

**THE CONTRIBUTION OF FEEDBACK CONTENTS TO THE DEVELOPMENT
OF STUDENT THESIS:
A CASE STUDY IN A TOURISM SCHOOL OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Sutanto Leo. STP NHI Bandung
Email: sut@stp-bandung.ac.id

Abstract

This paper aims to investigate feedback content in order to improve the development of the student thesis. This case study used a qualitative design that used multiple data collected from nine participants (six supervisors and three supervisees). Data were obtained from the textual evidence of the student thesis drafts and in-depth interviews with nine participants. The data were analyzed by labeling, categorizing and comparing similarities and differences in order to discover patterns and identify meanings. The results show that corrective feedback on the writing mechanism makes less contribution to improving student thesis. Feedback of praise and criticism does not make a contribution to improving student thesis. Specific, descriptive and suggestive feedback on the concept and order of ideas indicates a significant improvement in the development of the student thesis. The paper concludes that the feedback received from the supervisors determines responses to improve the quality of the student thesis.

Keywords: feedback; thesis writing; contribution; contents; development

A. Introduction

The main practices of thesis supervision are the feedback of the supervisors in the writing of thesis and its development. Feedback is an oral or written correction, criticism or commentary on the student's paper or judgment on student writing performance (Leo, 2015). Feedback is very important for these students, as it replaces the types of instruction received by students in lectures and classrooms (Bitchener & Basturkmen, 2006; Kumar & Stracke, 2007; Hyland, 2009; Bitchener et al., 2011). It is also intended to help students improve their thesis in order to meet the standard criteria for the quality of their thesis (Sharmini and Kumar, 2017, Leo, 2013 & 2017). In addition, Engebretson et al. (2008) and Bitchener et al. (2011) stated that positive and comprehensive feedback from supervisors is essential for the effective completion and improvement of the thesis. Improving the thesis of students depends on how it works. Feedback is effective when it communicates constructively to an individual or a group about how their behavior and performance have been affected. Effective feedback is "positive, consistent, timely and clear, balancing positive and constructive comments and comments that have criticized their work" (Bitchener et al.,

2011). The effectiveness of feedback can be seen in the improvement or development of student thesis proposals after they have been revised on the basis of feedback.

In many respects, feedback reinforces the type of instruction that students receive in the classroom (Hyatt, 2005; Kumar & Stracke, 2007; Hyland, 2009). In this supervision, feedback generates written knowledge as indicated by the inherent pedagogical dimensions of the nature of research supervision (Engebretson et al., 2008 & Bitchener et al., 2011). In writing thesis, students need to rely on feedback from their supervisors to receive input and guidance in order to improve the quality of their thesis (Wang & Li, 2009). This process, which provides the amount and quality of feedback, is crucial in developing a better understanding of how to be more process-oriented, collaborative knowledge creation, and fostering independent learning among students as researchers (Lee et al., 2007). In other words, knowledge is produced within and through the feedback system, particularly when feedback is facilitated by nature, showing the inherent pedagogical characteristics of the nature of research supervision.

A number of written feedback studies have been conducted in different institutions. Sharmini & Kumar (2017) investigated the thesis reviews of health institution students' publications. The findings indicated that they provided more feedback than the summative assessment and expected candidates to make changes to the published papers. Azman et al. (2014) looked at supervisory feedback practices and their impact on the student thesis development of language studies and linguistics students. The findings direct in-depth investigation of supervisory feedback practices in the framework of the overall pedagogical approach to student supervision, with the integration of effective supervisory styles. Mustafa (2012) and Buswell & Mathews (2004) investigated feedback from Graduate School of Education students. The findings showed that the students were very positive about a clear effort to make them read the comments before receiving the mark, and that the feedback they want is very different from what they receive.

Sivyer (2005) examined the impact of positive/negative feedback on the self-efficacy and writing performance of educational psychology students. The findings indicated: (a) positive feedback did not affect self-efficacy more than negative feedback; (b) learners receiving feedback wrote less during the second learning period than they did before; (c) there was no statistical significance in the relationship between feedback scores and performance scores. Alamis (2010) investigated the reactions of students and the reactions of professors to written feedback from university students. The findings showed that learners usually think that the teacher's remarks help them improve their writing skills. Patchan et al. (2009) reviewed the validation study of the students' final comments on the history of undergraduate courses. The findings favored the use of peer review and the comments made by the learners appear to be quite comparable to those made by the teachers.

The aim of this paper is to fill the gap by investigating the different types of feedback content provided by supervisors and students to improve the quality of the thesis of tourism students. The contribution of feedback to the development of the student thesis is indicated

by the response of the students to the feedback provided by the revised drafts of the student thesis. The results of this study will be more functional in order to improve the quality of the student thesis and will guide further in-depth investigation of supervisory feedback practices as part of the general pedagogical strategy for the supervision of tourism graduate students by integrating effective supervisory styles and communication techniques.

B. Literature Reviews

Literature reviews on writing feedback are focused on responses, comments, critiques or reactions to students' drafts of thesis based on the interviews and documents of student drafts of thesis. Feedback content is effective when it indicates the most important points related to major learning goals to improve the quality of thesis, while less effective is when every error in writing mechanics is edited. Feedback contents provided by supervisors are classified into focus, comparison, function, valence, clarity, specificity and tone (Brookhart, 2008).

Focus feedback is provided on the work itself, on the process, and on the student's self-regulation (Brookhart, 2008). On the work feedback is to indicate specific error types for correction. On the process feedback is aimed at the process used to create a product or a complete task or at the processing of information, or writing process requiring understanding or completing a task (Hattie and Timperley, 2007). Self-regulation involves interplay between commitment, control, and confidence addresses the way students monitor, direct, and regulate actions toward the learning goal (Hattie & Timperley, 2007). It regulates autonomy, self-control, self-direction, and self-discipline. Focus feedback is effective when the information communicated to the students is intended to modify their thinking or behavior to improve learning (Shute, 2007).

