

AN ANALYSIS OF THE STUDENTS' SKILL IN WRITING DESCRIPTIVE TEXT AT THE EIGHTH GRADE OF SMPN 7 TAMBUSAI UTARA

Isrina Fitri^{*}), Eripuddin¹⁾), Pipit Rahayu²⁾)

English Study Program

Faculty of Teacher Training and Education

University of Pasir Pengaraian

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ABSTRACT

Isrina Fitri. 2017. An Analysis of Students' Skill in Writing Descriptive Text at the Eighth Grade of SMPN 7 Tambusai Utara

The purpose of this research was to find out the students' skill in writing descriptive text. This research was designed as descriptive quantitative research and it was conducted at SMPN 7 Tambusai Utara which is located in Rokan Hulu Regency on January 25th, 2017. The number of sample in this research was 40 students which was taken from the eighth grade students. In this research, the researcher used writing test as the instrumentation of the research where the students were asked to write a descriptive text based on the topics given to them.

In this research, the researcher analyzed 5 components of descriptive text written by the students such as content, organization, grammar, vocabulary and mechanic. To measure students' skill, the researcher was helped by 3 raters where the result of the analysis showed that in the content of writing, students' average score was 53,72 and it can be classified into the poor level. In the organization of writing, students' average score was 50,47 and it can be classified into the poor level. In the grammar of writing, students' average score was 53,31 and it can be classified into the poor level. In the vocabulary, students' average score was 52,87 and it can be classified into the poor level. In the mechanics, students' average score was 52,72 and it can be classified into the poor level. From those results, the researcher found that the students' average score in writing descriptive text was 51,87 and it means their writing skill in descriptive text can be categorized in the poor level.

Keywords: Analysis, Writing Skill, Descriptive Text

INTRODUCTION

English is one of the most important languages which is used in many countries as the mean of communication. It means that English becomes one of the subjects that must be taught in school. In Indonesia, English has been taught from elementary school level up to university level.

The importance of teaching English is also stated in the basic course outlines (GBPP) of junior high school, it is said that English is understood as means of communication in speaking as well as in writing. In teaching guidelines "GBPP" 2004 (Depdikbup, 2003:6) states "means of communication is understanding and expressing information, thoughts, feeling, developing knowledge, technology, and culture by using the language".

On the other hand, communication through the written word needs real proficiency from the writer in order to be effective. In addition, writing is one of the language skills that should be mastered by students. In writing skill, the students have to

master vocabulary and know how to use grammar in making texts or sentences. It is an important skill because it will be applied in many aspect of life.

Through writing, people are supposed to be able to express their ideas in writing form. There are many ways to express writing and one of them is through a text. There are many text types taught in Junior High School. Each text has different social function, schematic structures, and language features.

In SMPN 7 Tambusai Utara, one of the texts taught for the eighth grade students is Descriptive text. According to Hyland (2002:78) writing is learned, rather than taught, and the teacher's best method are flexibility and support. According to the eighth grade English teacher, Mrs. Endang Sri Ningsih S.Pd, students' writing skill in descriptive text needs a lot of improvement to get the better writing result than the now. It is purposed to make students are able to explain and describe their ideas about certain thing.

In writing a descriptive text, the eighth grade students in SMPN 7 Tambusai

Utara sometimes found some difficulties although they have been guided by their teachers to write it. There were some difficulties that students face during writing the descriptive paragraph. First problem is in developing the ideas. Some students wrote many main ideas in one paragraph; the idea of the paragraph was still ambiguous. Sometimes, it is also found that some paragraphs were written in one sentence only. The idea of the paragraph was still not clear.

Second, the problem in organizing the ideas to write a descriptive text. A paragraph needs more than a unified point; it needs a reasonable organization or sequence. The students have to organize their ideas into good paragraphs; the students have to make their writing readable. To write a descriptive paragraph, the students can organize their ideas by identifying the topic and give the descriptions about the topic.

