This research unveils the proficiency of the 7th semester English Department students of Bina Nusantara University in paraphrasing text which this paraphrasing skill is considered important for them as they are going to conduct thesis writing in a coming semester. This research is also set to introduce the students with the elements that should be paid more heed in order to produce a good paraphrase. The paraphrasing test was done by four parallel classes of the 7th semester English Department students of Bina Nusantara University where 60 paraphrases were chosen randomly to be rated by three competent and experienced raters. The result shows up that the proficiency of the students is below average in producing a paraphrase with good content and average for others three elements: vocabulary, length, and structure and mechanics. The writer interviewed 10 paraphrasers and three of the raters and found out that all of the students feels that paraphrasing is hard and most of the students have problems in paraphrasing such as having insufficient vocabulary, being hard to understand the texts thoroughly, being hard to maintain the original length, using structure and mechanics incorrectly, being confused between paraphrasing and summarizing, forgetting to acknowledge the original author, difficulty in deciding the important information to be reworded, and having not enough knowledge. Both the students and the raters agree that those problems are caused by lack of reading, practicing, being not familiar with the text, and lack of language skill in general. Therefore, they think by watching international programs, reading and getting practiced frequently as well as asking others to proofread their paraphrase can help them to improve their paraphrasing skill.
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