Focus feedback applies to particular language forms such as spelling, capitalization, and punctuations or grammar, etc. Fazio (2001) & Sheen (2007) found that focus feedback is the most efficient in terms of improving writing mechanics. Further, Ferris (1999:8) stated that the lack of any form of grammar feedback could frustrate learners to the point that it might interfere with their motivation and confidence in writing. However, Truscott (1996: 328) argues that grammar correction is not important in writing courses and should be abandoned. For that reason, it is important to be selective to make the students not overwhelm with the amount of correction and to avoid over-attending to forms but respond more to concept and organizations or order of thoughts (Zamel, 1985) which are helpful to shape "an individual's task strategy" to improve the quality of thesis (Early et al, 1990: 103). Over attending to forms or writing mechanics is less effective in enhancing thesis quality than focusing on concept and arrangement of ideas or organization.

Comparison feedback consists of criterion reference, norm-reference and self-reference (Brookhart, 2008). Criterion-referenced feedback assesses whether a student has achieved the intended learning objectives and performance outcomes of a subject (Connoley,

2004). Thesis leaning objectives and outcomes are indicated in the guide book or school rubric in thesis writing. Knight (2001:17) found that the standard of the school rubrics has potential advantages as the assessment criteria is based on criterion reference. Norm-referenced feedback is comparing a student performance to other students. Kluger and DeNisi (1996) point out that students who have poor performance tend to attribute their failures to lack of ability and demonstrate decreased motivation on subsequent tasks. Self-referenced feedback provides information on how much students have improved by comparing their achievement with their past achievements (Youyan, 2013). In thesis writing, students' achievements can be seen from the development of their drafts of thesis after getting feedback from supervisors. McColskey and Leary (1985) found that, compared to norm-referenced feedback, self-referenced feedback resulted in higher expectancies regarding future performance and increased attributions to effort.

Function feedback is to evaluate progress, performance or achievement, to encourage and support, and to learn high-quality work and how it might be achieved (Hattie & Timperley, 2007). The first feedback function is descriptive to indicate the specific standards for an excellent performance in which the successes and errors are identified and provides students a clear picture of their progress towards their learning goals and how they can improve (Jinguji, 2008). The second is evaluative to show how well student has performed on a particular task (Black & Wiliam, 1998). The next is corrective to support and to enhance the readability of the paper (Davies, 2003). For that reasons, teachers should reduce the amount of evaluative feedback and increase the amount of corrective descriptive feedback to improve student learning feedback

Valence feedback refers to positive and negative feedback as an indication of emotional reactions_ (Frijda, 1986:267). Positive feedback needs to be credible and informative as negative feedback is likely to discourage motivation (Hyland & Hyland, 2001). However, Holmes (1988) found that positive feedback encourages the reoccurrence of appropriate language behaviors where writers are accredited for some characteristics, attributes or skills. Negative feedback demotivates students (Hyland & Hyland, 2006). Similarly Karim & Ivy (2011) and Brockner et al., (1987) suggest that negative feedback which is not constructive may make students lose their interest in writing and has the potential to elicit a wide variety of motivational responses. In fact, it may decrease, increase, or have no effect on individuals, depending upon certain situational and dispositional factors.

Clarity is clear message using simple written and spoken language for checking students' developmental level and that they understand the feedback. Good clarity feedback uses simple vocabulary, writes or speaks on the student's work, and checks student's understanding. While bad clarity feedback uses big words and complicated sentence structure, shows what supervisors know and assume the student understands the feedback (Brookhart, 2008 & Irons, 2007). Clarity includes showing the location of problems, providing comments in the margins, global comments at the end of a paper, and oral

comments (Biber et al, 2011). This is important to ensure the feedback is clear for in terms of the problems and space for writing the comments for revision.

Specificity is the level of information provided in feedback messages (Goodman et al., 2004). It does not only provide information about students' accuracy but also provides more directive than facilitative information (Shute, 2007). It points to exact parts of the problems; is clear about what exactly the problem was; explains why it was a problem and makes the comments helpful (Nelson & Schunn, 2009). This kind of feedback is almost similar to clarity feedback but is more specific and students prefer to have this kind of feedback to improve or revise their thesis specifically. On the other hand, general feedback was not as effective as specific feedback (Williams, 1997 and Fedor, 1991). It is because students are doubtful to give response to this feedback.

Tone feedback is conveyed by word choice and style. Word choice should take students into account and position them as active agents of their own learning (Johnston, 2004). However, research shows that teachers often talk with good students as if they were active, but often do not care for poor students (Brookhart, 2008). Praise is almost similar to positive feedback. This feedback is quite often in the form of oral feedback commenting mostly on the attitude such as attendance/presence, behavior, or politeness and slightly on the work. It is not effective as it hardly carries information about thesis writing and often does not make students focus on the task (Brophy, 1981). Kluger and DeNisi (1996) in their research show that praise does not have significant impact on achievement. However, Gottschalk and Hjortshoj (2004) found that this kind of feedback encourages and motivates the students to accomplish the goals.

The theories of feedback contents above are the central issues which guide the researcher to design instruments to collect data. Data of interviews and document analysis are categorized into types of feedback contents that cover focus, comparison, function, valence, clarity, specificity and tone. The feedback from supervisors is to investigate contribution of feedback to the development of students' thesis which will be indicated by the responses of the students to the feedback displayed by the revised drafts of students' thesis.

