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APPENDIXES

Appendix 1

Email sent inviting informants to participate in the research interview

Dear [name]

I am a magister of English department student at the State Islamic University of North Sumatera and I am researching the challenges and strategies of supervision in writing thesis.

I am writing to ask if you have encountered challenges in the process of your research. If so would you be happy to talk about the challenges and strategies, you have encountered and explore them further? If you have encountered challenges and strategies in the process of your research and would be happy to explore them further would you be willing to be interviewed?

The interview will take one hour. The location for the interview will be in a public place and decided by you. The interview will be semi-structured. The questions are designed to explore your subjective experiences and could have the potential to evoke uncomfortable feelings. Before the interview a copy of the interview questions will be sent to you with the consent form in order to give you time to reflect and alert you to what is going to be asked. The interview will be audio-recorded. Notes will be taken when the audio-recorder is turned off. Names and places will be changed in the transcription in order to ensure your anonymity. I will incorporate excerpts from the interview at the write-up stage of the thesis as part of my analysis. Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes

Appendix 2

Consent form

This consent form has a longer format than usual because the ethics of this project are quite complex. For this reason, a research proposal was submitted to the Magister of English Department Ethics Committee to be reviewed. As a result of the review I have been granted permission to conduct my research.

My name is Jasar Hartana MA and I am a student at the State Islamic University of North Sumatera. The aim of my thesis is to highlight the challenges and strategies in writing thesis that is conducted for postgraduate students. The objectives are to understand these challenges and strategies, to consider the extent to which they may inhibit the conduct and analysis of research and to highlight implications for future students.

As you have experience of conducting the thesis writing I would like to request your consent to be interviewed. The interview questions will be sent to you before the interview. The purpose of sending the questions before the interview takes place is that it will give you time to reflect and alert you to what you are going to be asked. However please be aware that there will be follow up questions that I cannot anticipate in advance. The interview will take approximately one hour. An audio recorder will be used to record the interview. The interview will be transcribed. The audio recorder can be turned off in the interview for breaks if requested. You have the choice at any stage to end the interview and to request that your data be removed from the data set. When the audio recorder is turned off at the end of the interview I will ask your permission to continue to record on-going conversation in note form. When transcribing the audio recording your name and any places mentioned will be changed to ensure your anonymity.

A copy of the transcript will be sent at your request. The information generated from your interview will provide an essential contribution to understanding the dilemmas professional doctoral students encounter in research.

I am a Magister of English Education department student at the same university in which you are studying. Information you disclose about your own research in the course of the interview means it is possible that you could be identified by other students and staff on the Magister of

English Education department, even though you will be referred to by a pseudonym throughout the thesis or subsequent publications. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns about the interview via my email jasarhartana@uinsu.ac.id and I will get back to you as soon as possible.



Researcher: JasarHartana MA

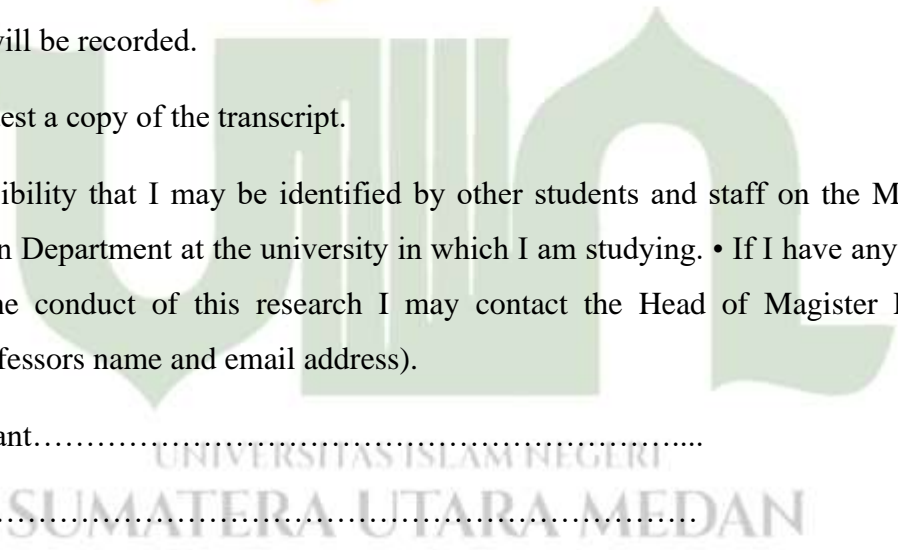
I understand that:

- The interview will be recorded.
- That I may request a copy of the transcript.
- There is a possibility that I may be identified by other students and staff on the Magister of English Education Department at the university in which I am studying.
- If I have any cause for concern about the conduct of this research I may contact the Head of Magister Education Programme, (Professors name and email address).

Name of participant.....

Signature.....

Date.....



