		Y		Y

Strong assertion was stated in this thesis statement since the student strongly said "*I believe*" and "*should not be legal*" which showed his attitude towards the topic. Unfortunately, the discussion was not focused since he only repeated the topic question without providing certain reasons. It was clearly not an announcement although the students weakly stated his attitude. It was not a question since the statement was not stated in interrogative sentence. It was also not a statement of fact it was student's opinion towards the topic or subject. Thus, this statement was a good thesis statement with some focus of discussion.

The tenth thesis statement was the fourteenth student's paragraph on marijuana.

14	Thesis Statement	I believe marijuana be a medical option. In Amerika Serikat any research about the advantage marijuana to healthy, to more peope creative, and then marijuana have two classification, that is high marijuana and low marijuana.											
		Assertion			Focus					Idea		Idea		Idea	
		NA	MA	SA	TB	SF	F	TN	B	A	TS	Q	TS	SoF	TS
			Y			Y					Y		Y		Y

This thesis statement was mild assertion since the student only stated his believe without showing his attitude towards the topic by saying "*I believe*" without expressing "*it should be or should not be*". It also focused the discussion on advantages of marijuana and its classification. It was clearly not an announcement although the students weakly stated his attitude. It was not a question since the statement was not stated in interrogative sentence. It was also not a statement of fact it was student's opinion towards the topic or subject. Thus, it was a mild statement with some focus of discussion.

The eleventh thesis statement was the fifteenth student's paragraph on marijuana.

15	Thesis Statement	I believe that marijuana be a medical option because in marijuana content THC.											
		Assertion			Focus					Idea		Idea		Idea	
		NA	MA	SA	TB	SF	F	TN	B	A	TS	Q	TS	SoF	TS
			Y		Y						Y		Y		Y

This thesis statement was a mild assertion since the student clearly showed his attitude towards the topic by saying "*I believe*" without clearly saying "*should be or should not be*". The focus was too broad since it discussed THC in marijuana without specifically mentioning its effects or impacts towards body. It was clearly not an announcement although the students weakly stated his attitude. It was not a question since the statement was not stated in interrogative sentence. It was also not a statement of fact it was student's opinion towards the topic or subject. Therefore, this thesis statement was a mild statement with a broad focus.

The twelfth thesis statement was the sixteenth student's paragraph on marijuana.

16	Thesis Statement	My opinion marijuana should not be a medical option because very dangerous for body and marijuana will make predicted (kecanduan) if someone, user or people used marijuana.											
		Assertion			Focus					Idea		Idea		Idea	
		NA	MA	SA	TB	SF	F	TN	B	A	TS	Q	TS	SoF	TS
				Y			Y				Y		Y		Y

This thesis statement was a strong assertion since the student clearly showed his attitude towards the topic by saying " *My opinion*" and " *should not be*". The discussion was focused on its dangerous and its effects. It was clearly not an announcement although the students weakly stated his attitude. It was not a question since the statement was not stated in interrogative sentence. It was also not a statement of fact it was student's opinion towards the topic or subject. Therefore, this thesis statement was a good thesis statement.

The thirteenth thesis statement was the seventeenth student's paragraph on marijuana.

17	Thesis Statement	I agree marijuana be a medical option because marijuana has benefit to relieve pain and from result studies conducted by experts that actually use of marijuana is not as dangerous than cigarettes and alcohol.											
		Assertion			Focus					Idea		Idea		Idea	
		NA	MA	SA	TB	SF	F	TN	B	A	TS	Q	TS	SoF	TS
				Y			Y				Y		Y		Y

This thesis statement was a mild assertion since the student clearly showed his attitude towards the topic by saying "*I agree*". The discussion was focused since he related the benefit of marijuana to the result of studies. It was clearly not an announcement although the students weakly stated his attitude. It was not a question since the statement was not stated in interrogative sentence. It was also not a statement of fact it was student's opinion towards the topic or subject. Therefore, this thesis statement was a good one.

The fourteenth thesis statement was the twenty-fifth student's paragraph on marijuana.

25	Thesis Statement	It should not to be a medical option because marijuana can make the people less their think. And there are hadist about it.											
		Assertion			Focus					Idea		Idea		Idea	
		NA	MA	SA	TB	SF	F	TN	B	A	TS	Q	TS	SoF	TS
				Y	Y						Y		Y		Y

This thesis statement was a strong assertion since the student clearly showed his attitude towards the topic by saying" *should not to be*". The focus of discussion was too broad in which he discussed the unclear negative influence of marijuana and unspecific hadist. It was clearly not an announcement although the students

weakly stated his attitude. It was not a question since the statement was not stated in interrogative sentence. It was also not a statement of fact it was student's opinion towards the topic or subject. Therefore, this thesis statement was a good thesis statement with too broad discussion.

The fifteenth thesis statement was the twenty-sixth student's paragraph on prostitution.