C. Methodology

This study used qualitative data involving in-depth interviews with nine saturated participants and a document analysis of the students' draft thesis from the Indonesian Higher Education Tourist School. Morse (2015: 587) considers that saturation is commonly considered as a 'gold standard' for the determination of sample size in qualitative research. The nine participants included six supervisors and three undergraduate students as supervisors, while two supervisors supervised one student. Supervisors 1a and 1b supervised

student number 1, supervisors 2a and 2b supervised student number 2, supervisors 3a and 3b supervised student number 3. All the supervisors have been the most experienced lecturers whose teaching experience and thesis have been supervised for more than 15 years and have been appointed by their school directors to provide supervision as research topics are appropriate for their expertise in the field of tourism. In their last semester, three undergraduate (S1) students participated in eight-semester research and writing their thesis. They were from three different study programs and were rated as the best students to achieve the highest achievement in their study programs. This tourism school has been accredited by Tourism Education Quality as part of the World Tourism Organization and is one of the oldest schools to become a model for other tourism schools in Indonesia.

The interviews were conducted after the drafts of the thesis were returned to the supervisors with feedback from the supervisors. Interviews were conducted face to face with supervisors and supervised individually and were recorded for analysis. The analysis was to identify the types of feedback content provided by the supervisors during the supervision process. Data on feedback content from interviews with supervisors (Table 1) and supervisors (Table 2) were coded on the basis of focus, comparison, valence, function, clarity, specificity and tone. Document analysis data (Table 3) was collected after the student proposals were returned to the supervisors with feedback from the supervisors and revised. Only two supervisors provided oral feedback on the drafts without written feedback.

The researcher alone conducted a feedback analysis to ensure depth and consistency. The data from interviews with supervisors and supervisors were reduced by selecting, simplifying, abstracting and transforming the data that appeared in the transcripts in order to gain the meaning of the findings. In order to make sense of the data, the encoded data were compared within and across transcripts and across dimensions considered to be essential for the study. Finally, the data was interpreted by re-creating the key codes and categories in a way that demonstrates the relationships and ideas gained during the comparison phase and explains them more broadly in the light of current information and theoretical views.

D. Findings of feedback contents

The findings of feedback contents from interviews with the six supervisors, three students and document analysis of the three students from their six supervisors are displayed separately below. The recorded data from the interviews were reduced, simplified and organized in accordance with the number of supervisors and supervisees based on the types of feedback contents being investigated. Table 1 displays feedback contents based on interviews with the six supervisors, table 2 displays feedback based on the interviews with the three students, and table 3 displays the six supervisors' feedback on the three students' drafts of thesis.

Table 1
Data of interviews with Six Supervisors

Variab les	Supervisor 1a	Supervisors 1b	Supervisors 2a	Supervisors 2b	Supervisors 3a	Supervisors 3b
Focus	It focused on the concept, arrangement of ideas (organization) and writing mechanism. There were comments on the strengths and weaknesses.	The feedback focused on the work, on the process and on the self-regulation especially the statistics from theory as I am a statistics lecturer,	The feedback focused on the concepts and organization. The student was curious and able to comprehend the feedback. Almost no correction on the writing mechanism.	The feedback focused on the Concept and arrangement of ideas. There was very little correction on the writing mechanism.	The feedback was constructive & focused on the concept and organization. The student was curious and able to respond the feedback easily.	The feedback focused on the concept and writing mechanism. There were critiques and comments on the personality the student.
Comparison	The student brought the previous drafts to the supervisor. She also compared hers with other student thssis	The work was compared with the standard rubrics, self-criterion reference. The previous drafts were brought to check the progress.	The draft was compared with the criterion reference and also the previous drafts. She read previous thesis with similar topics.	Students brought the previous drafts to be compared with the new one. It fully followed the school rubrics & my suggestions.	The draft was compared with the criterion reference and self-reference The student was motivated & knew what to do.	She compared her drafts with previous similar thesis. The student was smart and responsive to revise her drafts.
Function	The problems were indicated and corrections were given. There is	I gave corrections and eveluation by showing the weaknesses There were	There was direct praise but no critiques, such as this part is okay & a little	The strong and weak points were shown. There was direct praise such as: You revised	The feedback showed the strength and weaknesses. There was praise: It's	The feedback shows the strength and weaknesses of the draft. The comments were It is

	praise but no critiques.	no praise and critiques.	comment on the strengths.	so fast. This part is good.	great and you worked hard.	good, It is not right.
Valence	I showed the mistakes & gave suggestions for corrections. I gave praises but no critiques. She was committed to her project.	Most of the feedback was positive and suggestive. It showed the mistakes and gave the correction. Every mistake was shown and corrected.	I did not give pressure to the student. My feedback was persuasive, positive and suggestive. There were no warnings or punishments.	My feedback was mostly positive and suggestive with slight warning such as Where have you been?, I have not seen you for long time.	My feedback was positive, negative and suggestive. No correction on the writing mechanism & no warnings.	I gave correction to every problem in the writing mechanism. I gave warnings to make her punctual or disciplined.
Clarity	The language used was simple & clear. Location of the problems was shown by question marks, interjection and solutions were given. She was able to revise the problems.	The language was simple & could be comprehend ed well. Location of the problems was shown and solutions were given. Students were able to revise and correct the problems.	Locations of problems and solution were shown clearly. Not every mistake is corrected. I showed ambiguous sentences and gave the corrections using codes such as arrows, circles, crosses, and underlines.	The student could understand the whole points. I used codes such as circles, question marks, arrows, and underlines on the margins, on top or at the bottom of the page.	The feedback was clear. The student indicated improvement. The problems on the concept were always discussed in detail with the student.	The feedback was clear and all mistakes were shown by symbols: ticks, crosses, question marks underlines and circles on the locations of problems.
Specificity	The feedback was slightly on the concept.	The feedback was specific and pointed on the exact	The feedback was general and specific on the concepts and	The feedback was specific on the concepts	The feedback was general and specific especially on the concepts	The feedback was specific both on the concepts and