Appendix 3

List of questions for Interview

NO	THEME	QUESTION
1.	Academic writing	<p>In the 4 English skills, do you like writing?</p> <p>What do you think about critical thinking in expressing ideas in writing?</p> <p>Do you understand how to write academics from a qualitative or quantitative perspective, etc.?</p> <p>What articles have you written during your undergraduate and postgraduate studies? What's the difference in your opinion?</p> <p>Can you provide an overview of your experience in academic writing in both undergraduate and graduate degrees?</p> <p>Can you share specific examples or examples of challenges that graduate students in Indonesia face during the thesis writing process and how they overcome them?</p>

		<p>In your opinion, how long does it take to write a thesis? And why</p> <p>What academic disciplines are most common among graduate students in Indonesia, and do you believe that these disciplines pose unique challenges in thesis supervision?</p> <p>What about the references you use to write your thesis?</p>
3.	<p>Language barrier</p>	<p>Have you ever taken a language test, and what was your score? Then what about the writing part?</p> <p>How does the language barrier, especially for students for whom English is not their primary language, impact the quality of the thesis writing process?</p> <p>What parts make it difficult for you to write?</p>
12.	<p>Guidance obstacles</p>	<p>Can you explain the main challenges you observed or encountered in supervising postgraduate theses in Indonesia?</p> <p>How can the relationship between students and supervisors be optimized to ensure productive and supportive thesis supervision?</p> <p>In your opinion, how do cultural and contextual factors influence</p>

		<p>the thesis supervision process for Indonesian postgraduate students?</p> <p>Are there any institutional or structural problems at Indonesian universities that you believe contribute to or hinder the effectiveness of thesis supervision? If yes, what is it?</p> <p>What ethical considerations or issues have you encountered in the context of thesis supervision, and how do you think they should be addressed in the academic community?</p>
16.	<p>Strategy</p>	<p>From your point of view, what strategies or approaches are effective in overcoming challenges related to thesis writing for Indonesian students?</p> <p>In your opinion, what role should universities and academic institutions play in improving the quality of thesis supervision for postgraduate students in Indonesia?</p> <p>Lastly, what advice would you give to thesis advisors and graduate students in Indonesia to improve their overall thesis writing and supervision experience?</p> <p>Can you share examples of successful experiences in thesis supervision with Indonesian postgraduate students? What factors contributed to the success of the experience?</p>

Appendix 4


FGD Questions

1. What are the common challenges faced by Indonesian postgraduate students when writing their theses?
2. How does the language barrier affect the writing process for Indonesian graduate students working on their thesis?
3. What role do cultural factors play in shaping approaches to thesis writing among Indonesian postgraduate students?
4. Can you share specific examples of challenges encountered during the thesis writing process, such as time management issues or difficulty accessing resources?
5. How do Indonesian graduate students usually manage the stress and pressure associated with writing a thesis?
6. What strategies have you found effective for overcoming writer's block or lack of motivation during the thesis writing journey?
7. In what ways do Indonesian academic institutions support postgraduate students in their thesis writing efforts, and how effective is this support system?
8. How do Indonesian graduate students navigate the balance between academic rigor and practical applicability in their thesis work?
9. What are some common misconceptions or myths about thesis writing among Indonesian graduate students, and how do these affect the writing process?
10. Can you share a success story or insight from your own or your colleagues' experiences regarding overcoming challenges and achieving success in writing a thesis as an Indonesian graduate student?