26	Thesis Statement	Prostitution should be legalitation because shouldn't be crime and can help country.												
		Assertion			Focus					Idea		Idea		Idea	
		NA	MA	SA	TB	SF	F	TN	B	A	TS	Q	TS	SoF	TS
			Y		Y						Y		Y		Y

This thesis statement was a mild assertion since the student confusingly showed his attitude towards the topic by saying "*should be legalitation*". The focus of the discussion was too broad because it mentioned that prostitution was not a crime, no specific reason for this, and it could help country, no specific details for this. However, it was clearly not an announcement although the students weakly stated his attitude. It was not a question since the statement was not stated in interrogative sentence. It was also not a statement of fact it was student's opinion towards the topic or subject. Thus, this thesis statement was a quite good statement with too broad discussion.

The sixteenth thesis statement was the twenty-eighth student's paragraph on prostitution.

28	Thesis Statement	Prostitution should be legal to decrease sexual violence such as rape. Because in my opinion, it should be better for the prostitution doer doing it by legal, it should not be better if prostitution should not be legal to decrease sexual violence such as rape, it will make the prostitution doer be randomly do the prostitution activity in many place												
		Assertion			Focus					Idea		Idea		Idea	
		NA	MA	SA	TB	SF	F	TN	B	A	TS	Q	TS	SoF	TS
				Y		Y					Y		Y		Y

This thesis statement was a strong assertion in which the student showed his attitude towards the topic by saying "*in my opinion*" and "*should be legal*". The discussion focused on the betterment for legalizing prostitution but missed some points like providing reasons, or cause and effect for legalizing it. It was clearly

not an announcement although the students weakly stated his attitude. It was not a question since the statement was not stated in interrogative sentence. It was also not a statement of fact it was student's opinion towards the topic or subject. Therefore, this thesis statement was a good one with some focus.

The seventeenth thesis statement was the twenty-ninth student's paragraph on marijuana.

29	Thesis Statement	Marijuana don't be should used to a medical option because marijuana is very dangerous for health, for body, and can be mad depression, cause sensory, error brain, very dangerous for body such as brain, liver, lungs and here are short term effect and long term effect if the users.											
		Assertion			Focus					Idea		Idea		Idea	
		NA	MA	SA	TB	SF	F	TN	B	A	TS	Q	TS	SoF	TS
			Y				Y				Y		Y		Y

This thesis statement was a mild thesis statement since the student showed his attitude towards the topic ungrammatically by saying "*don't be should used to*". Although it was a mild thesis statement, the discussion was focused. It was clearly not an announcement although the students weakly stated his attitude. It was not a question since the statement was not stated in interrogative sentence. It was also not a statement of fact it was student's opinion towards the topic or subject. Therefore, this thesis statement was quite a good thesis statement.

The eighteenth thesis statement was the thirtieth student's paragraph on prostitution.

30	Thesis Statement	Prostitution shouldn't be legalalized, because sexual violence still available if prostitution be legalized, it's shameful way to make a living, and it can be affected to individual if they are exposed for using prostitution.											
		Assertion			Focus					Idea		Idea		Idea	
		NA	MA	SA	TB	SF	F	TN	B	A	TS	Q	TS	SoF	TS
				Y			Y				Y		Y		Y

This thesis statement was a strong assertion since the student showed his attitude the topic, prostitution, by saying "*shouldn't be legalalized*". The discussion was focused. It was clearly not an announcement although the students weakly stated his attitude. It was not a question since the statement was not stated in interrogative sentence. It was also not a statement of fact it was student's opinion towards the topic or subject. Therefore, this was a good thesis statement.

The nineteenth thesis statement was the thirty-second student's paragraph on marijuana.

32	Thesis Statement	I believe marijuana should be a medical option because marijuana present and reduces cancer.												
		Assertion			Focus					Idea		Idea		Idea	
		NA	MA	SA	TB	SF	F	TN	B	A	TS	Q	TS	SoF	TS
				Y			Y				Y		Y		Y

This statement was a strong assertion since the student definitely showed his attitude towards the topic by saying "*I believe*" and "*should be a medical option*". The discussion was focused. It was clearly not an announcement although the students weakly stated his attitude. It was not a question since the statement was not stated in interrogative sentence. It was also not a statement of fact it was student's opinion towards the topic or subject. Therefore, this was a good thesis statement.

The twentieth thesis statement was the thirty-fourth student's paragraph on marijuana.

34	Thesis Statement	Marijuana should be a medical option.												
		Assertion			Focus					Idea		Idea		Idea	
		NA	MA	SA	TB	SF	F	TN	B	A	TS	Q	TS	SoF	TS
				Y	Y						Y		Y		Y

This thesis statement was a strong assertion since the student clearly showed his attitude towards the topic by saying "*should be a medical option*". The focus of discussion was too broad because he did not explicitly mention his reason for his attitude. It was clearly not an announcement although the students weakly stated his attitude. It was not a question since the statement was not stated in interrogative sentence. It was also not a statement of fact it was student's opinion towards the topic or subject. Therefore, this was not good thesis statement.