	The problems and solutions were given on the top, margins and at the bottom page. Every mistake was corrected.	parts of the problems.. The feedback was a little on the concept. Every mistake was corrected.	organization and pointed on the exact parts of the problems. Not every mistake was corrected.	and slightly on the writing mechanism. It pointed on the problems. Not every mistake was corrected.	and organization on the exact parts of the problems with the solution.	writing mechanism. Every problem was shown on the location of the problem and was given suggestions
Tone	The student was happy. I was fussy because I did not want her to have serious problems. The student was inspired & the communication did not make her annoyed or down.	The student was respected as student. At first, she felt worried and feared, but after some meetings she felt confident, inspired and curious. The communication was relaxed & encouraging .	The feedback was persuasive & inspiring to motivate the student. There were no direct praises and there were no critiques at all. I was satisfied as she was faster and better than the other students in my supervision.	The student was enthusiastic to ask and discuss her problems & was very responsive. She often telephoned me to get further information. I was satisfied with her.	She was motivated, inspired and responsive. Praises were given: It is great. You work hard. Critiques were: It is not right. This part is not relevant.	I was a bit bossy with the student to make her work harder'. I did not feel satisfied. She was not able to meet me as often as required & should have better attitude.

Table 1 shows data of interview about feedback contents provided by the six supervisors about their three students. The data was reduced, labeled and organized on the basis of focus, comparison, valence, function, clarity, specificity and tone.

Table 2
Data of interview with students about their supervisors

Variable	Student 1	Student 2	Student 3
Focus	Supervisor 1a provided more on the writing mechanism and a bit theory” on the works, process and self regulation. Supervisor 1b focused on the work and process especially the statistics from theory, application and results.	Supervisor 2a focused more on the contents and organization of ideas while Supervisor 2b gave feedback both on the contents and writing mechanism. There was no critiques and almost no correction on the writing mechanism from Supervisor 2a.	Supervisor 3a focused the feedback on the work, self-regulation and process especially on the concept (contents and organizations). Supervisor 3b focused the feedback on the work, self-regulation and process on the concept and more on writing mechanism.
Comparison	Both supervisors 1a & 1b compared with the criterion reference (standard rubrics) my previous drafts, and other students’ especially the instruments and the references. I read other thesis with relevant topics.	The feedback was compared with the school rubrics and with previous drafts. Supervisor 2a suggested me to read previous thesis having similar topics to compare.	Both supervisors compared my thesis with standard rubrics and my previous drafts of thesis. Both supervisors 3a and 3b did not suggest me to compare with others but I did especially the questionnaire.
Function	Supervisors 1a provide descriptive feedback, but more evaluative, formative and corrective as almost weaknesses were shown. Supervisors 1b provided descriptive feedback but more on the theories & organization.	Supervisor 2a gave more evaluative & corrective feedback such as: ‘Go deeper’ & Does the discussion already represent community? Supervisor 2b gave descriptive but not corrective, such as ‘You can collect data now’.	Supervisor 3a and 3b provided descriptive, evaluative, and formative but more corrective feedback. There were praises such as: It is good, do not change it.
Valence	Most of the feedback from Supervisor 1a is positive and suggestive to show the mistakes and to give the corrections. Every mistake is shown and corrected.	The feedback was mostly positive and suggestive. Supervisor 2a suggested me to go deeper in the concept and asked if this part has represented community profile. There was a little warning from supervisor 2b such as “Where were you?	Most of the feedback from Supervisor 3a was positive, suggestive and corrective. They showed the mistakes and gave the corrections. Supervisor 3b showed every mistake and corrected them. There was a warning such asking: where

	Supervisor 1b did not provide much correction on writing mechanism.	You did not appear for a while?"	have I been not to appear for long time.
Clarity	<p>The language used is clear and can be comprehended. Supervisor 1a was not consistent & sometimes changed his idea on the next meeting.</p> <p>Supervisor 1b used codes like circles, underlines and crosses given on the margins, location of the problems. Sometimes I did not understand the codes.</p>	<p>The feedback provided by Supervisors 2a and 2b was clear.</p> <p>The location of the problems and solution were given. Codes or signs such as arrows, circles, crosses, questions and underlines were used by both supervisors. Not every mistake was shown or corrected.</p>	<p>The feedback was clear enough, the problems were shown and solutions were provided. Supervisor 3a only gave oral feedback. The student had to record it carefully.</p> <p>Supervisor 3b showed every mistake and corrected them by using symbols such as crosses, underlines and question marks.</p>
Specificity	<p>Supervisor 1a provided specific feedback and pointed the exact parts of the problems, on the top, on the margins and at the bottom mostly on the writing mechanism.</p> <p>Supervisor 1b provided feedback on the concept & writing mechanism.</p>	<p>Supervisor 2a gave general and specific feedback on the concept and organization only. Supervisor 2b gave more specific feedback on both concept and writing mechanism on the exact parts of the problems. Not every mistake was edited.</p>	<p>Supervisor 3a gave general feedback on the concept and got more specific on the problems.</p> <p>Supervisor 3b gave systematic feedback from general to specific. It included specific details in writing mechanism.</p>
Tone	<p>It was personal, helpful and inspiring but I felt disappointed with my Supervisor 1a, because my chapter 4 & 5 were not given any feedback".</p> <p>Supervisor 1b treated me like a partner, friend and respected me as a student.</p>	<p>There was direct praise when supervisor 2a said "It is okay, you can start collecting data".</p> <p>There were no critiques at all from supervisor 2b. I felt satisfied but once I was not confident with the theories and data analysis.</p>	<p>Supervisor 3a was more friendly and tolerable. Supervisor 3b was stricter; I wrote what she said otherwise she was angry. There were praises and constructive criticism. Supervisor 3b warned me by asking "Where are you? You did not appear for a while"</p>

Table 2 shows data of interview with three students about the feedback contents from their six supervisors (SPV). The data from the students were coded, organized and displayed in groups of focus, comparison, valence, function, clarity, specificity and tone.