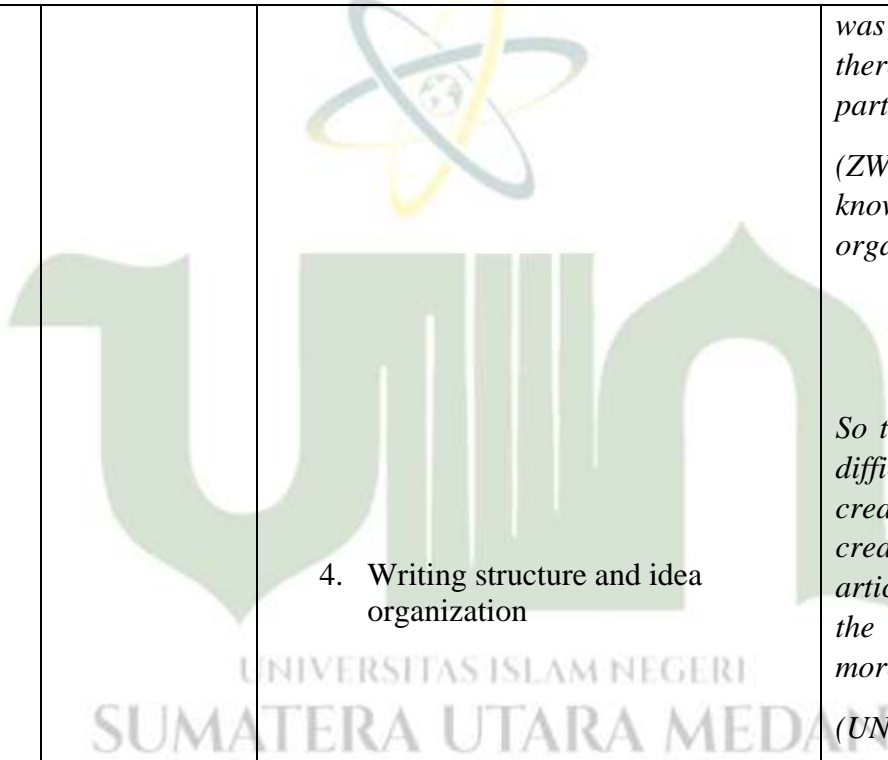
Appendix 5

Results of Thematic Content Analysis

Overarching Theme	Category	Subcategory	Descriptor	Excerpt
Challenges in Writing thesis	Intrinsic	Linguistics and writing knowledge	<p>1. Rhetorical differences L1 and L2</p> <p>2. Slow speed in writing</p>	<p><i>"And some of the participants are not proficient in using Indonesian language, so they use Mandailing language. So, it's like they're not very fluent."</i></p> <p><i>(PSN, FGD 1/ linguistics and writing knowledge/rhetorical differences L1 and L2)</i></p> <p><i>"In that, perceptions, then the paraphrase, it's quite mind-boggling, then analyzing the data, that's very, very remarkable. And it's problem for me as second language learner"</i></p> <p><i>(ZW, interview 1/ linguistics and writing knowledge/rhetorical differences L1 and L2)</i></p> <p><i>Yes, I like writing. Because writing is an activity that really drains my mind, in my opinion. And you know,,in hour I could write just one or twi paragrapgh if directly into</i></p>

			 <p>3. Grammar</p>	<p><i>English. Really embarrassed haha PSN/Interview 2/ linguistics and writing knowledge/slow speed in writing)</i></p> <p><i>I have challenges in language, of course. Because when writing, you know, skills are really poured out and really, this is in terms of grammar. And for example, there was this one time, the supervisor said, "You're in your Master's degree and it's like this. Do you want to try finding? What is it? What's it called? Proofreading. Try finding a good proofreader to check your writing. Yeah, like that. And when I wrote one paragraph I feel like I was superior. In fact that I just a little piece of another expert author.</i></p> <p><i>Because we also write, we must avoid plagiarism. Surely, as Indonesians, our native language is Indonesian, so we know we have grammar errors.</i></p> <p><i>PSN/Interview 3/ linguistics and writing knowledge/Grammar)</i></p> <p><i>Even graduate students studying English</i></p>
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			 <p>UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI SUMATERA UTARA MEDAN</p>	<p><i>face language restrictions, particularly grammar. Furthermore, when writing, we must evaluate whether the sentence structure is correct, the grammar is good, the content is appropriate, and the diction choice is appropriate, as informal and formal writing styles differ.</i></p> <p><i>ZW/FGD 4/ linguistics and writing knowledge/Grammar)</i></p> <p><i>The thing is, it's really disturbing, completely wrong. There's also an issue with the writing structure. For instance, if we make mistakes, we tend to follow along those mistakes. Then, the arrangement, that's what Mrs. RF is most upset about, for instance in chapter one. This is paragraph A, paragraph C should connect. One, two, three should connect. That's what makes her most upset. Then, the language challenge and the idea structure, you know, the main ideas are related, they should be connected; the main idea of paragraph 1 should connect with paragraph 2, paragraph 3. So it's not fragmented in chapter 1, I was supervised quite a long time by my first supervisor because the idea structure was really looked at there, so it's about the organization of ideas. My writing</i></p>
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			 <p>4. Writing structure and idea organization</p>	<p><i>was really messy, so it took a long time there, it had to connect from one paragraph part to another paragraph part.</i></p> <p><i>(ZW/Interview 4/ linguistics and writing knowledge/Writing structure and idea organization)</i></p> <p><i>So there you go. It turns out that writing is difficult. After we've engaged in some creative thought, correct? Our thoughts are creative, but this does not imply that they are articulated artistically. So we have to repeat the process several times, making it much more innovative and complex.</i></p> <p><i>(UN/FGD 5/ linguistics and writing knowledge/Writing structure and idea Organization)</i></p> <p><i>"It's not just about randomly picking journals or articles. That's the second point. Then, paraphrasing, rewriting ideas from other researchers, and generating new ideas in our writing is also a challenge. That's the same with time and writing; those are the challenges. Because when we write, we must</i></p>
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			 <p>UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI SUMATERA UTARA MEDAN</p>	<p><i>avoid plagiarism. As Indonesians, our native language is Indonesian, so we know we make grammatical errors. That's the difficulty with paraphrasing. That's what it's like with international journals."</i></p> <p><i>(UN/Interview 5/ linguistics and writing knowledge/Paraphrasing)</i></p> <p><i>"If I had more time, I would do proofreading or prepress. We consider our writing to be the universe. Ah, cool, awesome. If, for example, someone reads our writing, it may not be clear what we are looking for. There are too many every time. There must be several problems."</i></p> <p><i>(PSN/FGD 6/ linguistics and writing knowledge/paraphrasing)</i></p> <p><i>"Because we really have to find appropriate references. References that are truly good. It can't be from random journals or sloppy writings. That's the second point. Then, paraphrasing, rewriting ideas from other researchers, and generating new ideas in our writing is also a challenge. That's the same</i></p>
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5. Paraphrase