The twenty-first thesis statement was the thirty-sixth student's paragraph on prostitution.

36	Thesis Statement	I believe that prostitution should not be legal to decrease social violence, because it'll be violence of religion and violence of KUHP 296, and damage the morality.												
		Assertion			Focus					Idea		Idea		Idea	
		NA	MA	SA	TB	SF	F	TN	B	A	TS	Q	TS	SoF	TS
				Y			Y				Y		Y		Y

This thesis statement was a strong assertion since the student clearly showed his attitude towards the topic by saying "*I believe*" and "*should not be legal*". The discussion was focused. It was clearly not an announcement although the students weakly stated his attitude. It was not a question since the statement was not stated in interrogative sentence. It was also not a statement of fact it was student's opinion towards the topic or subject. Thus, this was a good thesis statement.

The twenty-second thesis statement was the thirty-seventh student's paragraph on prostitution.

37	Thesis Statement	In my opinion, marijuana can't be the option for medical because its danger is bigger than its benefit.											
		Assertion			Focus					Idea		Idea		Idea	
		NA	MA	SA	TB	SF	F	TN	B	A	TS	Q	TS	SoF	TS
				Y					Y		Y		Y		Y

This thesis statement was a strong assertion since the student clearly showed his attitude towards the topic by saying "*In my opinion*". The discussion was balanced by discussing its danger and its benefit. It was clearly not an announcement although the students weakly stated his attitude. It was not a question since the statement was not stated in interrogative sentence. It was also not a statement of fact it was student's opinion towards the topic or subject. Thus, this was a good thesis statement.

The twenty-third thesis statement was the thirty-eighth student's paragraph on marijuana.

37	Thesis Statement	In my opinion, prostitution should not be legal to decrease sexual violence such as rape because prostitution can be called as crime sexual and violate social norm and religious norm.											
		Assertion			Focus					Idea		Idea		Idea	
		NA	MA	SA	TB	SF	F	TN	B	A	TS	Q	TS	SoF	TS
				Y			Y				Y		Y		Y

The thesis statement was a strong assertion since the student clearly showed his attitude towards the topic by saying "*In my opinion*" and "*should not be legal*". The discussion was focused in which he discussed the violated norms. It was clearly not an announcement although the students weakly stated his attitude. It was not a question since the statement was not stated in interrogative sentence. It

was also not a statement of fact it was student's opinion towards the topic or subject. Thus, this was a good thesis statement.

Discussion

Referring to the findings, some students construct a good thesis statement by mentioning his attitude towards the topic, "*I believe*", "*in my opinion*", "*I agree*", "*should be*", and "*should not be*". Those who stated explicitly his attitude were categorized by strong assertion. Those who stated only "*should be*" or "*should not be*" without stating "*I believe*", "*in my opinion*", "*I agree*" were also categorized as strong assertion since it was possible to state them explicitly or implicitly in which "*should be*" or "*should not be*" has been stated clearly. It was like the datum number 3 that said "*Marijuana should not be medical option. Islam forbid us to use marijuana because it is included of narkotika*". Although no explicit assertion "*I believe*", "*in my opinion*", and "*I agree*", this thesis statement was a strong assertion since there was "*should not be*". Those who were grammatically incorrect in stating his assertion were categorized as mild assertion like "*Marijuana don't be should used to a medical option ...*" which leaded to confusing attitude. It was possible that the students intentionally put his attitude on one side but due to lack of grammatical mastery his stated assertion was on the other side. In this case, students' grammatical mastery affects students' stated assertion in thesis statement. Further, only datum number 9 and 12 had no assertion. They were announcement which indicated by the use of "*cannot be*".

The focus of discussion constructed by the students was varied. Too broad focus leaded to unclear discussion since the concern being talked quite general like "*Prostitution should be legalitation because shouldn't be crime and can help country.*" There were not any indicators to what extent prostitution can help country. That was why the focus of the discussion was too broad. In this case, students' topical knowledge greatly influenced their ability in narrowing the focus of discussion in their thesis statement.

Most thesis statement made by the students were written in affirmative sentence although a few of them were found as a kind of announcement. Those sentences were judged as announcement because the students did not clearly and directly show their attitude towards the topic and it leaded to statement of fact. They deployed "*can be*" or "*cannot be*" which commonly used to inform something able or not able or just to show that it was something people believe to be true in term of fact. It was crucial to state their assertion with the correct use of expression to differentiate between thesis statement and announcement..

D. CONCLUSION

Based on findings and discussion, it can be concluded that students' thesis statement could be categorized as good thesis statement, good thesis statement with some focus, good thesis statement with too broad focus, quite good thesis statement, and not good thesis statement. The possible causes which emerged and influenced students' thesis statement were students' grammatical mastery level and their topical knowledge

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