Table 3
Document Analysis of Feedback Contents
from 6 supervisors

Variable	Supervisors					
	1a	1b	2a	2b	3a	3b
Focus	The focus was mostly on the work especially the writing mechanism.	No Writt-en feed-back	The feedback focused on the work, self-regulation and process especially on the concept and arrangement of ideas.	The feedback focused more on the concept and organization such as to improve the background, the theories.	No Writt-en feed-back	The focus was on self-regulation, process and student's work especially the writing mechanism. There was no feedback on the personality.
Compar- ison	The feedback was compared with the criterion reference and self-reference.		The feedback was compared with school rubrics and self-criterion reference.	It was compared with school rubrics (criterion-reference) and self-reference criterion.		The feedback was compared with standard rubrics and I was asked to bring my previous drafts of thesis to compare (self-reference).
Function	Evaluative feedback by showing problems such as: writing references, upper case letters, spelling, Italics, line spaces, etc. The previous		Descriptive and evaluative feedback was given on the concept and organization with the suggestions. There were no critics or praises.	Descriptive, evaluative, formative and corrective feedback was indicated on the problems by underlines and crosses but sometimes the solutions were not given. The student had to come back to		The function was mostly evaluative, formative and corrective such as problems in writing references, using uppercase letter, spellings, Italics, line spaces, and dictions. The previous draft was always

	draft was brought to show the progress.			ask for solutions.		brought to show the revision and progress.
Valence	<p>Suggestions: to improve background, to write citations properly, to rearrange numbers, to use direct quotations.</p> <p>Corrections: Spellings, upper case letters, Italics, and dictions/terminologies.</p>		<p>Suggestions: to add the plan of the village as rural tourism, theories of tourist activities, to mention the references, to develop the background, and to add SWOT analysis.</p> <p>Corrections: spellings & number of samples</p>	<p>Suggestions: to find data of strategic tourism, to revise the title, to drop some information, to define rural tourism, to include data collection methods, to analyze cross tabulation data, to add theories of community participation.</p> <p>Corrections: Spellings, Italics, line spaces. terminologies, and sources of citations.</p>		<p>The suggestions: Add information about Cobranding customers' loyalty, to make introduction clearer, to discuss more detailed theories focusing on the research variables, to mention the methods used to collect the data, to put the findings in the order of the research questions.</p> <p>Corrections: upper case letters, Italics, spellings. line spaces and dictions.</p>
Clarity	Most feedback was clear, the problems of writing mechanism were indicated by		Most feedback was indicated on the locations of problems by symbols such as question marks, underlines	Some feedback was clear, it showed the location of the problems using symbols such as underlines, crosses, circles		The problems were shown by symbols exactly on the locations, on the margins, on the top of the page and at the bottom of the page. The symbols were

	<p>underlines, slashes, crosses, circles, interjections, and question marks</p> <p>The codes were not difficult to understand.</p>		<p>and circles.</p> <p>Solutions to the problems were also provided.</p>	<p>and question marks.</p> <p>A little feedback was not clear as it showed location of the problems using question marks without further explanations.</p>		<p>such as circles, slashes, ticks, crosses, arrows, interjections, underlines, double arrows, question marks.</p> <p>Some problems were not given solution.</p>
Specificity	<p>The feedback was specific and pointed to the problems such as on top, on the margin and at the bottom of the page. Most problems were given solutions. Almost every mistake was corrected.</p>		<p>The feedback was specific on problems of the concept and organisation using question marks, underlines and crosses.</p> <p>Not every mistake in the writing mechanism was corrected.</p>	<p>The feedback was specific and pointed to the exact parts of the problems.</p> <p>Some solutions for the problems were provided.</p> <p>Not every mistake in writing mechanism was corrected.</p>		<p>The feedback was specific. It showed the locations of the problems using various symbols such as: circles, slashes, ticks, crosses, arrows, interjections, underlines, double arrows, and question marks. Solutions to some problems were provided.</p>
Tone	<p>The feedback inspired the student to make improvement. There were no praises or critics on</p>		<p>The feedback inspired the students.</p> <p>The student showed her progress to respond the feedback.</p>	<p>There was inspiration how the student had to improve the thesis. There was progress and improvement. There were no</p>		<p>The feedback was inspiring. The student was inspired to make revision. There was improvement on the revised drafts.</p>

	student's work but only corrections.		There were no critiques or praises.	critiques or praises.		There were no praises and critiques.
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Table 3 shows data of textual evidence based on students drafts of thesis about feedback contents from the six supervisors for their three students. The textual evidence was coded, organized, and displayed in groups of focus, comparison, valence, function, clarity, specificity and tone. There was no evidence of feedback on the students' drafts of thesis from supervisors 1b and 3a as they did not give any written feedback. They only gave feedback orally to the students.

E. Discussions

The discussions focused on the feedback contents based on interviews with their six supervisors, with the three students, and textual evidence of feedback contents on the students' thesis from the six supervisors. The feedback contents were analyzed on the basis of focus, comparison, valence, function, clarity, specificity and tone in sequence.

The focus feedback revealed that all supervisors provided feedback on the work, on the process and on the self-regulation. Two supervisors (1a & 3a) focused on the work especially on correcting mistakes based on the interviews with the students. The evidence of writing mechanism corrections on the students' drafts of thesis (except supervisors 1b & 3a) were such as misspelled words, uncapitalized words, line spaces, Italics, etc. This feedback that includes ideas to control form, and ability to use appropriate academic writing and research conventions was effective in line with Fazio (2001), Sheen (2007) & Goldstein (2006). They found that this feedback helped students improve their writing accuracy.

