

Academic failures and Students' view points

by Susana Widyastuti, Erna Andriyanti, Ari Nurhayati

ABSTRACT

Students' failure is one of the biggest problems faced by universities as well as a reflection of the learning process and management that must be evaluated regularly to improve the quality of higher education. Even though academic failure has been a classic problem for years, there has been no research in Indonesia that explores why and how this phenomenon occurs so that the handling is only partial. This study aims to identify the factors that potentially affect student learning processes and cause failure in the context of a foreign language study program.

Research participants were students of the 2014 – 2018 English Literature Study Program at the Faculty of Languages and Arts, UNY. In addition to statistical data of students who failed studies taken from the database of universities and study programs, this research will use a questionnaire. Considering the difficulties in contacting participants, the survey will be conducted using purposive sampling by considering the distribution of cases and the affordability of participants. Questionnaire questions cover three stages of study, namely (1) registration and selection of study programs; (2) the lecture process, and (3) writing the final project, as well as paying attention in detail to aspects that affect the study, namely (1) academic factors (curriculum, lecturers, foreign language ability/content, and learning process), (2) personal or psychological factors, (3) family factors, and (4) social and economic factors. Compared to previous research, this study considers how the characteristics of the study program curriculum, namely the ability and content of foreign languages, also contribute to student failure. This quantitative data were analyzed using SPSS, in the form of descriptive statistical analysis to show the relationship between components, which were then explained in terms of their relevance to the main focus of the research.

The results showed that, first, statistically from year to year the study program had a high challenge in maintaining the student's graduation rate. It was found that compared to the high enrollment interest and the level of strictness of the selection was not directly proportional to the pass rate. second, based on the survey, the factors that determine the success and failure of students are very complex. Academic factors are not the only major factor and not the most important factor. Another determining aspect is the student's background, social, psychological and personal factors. Another important factor is the curriculum factor where English is used not only as a substance but also as the language of instruction.

The results of the research are expected to contribute to several interested parties, namely study programs, faculties and universities as well as students and their families. For study programs, research results are expected to be a reflection in providing a support system and learning environment that maximizes study success.

Kata Kunci: *failures, success, students*