with time and writing; those are the challenges."

(UN/Interview 6/ linguistics and writing knowledge/Referencing)

The penalties are subsequently determined. We really need to read many references. But. The eyes becoming worse. Yes, because I am constantly sitting in front of my laptop. Reading and reviewing journal references and mentor literature also requires a significant amount of effort and thought.

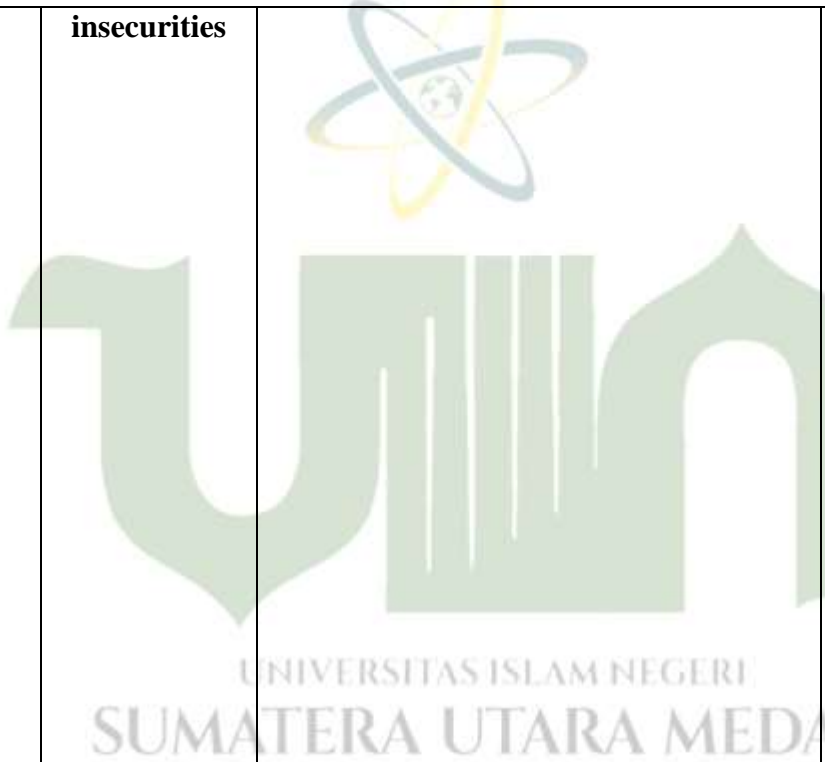
(ZW/Interview 7/ linguistics and writing knowledge/Referencing)

UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI
SUMATERA UTARA MEDAN



UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI
SUMATERA UTARA MEDAN

			<p>6. Referencing</p> <p>1. Time management</p>	<p><i>For the writing, yes, so the first one is Time</i></p>
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		<p>insecurities</p>	 <p>UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI SUMATERA UTARA MEDAN</p>	<p><i>management, right? Because preparing time to work on it is difficult.</i></p> <p><i>(PSN/FGD 7/ Dealing with insecurities/time management)</i></p> <p><i>I don't have time for focusing on it now that I'm working, especially since I work in the countryside. Meeting the supervisor there is challenging. Setting aside time to write is difficult. Gathering the intention is challenging.</i></p> <p><i>(UN/Interview 8/ Dealing with insecurities/time management)</i></p> <p><i>I can still work and write my thesis, but I'm having trouble evaluating the data. It is extremely time-consuming and mentally draining.</i></p> <p><i>(ZW/Interview 9/ Dealing with insecurities/time management)</i></p> <p><i>So, after that, the lack of confidence arises from the fear of making mistakes. Fear of making mistakes. Finally, being unprepared causes stress, more specifically psychological distress. It feels like pressure</i></p>
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2. Impostor phenomenon/lack of confidence