With regard to the feedback on the process, all supervisors helped students to process information to improve thesis quality and to complete thesis within the allocated time. The evidence of this encapsulated in the statements of supervisors and students. "When the student came to the next meeting, she brought the previous drafts of thesis with some revisions."; "The supervisors guided me with the whole parts of the thesis, met me regularly and pushed me to complete on time." Students admitted that his feedback helped them to go deep into the meaning not just surface structure. Such feedback is helpful to shape "an individual's task strategy" (Early et al, 1990: 103) to improve and complete students' thesis

Connected with self-regulation, all supervisors provided feedback to regulate student's self-direction and self-discipline. The evidence of this was gathered from supervisors who said that students attended the meetings regularly and they were very

enthusiastic and showed a great progress with their thesis and finished the thesis on time. And, it was evident from the feedback that the three students could finish their study on time. This evidence is consistent with the idea that self-regulation feedback involves interplay between commitment, control, and confidence addresses the way students monitor, direct, and regulate actions toward the learning goal (Hattie and Timperley, 2007).

In short, on the work feedback that focused on the content quality and writing mechanism contributes to the development of contents and organization of ideas, convention, styles and tones of students' thesis. The process feedback helps students to process the entire feedback. This feedback contributes to the development of the entire parts of students' thesis. The self-regulation feedback helps students regulate their action to follow the standard of thesis writing and to complete their thesis on time. This feedback also contributes to the development and completion of their thesis.

For the comparison feedback, four supervisors compared students' work with norm-reference and all supervisors compared students' work with criterion-reference and self-reference. The evidence of interview with supervisors showed in what they said, "I also read previous thesis having relevant topics." from a student, "When the topics are the same I asked the students to compare and discuss each other." from a supervisor, "I sometimes asked her to compare with previous similar thesis.", "The student was actually smart and she might have read the previous thesis." Concerning the norm-reference criterion, all supervisors asked the students to read and compare with the previous similar thesis. The students said that they actually read previous theses before deciding their topics and compared their drafts of thesis while writing the drafts. This approach was consistent with McColskey's and Leary's (1985) suggestion that norm-referenced feedback resulted in high expectancies regarding future performance and increased attributions to effort.

With regard to the criterion reference feedback, all supervisors compared students' work with the school guidebook to write thesis. The evidence from students (1, 2 & 3) was such as "Both supervisors compared my thesis with the criterion reference (standard rubrics)."; "The feedback was compared with the school guide book"; "The feedback was compared with criterion reference (school rubrics/guide book) and ..."; and "The feedback was compared with the school guide book (criterion reference) and self-reference." In fact both students and supervisors stated that they read and followed the guide book from the school. The guide book (rubrics) contains guideline of writing thesis that includes regulations, writing organization and mechanism. This feedback provides information by comparing student achievement with a learning target or standard (Youyan, 2013). These supervisors also suggested that the other students should follow the standard of the school rubrics. Knight (2001:17) suggests that the standard of the school rubrics (criterion-referenced assessment) has potential advantages as the assessment criteria clearly identify what is valued in a curriculum and identify exactly what learners have achieved, and it is possible to make judgments about the quality and quantity of learning.

The self-referenced criterion feedback was done as all supervisors always asked students to bring their previous drafts when they came to the supervisors. The evidence included such as “I asked my students to bring the previous drafts to compare.”; “Supervisor 3a compared my thesis with my previous drafts of thesis.”; “The feedback was compared with the students’ previous drafts of thesis.”; “The draft was compared with the criterion reference (school guide book) and students’ previous drafts (self-reference)” Here, students were able to show what they have revised based on their previous draft and the supervisors were able to see their progress. This evidence is relevant to [Youyan](#) (2013) that the feedback provided is indicated by information on how much students have improved their draft of thesis by comparing their achievement with their past achievements.

From the above discussion, the criterion reference feedback contributes to the thesis development according to the standard rubrics of the school. The norm-reference criterion make contribution to the development of students’ thesis on the parts that the students compared especially on the content quality. The self-referenced feedback makes contribution to the development of thesis both on the content quality and writing mechanism. The progress has been confirmed sufficiently in the revised drafts shown to the supervisors.

In the feedback functions, it was found that all supervisors provided descriptive, evaluative and formative feedback and four supervisors (1a, 2a, 2b, & 3a) provided corrective feedback. The descriptive feedback measures the specific standards for an excellent performance in which the successes and errors are identified to provide students with a clear picture of their progress towards their learning goals and how they could improve (Jinguji, 2008). The evidence of descriptive feedback were such as: a) to drop and change the research objectives, b) to develop knowledge and theory about service quality; and c) to inform the results of the research to the industry. This descriptive feedback helped students revise their next drafts following exactly what has been suggested by the supervisors. The more amounts of descriptive feedback that the students received, the more they learned significantly (Black and William, 1998). However, the descriptive feedback showed more on the weaknesses of the thesis drafts than the strengths of the thesis.

This evaluative feedback provided by all supervisors such as “I showed the mistakes and gave the corrections.”; “The feedback showed the problems of the content and organization.”; “My supervisor showed problems by codes such as underlines, crosses and question marks that I could not understand, then I had to come to get clarification”. The codes or symbols used were also such as: circles, slashes, ticks, crosses, arrows, interjections, underlines, double arrows, linking lines and question marks. Underlines, crosses and question marks were not effective or even useless for the students. This evaluative feedback is actually to correct the concepts and organization of ideas) and writing mechanism to improve students’ thesis Bitchener et al (2011) and Azman et al (2014) but the codes used by the supervisors did not help students.

