

**AN ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' ABILITY IN WRITING
DESCRIPTIVE TEXT: A CASE STUDY OF THE EIGHT GRADE
STUDENTS OF SMPN 2 SELONG IN THE ACADAEMIC YEAR
2017-2018.**



JOURNAL

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by

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**“An Analysis of Students’ Ability in Writing Descriptive Text: A Case Study of
The Eight Grade Students of SMPN 2 Selong in The Academic Year 2017-2018”**

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Analisa Kemampuan Siswa Dalam Menulis Teks Deskripsi: Studi Kasus Kepada Siswa Kelas VIII SMPN 2 Selong Tahun Ajaran 2017-2018.

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini berjudul “Analisa kemampuan siswa dalam menulis teks deskripsi: studi kasus kepada siswa kelas VIII SMPN 2 Selong tahun ajaran 2017-2018”. Partisipan dalam penelitian ini dilakukan di kelas VIII-1 yang berjumlah sebanyak 33 siswa. Penelitian ini meneliti hasil tulisan teks deskripsi yang dibuat oleh siswa kelas VIII-1 SMPN 2 Selong. Adapun penelitian ini menggunakan jenis pendekatan deskriptif kuantitatif untuk merancang data. Peneliti menganalisa hasil tulisan deskripsi siswa dengan merujuk ke lima aspek dalam menulis, antara lain organization idea, developing idea, grammar, vocabulary, mechanics. Penelitian ini tidak hanya di peruntukkan mengukur kemampuan siswa, adapun penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menemukan kelebihan dan kelemahan siswa yang akan dikelompokkan menjadi 5 tingkatan, diantara lain; sangat baik, baik, cukup baik, kurang dan sangat kurang. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa hasil penjumlahan nilai seluruh siswa yaitu 1797 dimana nilai rata-ratanya 54, nilai mode 31, dan nilai median 50. Hasil tersebut menunjukkan bahwa secara garis besar, kemampuan menulis siswa kelas VIII-1 tergolong pada tingkat cukup baik. Dalam hal ini, hanya ada 1 atau 3% siswa dalam tergolong pada tingkat sangat baik, 7 or 21% siswa tergolong pada tingkat baik, 8 atau 24% tergolong pada tingkat cukup baik, 13 atau 39% siswa tergolong pada tingkat kurang dan 4 atau 12% tergolong pada tingkat sangat kurang. Selanjutnya, kelebihan siswa dalam menulis dapat ditentukan dengan hasil penjumlahan nilai seluruh siswa di masing-masing aspek. Hasil tertinggi jatuh pada aspek organization idea dimana hasil penjumlahannya sebesar 2076 dengan skor rata-rata 63, nilai mode 100, nilai median 60 dan standar deviasi 26,17. Data tersebut menyimpulkan bahwa tingkat menulis siswa pada aspek ini tergolong pada tingkat cukup baik. Disamping itu, kelemahan siswa dalam menulis yaitu terdapat pada grammar aspek yang mana hasil penjumlahan keseluruhan nilai siswa 1200 dengan jumlah rata-rata 36, mode 15, median 25 dan standar deviasi 22,36. Aspek tersebut tergolong pada tingkat kurang baik.

Kata kunci: kemampuan menulis, teks deskripsi

An Analysis of Students' Ability in Writing a Descriptive Text: a Case Study of the Eight Grade Students of SMPN 2 Selong in the Academic Year 2017-2018.

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Abstract

This research entitle “An Analysis of Students’ Ability in Writing Descriptive Text on the eight grade at SMPN 2 Selong in The Academic Year 2017-2018”. The subjects of this study were the 33 students of VIII-1 class. The research investigated on the decriptive writing text which had been done by the eight grade students of SMPN 2 Selong. This research used descriptive quantitative research to design the data. The researcher analysed the students’ writing result referring to the five aspects. They were organization idea, developed idea, grammar, vocabulary, and mechanics. This study was not only aimed at investigating the students’ writing ability, but it was also aimed at finding out the students’ strength and weakness which would be classified into five levels of classifications: excelent, good, average, fair, and poor. Based on the analysis result, the total score of the entire students was 1797 in which the mean score was 54, the mode was 31, and the median was 50, in which it belonged to the average level classification. In this case, there were 1or 3% students belonging to the excelent level. 7 or 21% students belonging to the good level, 8 or 24% students belonging to average level, 13 or 39% students belonged to the fair level, and 4 or 12% students belonging to the poor level classification. Furthermore, the students’ strenght in writing in terms of descriptive text belonged to the organizing idea’s aspect in which the total score was 2076 with the mean score was 63, the mode was 100, the median was 60, and the standard deviation was 26.17. It classified as the average level. Besides, the students’ weakness belonged to the grammar aspect in which the total score was 1200 with the mean score 36, the mode was 15, the median was 25, the standard deviation was 22.36. It is classified as the fair level.