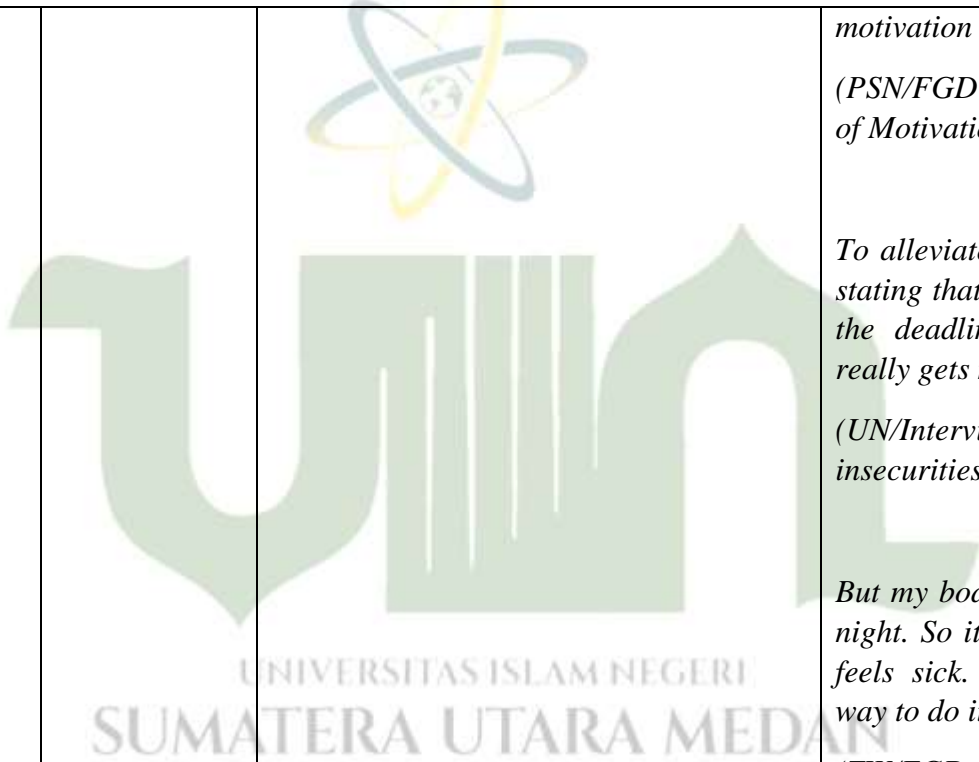
is coming from everywhere, even personal life, which is extremely worrisome. This affects our motivation at work. So, even before opening the laptop, stress sets in, and there is no intention to open it. So it's already wobbly and all. So, even when I open the laptop, I'm serious but not serious, agitated by this and that.

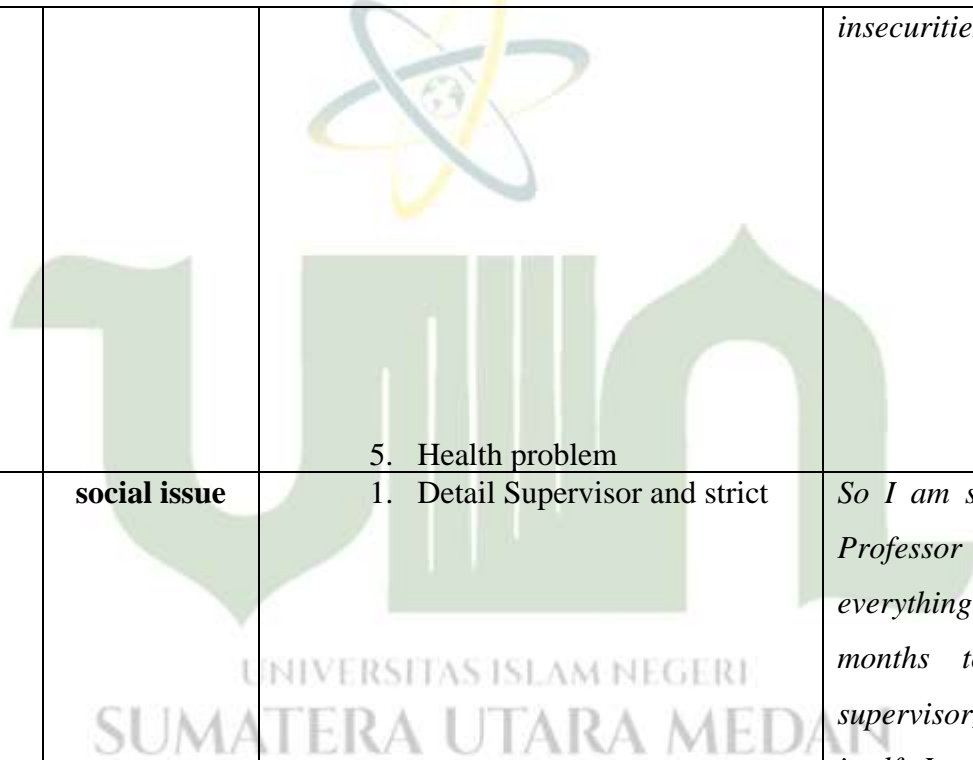
(PSN/Interview 10/ Dealing with insecurities/Impostor Syndrome or Lack of confidence)


I believe that the sentences I write are still missing, and I am really humiliated as a postgraduate student for my inadequate English language skills. My writing also lacks precision.