Concerning the formative feedback, four supervisors (1a, 2a, 2b, & 3a) provided formative feedback with evidence such as: “a) to erase too general information, b) to include pages in the references for direct quotations, c) to include definition of rural tourism, d) to add definition of social assessment (not clear), e) to add factors of social assessment such as demography, socio-economy, local values, analyses stakeholder, etc., f) to add tourism product such as natural attractions, cultural attractions, cultural activities, facilities, and accessibility, g) to change tourism object into tourism attractions.” This formative feedback was effective as the students were able to improve their drafts based on the written comments from the supervisors. This evidence functions to communicate to the students what is intended to modify either the student’s thinking or behavior for the purpose of improving learning (Shute, 2007 & Race, 2001). This formative feedback provided by the supervisors helped students revise and improve the contents and organization of their thesis and contributed to student learning. As the students acknowledged that this feedback were useful to improve the quality of their thesis drafts.

With regard to the corrective feedback, the evidence of the four supervisors (1a, 2a, 2b & 3a) provided corrections on students’ problems such as spelling mistakes, using upper case letters, using spaces, writing citation sources, and using Italics. These conventional corrections are easy to understand in order to follow the conventions in writing. This evidence of corrections is consistent with Hefferman & Lincoln, 1996; Steel, 2007) as to enhance the readability of the paper. This feedback contributes the development of student’s thesis in terms of the writing conventions but no contribution to the improvement of concept and organization.

Based on the discussion above, the descriptive feedback provided descriptions of strength and weaknesses of student performance in the forms of comments and suggestions, to contribute to the development of students’ thesis both on the content quality and writing mechanism. The evaluative or judgmental feedback that summarized how well the learner has performed using check marks or coded symbols such as crosses, underlines, circles, question marks, etc. contributes to the improvement of the thesis especially on the writing mechanism.

The formative feedback that provided comments and suggestions on the students’ works contributes to the development of students’ thesis through the provision of information about their performance. The corrective feedback that provided corrections of every error in writing mechanism contributes to the improvement of students’ thesis especially the writing conventions but is not effective to the content and organization of the thesis.

The valence feedback revealed that all supervisors provided positive and suggestive feedback and two supervisors (2a & 3b) provided negative feedback. The evidence of positive feedback from the interview with the supervisors is such as: “... I did not give pressure like my own students at Unpad. My feedback was mostly persuasive, positive and

suggestive.” The positive feedback mentioned above provided ‘positive reinforcement’ that includes rewards, general praise, and that increases learner’s motivation (Brookhart, 2008). It is good to motivate learners to continue the work eagerly. It also helped students to reduce the amount of uncertainty associated with what students have to do or revise.

Two supervisors (2a & 2b) provided positive feedback with praises with evidence from statements such as: “It is okay, you can start collecting data.”; ‘It is great.’ and ‘You worked hard.’; “It is good, do not change it.”; “It is good.” These positive comments did not indicate any parts in the students’ drafts thesis for improvement. This kind of feedback may increase student’s motivation as they feel good or able to do something good. The students may be happy with it and gain more confidence. However, it does not give any contribution to the development of students’ thesis.

Concerning negative feedback or criticism from the two supervisors (2a & 3b). The evidence includes: “Where were you? You did not appear for a while?”; “Where have you been?”; “I have not seen you for long time”, “I also gave warnings to make her punctual and disciplined.” and “You cannot ask me to give 8 signatures when you came to me less than that.” These all negative comments refer to students’ presence, punctuality, and school regulation but they have nothing to do with their drafts of thesis for revision. It contains general criticism which was considered “punishment” and shows dissatisfaction of the supervisor’s with the students (Brookhart, 2008). The impact of this negative statement is relevant to (Hyland & Hyland, 2006) that it may demotivate students. The facts student three (3) for example was reluctant to see the supervisor 3b. Consequently, this student was the latest student who completed the thesis because of losing the interest in writing. This happened because she had difficulties to make appointment with the supervisors and demotivated to see the supervisors (Hyland & Hyland, 2006).

Connected with suggestive feedback from four supervisors (1a, 2a, 2b & 3a). The suggestions include : a) to give more detail analysis for table of cross tabulation of education, occupation and income, b) to give line spaces for Local Socio politics, c) to include table of community value and needs, d) to analyze community value and needs in more detailed, etc. The suggestive feedback has a positive orientation as it can be incorporated into revisions to make the writing better (Brookhart, 2008). The development of student’s thesis occurs mostly on the revision of the contents quality based on the comments, suggestions and corrections.

In summary, the positive comments that motivate, make students aware of the work, and encourage them to make in progress with the thesis writing contributes to the development and completion of students’ thesis. The negative feedback that contains general criticism and is considered as punishment does not make students lose their motivation, does not contribute to the development of thesis. The negative feedback does not help students take actions to revise the thesis and does not make contributions to the development of the students’ thesis both on the content quality and conventions.

The clarity feedback indicates that all supervisors who provided clear feedback, four of them (1a, 2a, 2b, and 3b) showed the locations of problems using codes or symbols on the locations of problem such as underlines, crosses, circles and question. The evidence of such comments includes: “It showed the locations of the problem by giving symbols such as crosses, underlines, ticks, circles, and question marks.”; “The feedback was clear; it discussed the problems found in the drafts and solutions were given.” The evidence indicates that the supervisors showed the problems clearly and gave the solutions to the problems. This evidence is in line with the ideas of Brookhart (2008: 32; Biber et al. 2011).