Key words : writing ability, descriptive text

Introduction

There are two skills which students should master in English, they are receptive skills which are listening and reading, and productive skill which are speaking and writing. Due to the fact that English in Indonesia is taught and learnt as a foreign language, writing is one of the difficult skills faced by students in this country. According to Akhadaiah (1998) in Ariffudin (2007:167) “writing is a complicated skill to be assessed”. Learners might have a good ability in speaking, but it is not a guarantee that they are able to write English well. Learners were often found to get difficulty in writing. Furthermore, Rass (2001:30) stated, “Writing is a difficult skill for native speakers and non-native speakers; because writers must be able to write it in multiple issues such as content, organization, purpose, audience, vocabulary and mechanics as well as punctuation, spelling, and capitalization”. When writing, the students need to know and understand some aspects in order to produce a good writing, such as grammar, vocabulary, and mechanic. In learning process, the teacher plays an important role to support the ability of students to be able to write well. According to Brown (2001): “writing is thinking process, because writing is a process of putting ideas down on paper to transform thought into words and give them structure and coherent organization.”

Referring to the Junior High School Competency Based Curriculum, every student is required to be able to communicate in English through spoken and written form. In a written form, the students are expected to be able to write narrative text, recount text, procedure text, descriptive text and so on. To be specific, in descriptive text, the students are taught to write the genre of descriptive text with the right order of the generic structure and use the language features correctly. Furthermore, based on the national curriculum in Indonesia, being able to write a descriptive text is one of the requirements in learning English especially for the students who are at the eight grade of junior high school. Sudarwati and Eudia (2007:113-137) stated that “the targets of teaching writing descriptive text for the first year students of Junior High School are (1) the students are able to describe animals and people, (2) the

students are able to describe their school, (3) the students are able to describe places. From the statement above, the researcher assumed that the students had background knowledge in writing descriptive text when they were learning this text in the second year student.

According to Wyrick (1987:227) “The writer of description creates a word picture of persons, places, objects, and emotions using a careful selection of detail to make an impression on the reader.” In other words, Descriptive text was derived from the word ‘describe’ which means to explain someone about the thing, person, or animal. Descriptive text has three structures which were description, identification and conclusion.

To be able to write a descriptive text, the students need to master the grammatical rules being used, have rich vocabulary, pay attention to the content of the text to obtain a good result. It is the reason why writing is assumed as the most difficult skill to be mastered. Since writing became the most difficult skill to be mastered by foreign language learners, the English teachers in SMPN 2 Selong have found that students often have difficulties in writing a descriptive text. Whereas, based on the national curriculum in Indonesia, the students are required to be able to write descriptive text well. It is because in language teaching, writing is an indispensable aspect of interaction beside reading and speaking. Concerning the sets of problem mentioned above, it could not be denied that the research on writing ability is essential as the effort to overcome those problems. That is the reason why the researcher is interested in conducting this research.

Based on the interview result with one of English teachers in SMPN 2 Selong, generally, there were some problems during writing descriptive text faced by the students, especially by the eight grade students, such as lack of vocabulary, the ambiguous idea development, unorganized idea, incorrect grammar and mechanic. Vocabulary is a crucial thing in writing a text. Because English is a foreign language, some students had problem with vocabulary mastery. It made them hesitate to choose the correct words during writing a text. From this problem, a confusion appeared in

developing idea by the students. Next problem was composing the idea in the paragraph which was ambiguous. Some students were often found to write many main ideas in one paragraph while other students wrote only one sentence in one paragraph. That made the idea in the paragraph not clear. Besides, not few students were often found to get difficulty in organizing the idea. The ideas written by students were often not sequence and not readable or hardly comprehensible which baffled the reader. Furthermore, the very common problem faced by students was grammar. Grammar is a set of rules which makes the words able to be modified and united into sentences. Grammar plays an important role to deliver a clear message so that the meaning of the sentences could be easily deliverable without having miscomprehension or mis understanding. So, it undeniable that a grammar system of language might be able to produce what the writing should be, which is comprehensible and understandable. The last is mechanics component consisting of punctuation, spelling and capitalization.

