

# **IMPROVING STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENT IN WRITING HORTATORY EXPOSITION TEXTS THROUGH DICTOGLOSS TECHNIQUE**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This research attempts to improve students' achievement in writing hortatory exposition text by using Dictogloss Technique. The result showed the improvement of students' achievement in writing hortatory exposition text. It was found that the mean of the students' scores in every test was improved. In the first test, the mean was 38.7 and there was 2.3% of the students who got up 75 points (Minimum Completeness Criteria), in the second test, it was 65.1 and 19.04% of the students who got up 75 points, and in the last one, the mean was 79.4 and there was 73.8% of the students who got up 75 points. The students felt enthusiastic, enjoyable, and active in teaching learning process through Dictogloss Technique. The result of the research showed the progress of achievement scores, it can be concluded that Dictogloss Technique gives contribution to improve students' achievement in writing hortatory exposition text.

**Keywords:** Achievement, Writing, Hortatory Exposition Text, Dictogloss Technique

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Background of the Study**

Communication is an activity of expressing or sharing thoughts, ideas, feelings, and information to other people. There are two ways of communication, namely written and oral. When something is communicated or conveyed in a written form, it is called writing. Writing skills are specific abilities which help students put their thoughts into words in a meaningful form and to mentally interact with the message. (<http://www.sil.org>).

Nowadays, Students of Senior High School are claimed not only to be able to speak but also to write in English based on the curriculum called Educational Unit-Oriented

Curriculum (Kurikulum Tingkat Satuan Pendidikan) which requires students to be able to write various kinds of texts, one of them is hortatory exposition text.

The students must be able to write effectively because they perform their writing skill throughout their life for the academic and occupational purposes such as composing simple stories, writing social letters, papers, theses, and so forth. Walsh (2010:1) in <http://www.emergingedtech.com> says that writing is used extensively in higher education which leads to a future career. Because of that, writing is an important skill to be learned.

In fact, when doing an observation in SMA Swasta Dharma Pancasila Medan, the writer found that learning writing was still in problem. It was proved by the students' achievement in writing that was still low. Based on the test given by the writer, there was only one student from 42 students (2.3% of the students) who got score up to the Minimum Completeness Criteria (MCC) of English subject in that school that is 75. Many students still got scores under the standard. Most of the students had difficulty in writing. They did not know how to build sentences that are grammatically correct, had no ideas to express, and lack of vocabulary, based on the data she got after interviewing the teacher and the students. The writer found that the teacher taught her students only about tenses by asking the students to memorize all the pattern of the tenses without giving opportunity for the students to practice their writing skill. It is concluded that students' low achievement in writing is caused by inappropriate teaching technique used by the teacher.

Therefore, based on the explanation above, it is necessary for a teacher to do an innovation in teaching to improve students' achievement in writing. One of the ways is by applying a dictogloss technique.

Dictogloss technique is an integrated-skills technique for language learning in which students work together to create a reconstructed version of a text read to them. The writer would like to apply dictogloss technique because this technique provides environment for students to practice their writing skill and even in the other language skills (listening, reading, and speaking). Dictogloss technique helps students to create ideas which make students easier to write and teaches students about vocabulary and grammar in context, which makes grammar learning more purposeful and meaningful.

Because of that, students will be motivated and interested in learning writing hortatory exposition text by using dictogloss technique

It is expected that students' achievement in writing will be improved if the students are taught by using Dictogloss Technique, especially in writing hortatory exposition text that asks students to think critically.

### **Research Question**

The research problem is formulated as follows: Is students' achievement in writing hortatory exposition text significantly improved if the students are taught by using Dictogloss Technique?

### *The Scope of the Study*

This study is focused on the application of Dictogloss Technique in teaching writing hortatory exposition text to the students of the second year of SMA Swasta Dharma Pancasila Medan.

### *The Objective of the Study*

This study is aimed at finding out the improvement of students' achievement in writing hortatory exposition text by using Dictogloss Technique.

### *The Significance of the Study*

The findings of this study are expected to be useful for:

- 1) Teachers who may apply this as one of the alternative techniques in improving the quality of teaching writing, especially teaching writing hortatory exposition texts.
- 2) Students who want to help themselves improve their writing skill
- 3) Those who are interested in this study to get more information about improving students' achievement in writing especially writing hortatory exposition text.

## **CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK**

### **Students' Achievement**

Hornby (2000:11) defines "achievement" as (1) a thing that somebody has done successfully, especially using his own effort and skill (2) the act or process of achieving something.

Yelon, Weinstein, & Wiener in <http://hmsofyanisnianspd.blogspot> state that achievement is an indication of the success by the individual.

Concisely, students' achievement is a thing done successfully by students with their efforts and skills.

### **Writing**

Writing is a means of communicating ideas and information. Troyka (1987:3) in <http://teachingenglishonline> states that writing is a way of communicating a message to a reader for a purpose. The purposes of writing are to express oneself, provide information for her readers, persuade the readers to do something as proposed in the writing, and create a literary work. Siahaan (2008:215) expresses writing as a psychological activity of the language user to put information into written form.

### **Hortatory Exposition Text**

According to Siahaan & Shinoda (2008: 101), hortatory exposition text is a text functioning to persuade readers that they should do something for the benefit of others.

#### *Generic Structure of Hortatory Exposition Text*

Every text has specific structures that differentiate one to others. A hortatory exposition text consists of these following structures (Gerot and Wignell, 1994:209):

a) Thesis

Thesis is the announcement of the issue of concern.

b) Arguments

Arguments contain of the reasons of doing something.

c) Recommendation

Recommendation is the statement of what ought to happen.