Third, the students found difficulties in grammar. Grammar difficulties will influence certain patterns of how words are put together to form the correct sentences. It will make the ideas do develop well. Fourth, when students proceed writing something, many problems could be found. Some students are lack of vocabularies and they also have difficulties in developing their ideas related to their topic.

Some students were still in doubt with choosing the correct words while composing descriptive text. Lack of vocabularies made the students confused in developing their ideas. In this case the students have to choose correct words that they need.

The Fifth difficulty was students' related with spelling, punctuation and capitalization. Based on this phenomenon, it can be concluded that students made some mistakes in mechanic aspect. Spelling, punctuation and capitalization difficulties can also affect the meaning of the sentences in a paragraph; they made the reader confused on the contiguity meaning of the sentences even of the paragraph.

Unfortunately, many students were not interested in writing about something, even though it is about their life. They prefer reading and speaking to writing. As stated before, writing is more difficult than others skill since it needs more aspects. It involves many different elements such as grammar, vocabulary, organization of ideas, spelling,

and punctuation marks. Based on the problem faced by the students above, the researcher is interested in doing a research which is purposed to measure students' writing skill entitled ***"An Analysis of Students' Skill in Writing Descriptive Text at the Eighth Grade of SMPN 7 Tambusai Utara"***

Purpose of the Research

Every research has a purpose to be conducted. In this research, Based on problem above, the researcher wants to find out the students' writing skill in descriptive text at the eighth grade of SMPN 7 Tambusai Utara

REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE

The Nature of Writing

Writing is one of the language skills which is important in our life. Through writing, we can inform others, carry out transactions, persuade, infuriate, and tell what we feel. However, we know that writing or learning to write especially in a second language is not simply a matter of "writing things down". It is one of the four basic skills that are very complex and difficult to learn.

According to Wordreference cited in Harmenita (2010), writing is one of the ways to give an idea or message which is form in writing on a piece of paper or the other area. It is an act of making marks on certain surface. Specifically, writing is one kind of expression in language which is created by particular set of symbol, having conventional values for representing the wordings of particular language which is drawn up visually.

Jim A.P in Hongqin (2014) states that writing skill in second language, explains that writing skill is complex and difficult to learn. Requiring mastery is not only grammatical patterns but also the rule of writing such as high degree of organization in the development of ideas and information and also choosing the appropriate vocabularies and sentence structure to create a style which is appropriate to subject matter.

Therefore the researcher concludes that writing is making a hand writing where the one who write gives a form for everything what he or she thinks and whatever he or she feels. The researcher has to be able in using written language to give an idea or message.

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". Hugley et al (1983:3) explain that "writing is a communicative act. It depends upon the awareness of the social expectation". This means as communicative act, writing can develop social relationship and social expectation because writing is one of the tools in communication.

Writing becomes the most difficult skill when it is learned by the foreign language learners. "Writing is a difficult skill for native speakers and non-native speakers; because writers must be able write it in multiple issues such as content, organization, purpose, audience, vocabularies and mechanics such as punctuation, spelling, and capitalization" (Rass, 2001:30).

General Concepts of Descriptive Writing

The researcher chooses descriptive writing because it describes a colorful piece of a person, place, thing, or idea using concrete and also vivid details. Furthermore, Wishon and Burks (1980:379) say that "descriptive writing reproduces the way things look, smell, taste, or sound; or it may also evoke moods, such as happiness, loneliness, or fear."

In line with Wishon and Burks, Callaghan (1988:138) also says "A descriptive writing creates a clear and vivid impression of person, things, and place." Wishon and Burks (1980:128) say that in a descriptive writing a writer is required to give his/her readers a detailed vivid picture of a person, place, scene, object, or anything. A description is a drawing in words. The aim of description is to help the readers "see" the objects, persons, and sensations which are presented. Another definition is given by Callaghan (1988:138) that descriptive writing is concrete and detailed.