Review of Related Literature

There are some previous studies which were related to this study. The first study is Ummi Rasyidah's (2015) which is entitled "An Analysis of Students' Writing Skill in Descriptive Text of the Second Year Students at SMPN 2 Bangun Purba in the academic year 2014-2015. This study was aimed to analyze the students' writing skill in the form of descriptive text and to figure out the factors that affected it. The result of this study showed that the students' mean score in terms of identification and description were considered in average level. In terms of identification, the students' mean score was 55,75 while in terms of description was 50,25. From the description above, the researcher calculated the students' mean score in writing descriptive text in which the result score was 51. This study showed that the students writing ability in the form of descriptive text was considered as average level.

The third research is done by Junita Siahaan (2013) is entitled “An analysis of students’ ability and difficulties in writing descriptive texts”. This study was done at the tenth grade of one senior high school at Bandung. A qualitative case study was used as the method of this study. This study was aimed to analyze the students’ writing skill in the form of descriptive text and to figure out the students’ difficulties in writing based on four aspects, they were organization, fluency or structure (article, auxiliary verb, tense, pronoun, preposition, pluralization, and conjunction.), word choice (noun, verb, adverb, adjective) and mechanics (spelling, punctuation, capitalization). The students’ writing result percentage in organization aspects is 1.27% while in fluency or structure was 53.05% (article 2.44%, auxiliary verb 6.1%, tense 18.29, pronoun 4.88%, preposition 3.05%, pluralization 9.15% and conjunction 9.16%). Meanwhile, the students writing result percentage in the word choice aspects was 18.9% (noun 7.93%, verb 1.83%, adverb 4.88%, and adjective 4.27%) and the students’ writing result percentage in mechanic was 26.83% (spelling 18.29%, punctuation 1.83%, and capitalization 6.71%). From the explanation above, this research concluded that the most students’ problem faced in writing in organization aspects in which the percentage score was 1.27%. It was consider as the lowest percentage level of skill.

The last study was done by Rosidah (2011) entitled “An Analysis of Students’ Competence In Writing Descriptive Paragraph: A Case Study at The Second Year Students Of SMPN 2 Gunungsari In Academic Year 2010-2011”. The purpose of this study is to know the students’ skill particularly in writing descriptive text. This study was conducted at the VIIC class of SMPN 2 Gunung Sari in the academic year 2010-2011 in which the number of subjects was 25 students. The researcher conducted this study in which its design was one sheet method. To obtain the data, a writing test was given to the students in which the students were asked to write a paragraph in the form of descriptive text which described about place and person. To interpret the data, a descriptive method was used in this study.

The result of this study reported the students ability in writing descriptive text. It showed that 5 students with the percentage of 20% were considered as an excellent level category while 7 students or 28% were considered as a good level category. Meanwhile, 10 students or 40% of students were considered as a fairly good level category and 3 students or 12% were considered as terrible level category. After calculating the mean score, this study concluded that the students writing paragraph skill of the second year students of SMPN 2 Gunung Sari in the academic year 2010-2011 is fairly good in which the mean score was 52,75.

Method

The writer used Descriptive Analysis method in this research. Arikunto (2002:30) stated that if the researcher know, what, how many, and how long of things, the research had been known as descriptive research. This research was conducted at the eight grade students of SMPN 2 Selong in the academic year 2017-2018. The data of this research were obtained from the calculation of the score result of the writing test in the form of descriptive text. The students were explained descriptive text by the researcher for three times in different days. Then, the researcher gave the students a free writing descriptive test. The students were free to choose the kinds of descriptive text and the topic of the text. After that, the result of the writing test were analysed by a rubric, Heaton (1988:146), which focused on the four aspects; organization ideas, developed ideas, grammar, vocabulary, mechanics. Then, the researcher calculated the students' writing score result in each aspects separately. Furthermore, The group scores of each aspects were summarized based on some indexes which could represent a group sets of measured as whole. They were the mean score and central tendency (the mode and the median) which played the role to determine whether the score was low or high.