(ZW/FGD 8/ Dealing with insecurities/Impostor Syndrome or Lack of confidence)

Yes, it is true that there is a lack of motivation and such, and it appears that the element extends to the supervisor as well, correct? And both are indifferent, I am becoming apathetic, and I'm tired of working on it. Then I feel like there's no need to keep going, so we're basically doing it alone, and

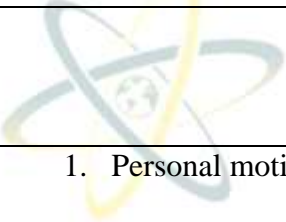
			 <p>UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI SUMATERA UTARA MEDAN</p> <p>3. New identity as researcher</p> <p>4. Lack of motivation</p>	<p><i>motivation disappears.</i></p> <p><i>(PSN/FGD 9/ Dealing with insecurities/Lack of Motivation)</i></p> <p><i>To alleviate this stress, I motivate myself by stating that everything must be completed by the deadline. Only the phrase "deadline" really gets my attention, hehe.</i></p> <p><i>(UN/Interview 11/ Dealing with insecurities/Lack of motivation)</i></p> <p><i>But my body can't deal with it, especially at night. So it does not feel pleasant; rather, it feels sick. However, the most comfortable way to do it is at night.</i></p> <p><i>(ZW/FGD 10/ Dealing with insecurities/Health problem)</i></p> <p><i>My work hours in this Master's degree are from dawn to evening, sometimes late at night, because we are already working. There is no longer time for thesis writing. On weekends, I'm already feverish and feeling ill.</i></p> <p><i>(UN/Interview 12/ Dealing with</i></p>
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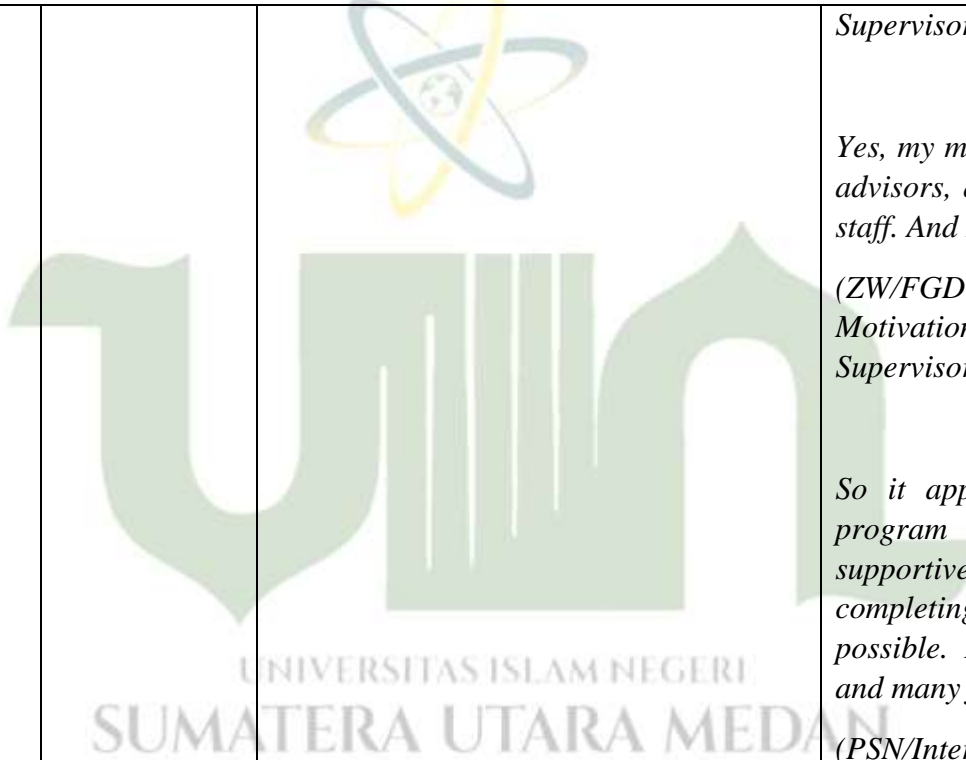
				<p><i>insecurities/health problem)</i></p>
	<p>Extrinsic</p>	<p>social issue</p>	<p>5. Health problem</p> <p>1. Detail Supervisor and strict</p>	<p><i>So I am stressed since my supervisor is a Professor with a PhD, and he expects everything to be perfect. Thus, I need 6 months to obtain approval from one supervisor, and this is only for the proposal itself. It still has one supervisor. It takes a full month just to receive approval, and the actual construction takes six months. When the second supervisor spends three months, it takes around nine months to receive approval from both supervisors.</i></p> <p><i>(UN/Interview 13/ Dealing with insecurities/Detail and strict supervisor)</i></p>