About the language used, the evidence is encapsulated in statements like “The words and sentences used were simple and understood by the student.” From the evidence above, the feedback was clear in terms of the simple language used and the written comments shown on the locations of the problems. This is in line with what Brookhart (2008) & Irons (2007) argue that the feedback in this writing supervision: a) uses simple vocabulary; b) writes and speaks on the student’s work; and c) checks that the student understands the feedback to improve their thesis. However, the feedback was less clear when the problems were indicated by interjections, underlines, and question marks without comments or suggestions. This happened to student one who sometimes did not understand the codes and had to ask for clarification.

In short, clarity feedback that uses simple understandable language and point out the locations of the problems with the solutions contributes to the development of students’ thesis. The less clear feedback with symbols or codes such as interjections, question marks or underlines without any comments or solutions on how to correct the problems, does not contribute anything to the development of thesis.

In the feedback specificity, all supervisors provided specific feedback with evidence such as “The feedback was specific and pointed the exact parts of the problems and provided solutions on the margins, on the top and and the bottom of the page.”; “The feedback was specific and pointed the exact parts of the problems but orally only.” The feedback was specific.”; “It showed specifically on the problems of the concept and organization.” The specificity of feedback that pointed the exact problems and the location (Nelson & Schunn, 2009) functions as expected. This feedback does not only provide information about students’ accuracy (writing mechanism) but is also more directive than facilitative (Shute, 2007). It provides detailed corrections of how to improve the quality, not just indicates the problems or mistakes on the student’s work.

Connected with general feedback on the contents from two supervisors (2a and 3b) that was indicated by question marks and interjections such as “Co-branding and affinity partnering?, Loyalty?, The introduction is not clear!,” was not clearly understood by students. This feedback was not effective for students as it made them doubtful how to respond to the feedback (Williams, 1997 and Fedor, 1991). This feedback needs greater

processing activity on the students to understand the intended message. It took more time and energy as the students had to see the supervisors and asked what they meant.

From the above explanation, the specificity feedback shows the problems and the locations of the problems together with general feedback that is accompanied with specific feedback contributes to the students' thesis development in terms of content quality and conventions, styles and tones.

In terms of tone feedback, it was found that all supervisors provided inspiring feedback, two supervisors (2b & 3a) gave praises, and three supervisors 2b, 3a & 3b) provided critiques. With regard to the inspiring feedback by all supervisors, the evidence is such as "She sometimes telephoned or sent message to me to get some consultation about research methodology, etc." and "The feedback was inspiring because the student was enthusiastic to ask questions and discuss her problems." This feedback motivated the students to make progress with their theses and finally they were able to complete their theses on time. This evidence is consistent with Gottschalk and Hjortshoj (2004) who stated that this kind of feedback encourages and motivates the students to accomplish the goals.

With regard to the praises, there were two supervisors (2b and 3a) who provided feedback with praises such as 'Bagus, kamu kerja keras' (It is great' and 'You work hard); 'The recommendation is okay ...' Praise, how small it is, belongs to positive feedback. This kind of feedback certainly increases learner's motivation (Brookhart, 2008). However, praise is not always effective as it carries little information that provides answers and often disturbs student attention and becomes not focus on the task (Brophy, 1981).

Concerning feedback critiques from the three supervisors (2b, 3a, and 3b), the evidence was such as 'It is not right', 'This part is not relevant', 'The recommendation is okay but you'd better provide more operational one.' This kind of feedback (general criticism) was often considered as a punishment. The impact of critiques or negative feedback demotivated students. This evidence is consistent with Hyland & Hyland (2006) and Karim & Ivy (2011) that negative feedback which is not conveyed properly or if the criticism is not constructive, it makes students lose their interest in writing. In this study, however, the critiques do not have effect on individual motivation.

Based on the above discussion, tone feedback inspires and motivates students to work on their thesis contribute to the development of students' thesis. Praising that may make the students motivated and confident does not contribute to the development of students' thesis and critiques that may lose students' interest and motivation do not have any effects on the contribution of students' thesis.

To sum up the above discussion, it can be stated that each feedback dimension makes different level of contribution of ranging from low, medium and high contribution. Feedback focus, comparison, and function make high contribution to the student thesis development.

Corrective gives low contribution. Positive and negative feedback has low contribution. However, suggestive feedback focusing on concept and organization makes high contribution to the thesis development. Similarly, clear feedback makes high contribution while unclear feedback does not make any contribution. Specific feedback also contributes highly to the thesis improvement and general feedback gives medium contribution. Finally, inspiring feedback has high contribution but praises and critiques do not have contribution to the student's thesis development.

F. Conclusion

In this case study, feedback from the supervisors contributes to the development of the student thesis. Feedback is effective when it is specific, descriptive and suggestive of the concept and arrangement of ideas. Specific feedback showing specific problems with the location of problems with descriptions and suggestions or solutions to problems is very effective in improving quality of thesis. On the other hand, corrective feedback on writing conventions, such as the use of uppercase letters, italics, misspelled words and line spaces, is less efficient in contributing to the improvement of the thesis quality. While positive and negative feedback, including praise and criticism, is not effective in improving students' thesis. The research concludes that specific, descriptive and suggestive feedback on the concept and arrangement of ideas is effective in obtaining answers from students who contribute to the development of their thesis. Improvement of the student thesis is shown in the updated student thesis. It is suggested that supervisors provide specific, descriptive and suggestive feedback on concepts and the organization of ideas. This study has the following consequences: a) Thesis writing guides, research methodology lecturers and supervisors are very important components to guide learners in the production of standard thesis quality.

Further study on how effective thesis-writing guides, research methodology lecturers and thesis-writing supervisors guide learners in writing is therefore crucial; (b) All the thesis supervisors were senior lecturers, although their perceptions of feedback are different. For this reason, it is essential to investigate the perceptions of the thesis supervisors when providing feedback; c) As this qualitative research involved a limited number of samples, further quantitative research involving a representative number of respondents is recommended.

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