The formula of the mean score :

$$x = \frac{\sum X}{N}$$

In which : **x** = **Mean**
 X = **Scores**
 N = **The number of score**

Meanwhile, In analysing the data, the standard deviation was also to be used. The writer used the formula from (Brown, 1989: 107).

The formula was as follows:

$$S = \sqrt{\sum(x - \bar{x})^2}$$

S = standard deviation
x = the score
x = the mean
N = the number of score

From those phases techniques, the researcher could identify the students' writing ability in each aspects dominantly. The last step was calculating the data and grading the students ability. The students' scores were classified into five level classifications, namely excellent, good, fair, average and poor. The following is the students' score level;

91 – 100 classified as Excellent
75 – 90 classified as Good
51 – 74 classified as Average
31 – 50 classified as Fair
0 – 30 classified as Poor

Finding and Discussion

The data of this study presented the mean score which represented a whole students' score. Generally, The calculation's result of the mean score of the eight grade students of SMPN 2 Selong was 54. It belonged to the average classification level. There were 1 student, (3%), belonged to the excellent level and 7 students, (21%), belonged to the good level and there were 8, (24%), students belonged to the average level classification. However, there were 13, (39%), students belonged to the fair level and 4, (12%), students belonged to the poor level classification.

Furthermore, In terms of organizing ideas aspects, in the calculation result, it was found that there were 8 students, (24%), belonged to the excellent level, 5 students, (15%) belonged to the good level, 6 students, (18%), belonged to the average level, 12 students, (36%), belonged to the fair level and 2 students, (6%), belonged to the poor level. Meanwhile, the calculation result of the mean score in terms of organizing ideas was 63. It could be concluded that the writing ability of the eight grade students of SMPN 2 Selong belonged to the average level classification.

The next aspect was developing idea. The calculation result was 5 students belonged to the excellent level, 1 student, (3%), belonged to the good level, 10 students, (30%), belonged to the average level, 15 students, (45%) belonged to the fair level and 2 students, (6%), belonged to the poor level. The students' mean score in this aspect was 58. It meant that the students writing ability in the developing idea aspect belonged to the average level classification.

However, in the grammar aspect, the calculation result based on the students' writing test was 1 student, (3%) belonged to the excellent level, 3 students, (9%), belonged to the good level, 1 student, (3%), belonged to the average level, 13 students, (39%), belonged to the fair level and 15 students, (45%), belonged to the poor level classification. Moreover, the mean score was 36, which meant it belonged to the fair level classification.

The fourth aspect was the vocabulary aspect. It was found that the students' writing calculation result in this aspect was 2 students, (6%), belonged to the

excellent level, 22 student, (66%), belonged to the average level, 5 students, (15%), belonged to the fair level and 4 students, (12%), belonged to poor level. However, there was no students belonged to the good level. The mean score was 58. It belonged to the average classification level..

The last aspect was the mechanics. The calculation result defined 5 students, (15%), belonged to the excellent level, 1 student, (3%), belonged to the good level, 1 student, (3%), belonged to the average level, 15 students, (45%), belonged to the fair level and 11 students, (33%), belonged to the poor level classification. Furthermore, the calculation of the mean score was 52. It meant the students' writing ability in terms of the mechanics aspect belonged to the average classification level.

Referring to the calculation of the mean scores of each aspects, it could be defined that the students' weakness in writing descriptive text belonged to the grammar aspect with the mean score 37 which was categorized as a fair level while the students' strength in writing descriptive text belonged to the organizing ideas aspect with the mean score 63 which was categorized as the average level classification.

Conclusions

From the explanation above, it could be concluded that the students' writing ability of the eight grade students of SMPN 2 Selong was categorized as the average level in the terms of the organizing ideas, the developing ideas, the vocabulary and the mechanic aspects. Furthermore, it could be concluded that the students' strength writing ability of the eight grade students of SMPN 2 Selong belonged to the organization ideas aspect with the highest amount of the students' mean score which was 63. However, in the terms of grammar aspect, the students' writing ability of the eight grade students of SMPN 2 Selong was categorized as the poor level with the mean score 37. It was also classified as the students' weakness in writing ability with the lowest amount of the students' mean score.

Regarding to the students' mean score, which was 54, the researcher concluded that the students writing ability of the eight grade students of SMPN 2 Selong in the academic year 2017-2018 in the form of descriptive text was categorized as a fair level.

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