			 <p style="text-align: center;">UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI SUMATERA UTARA MEDAN</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2. Financial issue</p>	<p><i>my experience with proposal guidance took a long time because my first supervisor was highly comprehensive and excellent in writing, and my second supervisor was similarly careful. As a result, the advice for my proposal took around five months.</i></p> <p><i>(ZW/FGD11/ Dealing with insecurities/Detail and strict supervisor)</i></p> <p><i>Thinking about the deadline, it must be completed because there is [something]. So, if not, what is it called? There will be a lot more problems later, especially with these payments and so on. Just on time, it's caught up with other payments, like what's it called, and the prerequisites for the defense session, among other things, are already in place. So it's essentially about money.</i></p> <p><i>(ZW/Interview 14/ Social Issue/Financial Issue)</i></p> <p><i>The task is mostly concerned with writing time. My work hours in this master's degree are from dawn to evening, sometimes late at night, because we are already working. There is no more time left to write the thesis.</i></p>
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				<p><i>(UN/FGD 12/ Social Issue/Financial Issue)</i></p> <p><i>Okay, time management. I'm deciding between making Thai tea drinks, working in food and beverage, and completing my thesis. it's make me confused and stress</i></p> <p><i>(PSN/FGD 13/ Social Issue/Financial Issue)</i></p>
strategies in writing thesis	time reminder		<p>1. Drop out motivation</p>	<p><i>Self-motivation is the key to overcoming stress. Before dropping out, everything must be finished. Yeah, simply the word "DO."</i></p> <p><i>(UN/Interview 15/ strategies in writing thesis/time reminder/drop out reminder)</i></p> <p><i>Finally, I give up on the scenario, and because there is a drop-out warning, I become more conscious. I can't fool around any longer, nor can I sit idly by.</i></p> <p><i>(PSN/FGD 14/ strategies in writing thesis/time reminder/drop out reminder)</i></p> <p><i>Yes, the motivation is to avoid paying tuitin.</i></p> <p><i>(ZW/FGD 15/ strategies in writing</i></p>

			<p style="text-align: center;">  2. Payment motivation </p> <p style="text-align: center;">  UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI SUMATERA UTARA MEDAN </p> <p style="text-align: center;"> 3. Dealing with the procrastination </p>	<p><i>thesis/time reminder/Payment motivation)</i></p> <p><i>Hmm... that's what motivates me to keep working on this, because of financial constraints such as continued tuition, examination fees, and other costs.</i></p> <p><i>(UN/Interview 16/ strategies in writing thesis/time reminder/Payment motivation)</i></p> <p><i>"Yeah, it's like wanting to finish quickly to be relieved from the tension of this college life and to get the master degree."</i></p> <p><i>(UN/Interview 17/ strategies in writing thesis/time reminder/Dealing with the procrastination)</i></p> <p><i>"I always try not to procrastinate for too long because once I've procrastinated and neglected my responsibilities, my motivation fades away."</i></p> <p><i>(PSN/FGD 16/ strategies in writing thesis/time reminder/ Dealing with the procrastination)</i></p>
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	<p>motivation and support</p> <p>assisted by tool</p>		<p>1. Personal motivation</p> <p>2. Supportive supervisors and staff</p>	<p><i>"In my opinion, the biggest inspiration must come from within ourselves as well as from others. If we can motivate ourselves, we can eventually conquer all hurdles."</i></p> <p><i>(ZW/Interview 18/ strategies in writing thesis/Motivation and support/Personal motivation)</i></p> <p><i>Hmm... I believe the early motivation stems from financial concerns and familial support, as I have struggled to support myself while working on this thesis. So I seek motivation from people, and then I can move forward with motivation from within myself.</i></p> <p><i>(UN/FGD 17/ strategies in writing thesis/Motivation and support/Personal motivation)</i></p> <p><i>"Alhamdulillah, I am supported by long-term academic personnel. So they always offer encouragement. Let us be prepared. Well, that becomes motivation. So, alhamdulillah, it feels easier and more convenient."</i></p> <p><i>(UN/Interview 19/ strategies in writing thesis/Motivation and support/ Supportive</i></p>