Descriptive Text

The researcher chooses descriptive text because it describes a piece of a person, place, thing, or idea using concrete and also vivid details. Furthermore, According to Zumakhsin (2005), descriptive text is to describe what we see.

Meanwhile Pardiyono (2007:33-34) states that description is a type of written text which has the specific function to give description about an object (human or non human). In conclusion, from all theories of descriptive text the writer make conclusion that descriptive text is a text to retell about person, thing, and place.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The design of this research was descriptive qualitative research. Gay (2000:275) said that a descriptive research determines and describes the things are. In this problem, a descriptive research was used to analyze the students' writing skill in descriptive text made by the eighth grade students of SMPN 7 Tambusai Utara

Technique of Collecting the Data

The test was conducted at SMPN 7 Tambusai Utara in 25 January 2017. The total respondents of the students of grade eight was 40 students. They were asked to write descriptive text in a piece of paper. The researcher explained about the rules of writing a descriptive text and also suggests them notice the grammar used in writing descriptive text.

Technique of Analyzing the Data

This research deals with the purpose of knowing the students' skill in writing descriptive text. In analyzing the students' written work, the researcher was helped by the raters who will determine the students' writing score in descriptive text. To determine the students' writing score, the researcher used the guidance from the following scoring rubric for descriptive text writing.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

According to the research conducted to the eighth grade students of SMPN 7 Tambusai Utara, the researcher' purpose was to find out their ability in writing descriptive text only without giving any treatment or technique. The research was conducted in January 25th, 2017 and the sample who was taken for this research was 40 students. It means the researcher used total sampling method in taking the sample of the research. In doing the test, the researcher gave a writing test as their instrument. The researcher gave 5 topics of writing and ask them to write one of them. In analyzing the score, the researcher was helped by 3 raters and then the researched analyzed the score given by the raters.

In analyzing the students' writing score, the researcher found that there were 2 students got score 45 and it can be classified into the very poor level. Then, the researcher found that there were 22 students got score 50 and it can be classified into the poor level. The researcher

also found that there were 14 students got score 55 and it can be classified into the fair level. Then, the researcher found that there were 2 student got score 60 and it can be classified into the fair level. So, after getting the students score entirely, the researcher then calculate the average of all scores by accumulated them and then divided it into the number of the samples, so the average score for students' writing skill in descriptive text in this research was **51,87** and it can be categorized as *Poor* level.

The findings of this research was related to the previous research which was taken to find out the students' skill in writing descriptive text. For example the research from Markhamah(2012) which took students' writing text as one of her variable of the research and the use of realia technique as the tool to improve it. Its finding showed that the highest aspect of writing was increased was content and the lowest aspect of writing found was grammar. Although this research did not use any techniques or strategy to improve students' writing skill in descriptive text, the result of students' score in every aspect of writing was varied.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion

Based on the explanation on the previous chapter, the researcher can take a conclusion that this research is designed as a descriptive qualitative research. Time and location of this research were on January 25th, 2017 at SMPN 7 Tambusai Utara of Rokan Hulu regency. In descriptive text writing test, the researcher asked the students to write a descriptive text based on the certain topics given by the researcher. In scoring the students' writing, the researcher was helped by three raters, the score given by the raters then calculated and accumulated by the researcher. The final findings of this research was the students' skill in writing descriptive text was still in the poor level. It is caused by their average score in writing was only **51,87** and it can be categorized in the **Poor Level**.

B. Suggestion

Based on the result of the research, researcher would like to give some suggestions below:

1. For English Teachers, in teaching writing, teachers are suggested to apply the strategy to attract the students' motivation to improve their writing skill. They need to be motivated that English writing is

important part of English to be mastered whether in verbal or written communication.

2. For students, writing skill is very important beside the vocabulary to be mastered when they learn English. Because they not just speaking English orally but also in written form. it can be seen in English written form the correct or incorrect grammar and good writing, especially in descriptive text writing skill.
3. For the next researcher, the researcher suggests finding out the relevant aspect of writing especially in observing the students' writing skill in descriptive text.

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