			 <p>UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI SUMATERA UTARA MEDAN</p>	<p><i>Supervisor and staff)</i></p> <p><i>Yes, my motivation is coming from academic advisors, department chairs, and secretarial staff. And I am really helped by them</i></p> <p><i>(ZW/FGD 18/ strategies in writing thesis/ Motivation and support/ Supportive Supervisor and staff)</i></p> <p><i>So it appears that the head of magister program and his/her staff is highly supportive, assisting the student in completing the assignment as quickly as possible. Providing references, guidebooks, and many forms of aid.</i></p> <p><i>(PSN/Interview 20/ strategies in writing thesis/Motivation and support/ Supportive Supervisor and staff)</i></p> <p><i>When it comes to references, after reading them, I download them and enter them into Mendeley. So Mendeley is quite useful for managing references.</i></p> <p><i>(UN/FGD 19/ strategies in writing thesis/ Assisted by tool)</i></p>
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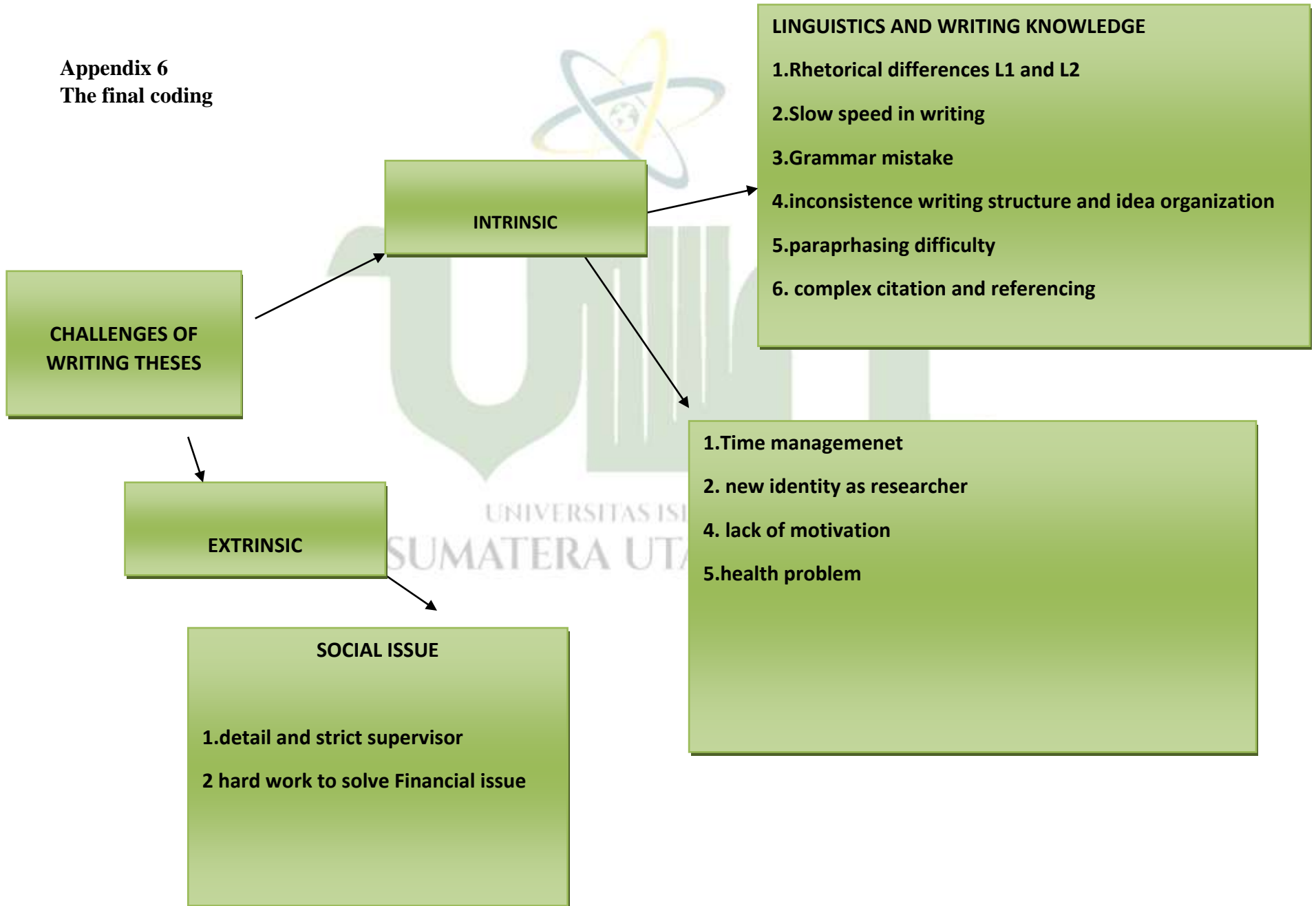


1. Assisted by tool

Fortunately, Mendeley and internet access make it much easier to identify mentor texts as readings for thesis references. Furthermore, Google Translate makes the procedure easier, particularly when dealing with high-level language in trustworthy articles.

(PSN/Interview 21/ strategies in writing thesis/ Assisted by tool).

Appendix 6
The final coding



STRATEGIES IN WRITING THESES

TIME REMINDER

1. Drop out motivation
2. Payment motivation
3. Dealing with the Procrastination

MOTIVATION AND SUPPORT

1. Personal Motivation
2. Supportive supervisors and staff

ASSISSTED BY TOOL