#### *Language Features of Hortatory Exposition Text*

Language features of hortatory exposition text are (Gerot and Wignell, 1994:210):

a) Focus on generic human and non-human participants, except for speaker or writer referring to self

b) Use of:

(1) Mental Processes : to state what writer thinks or feels about issue  
for example: realize, feel, appreciate

(2) Material Processes : to state what happens  
for example: is polluting, should be treated

- (3) Relational Process : to state what is or should be  
for example: doesn't seem to have been, is
- (4) Use of simple present tense

### **Dictogloss Technique**

Dictogloss is a classroom dictation activity where learners listen to a passage, note down key words and then work together to create a reconstructed version of the text (Vasiljevic, 2010:1).

Wajnryb (1990:16) describes dictogloss as a task-based procedure designed to help language learning students towards a better understanding of how grammar works on a text basis. It is designed to expose the students' shortcomings or needs. So, teaching can be directed more precisely towards these areas.

In dictogloss technique also, all four language skills are practiced:

- (1) Listening (to the teacher during dictation, to peers when discussing the reconstruction of the text)
- (2) Speaking (to peers during the reconstruction and presentation)
- (3) Reading (notes taken while listening to the teacher, the group's reconstruction, and the original text), and
- (4) Writing (writing the reconstruction).

Concisely, dictogloss technique is an integrated-skills technique for language learning in which students work together to create a reconstructed version of a text that is grammatically correct and contains the same information as the original text.

### *Dictogloss Procedure*

There are four stages in Dictogloss Technique (Wajnryb, 1990:17), they are:

#### 1) Preparation

Teacher introduces and leads students into the topic of the text, the language focus and the difficult vocabulary. Teacher selects the topics that are related to students' knowledge or interest. Students are divided into several groups before the dictation begins.

#### 2) Dictation (Reading the text)

In dictogloss technique, students normally listen to dictation twice. At first

dictation, teacher dictates the text at normal speed. At first, the students just listen to the text so that they become orientated to the topic. They do not take a note during the first dictation. After the first dictation, students are asked to think what the text is about.

In dictating the text for the second time, they jot down some key words which can help them reconstruct the text.

### 3) Reconstruction

After the dictation stages, students work in group to reconstruct the text. In reconstruction stage, students compare notes or discuss what they have heard and attempt to produce a coherent text close in content and organization to the original version. Students need not to use accurately the same words as in the original text, but the meaning should not be different and the text should be grammatically correct.

### 4) Analysis and Correction

The last is analysis and correction stage. In this stage, students compare their text with other various versions and the original one. Students discuss the content, grammar and language choice made. There are various ways of dealing with this stage. The small group versions can be reproduced on the board or overhead projector; the text can be photocopied and distributed. Ideally, the original text should not be seen by students until after their own versions have been analyzed. Students can be asked to check their reconstruction (self-assessment) or the reconstruction of another group (peer-assessment).

The procedures of teaching hortatory exposition writing by using dictogloss technique can be seen as the following:

*Table 2.1 Teaching and Learning Activities*

Teacher's Activities	Students' Activities
Explaining about hortatory exposition text (social function, generic structures, and language features: simple present tense).	Listening and paying attention to teacher's explanation
Giving a hortatory exposition text to students.	Identifying generic structures and language features of the text given by the teacher and discussing the content

	of the text by translating the text together.
Dividing students into pairs	Sitting in group
Dictating the text discussed before	Listening to the text read by the teacher
Dictating the text for the second time	Taking note the main information of the text
Asking students to work in group and reconstruct the text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Comparing and combining the note taken while listening to the text read with their friends in group.</li> <li>- Reconstructing the text they have heard which is grammatically correct and contains of the same information as the original version.</li> <li>- Elaborating the information</li> </ul>
Asking students to present their work in front of the class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presenting their work</li> <li>- Giving comment related to their friend's work which is being presented (grammar and content of the text).</li> </ul>
Showing the original text in LCD Projector	Comparing their text with the original version: grammar and content of the text (self-assessment).
Asking students to do reflection related to their work.	Analyzing and telling their strengths and weaknesses.

## **METHODOLOGY**

### **Research Design**

This study applied action research design. Action research refers to teacher-conducted classroom research that seeks to clarify and resolve practical teaching issues and problems (Richard and Farrell, 2005: 182).

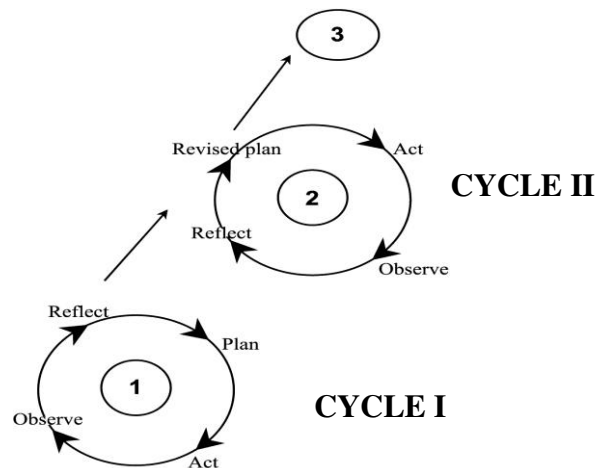
Carr and Kemmis (1986:162) in <http://www.infed.org> define action research as simply a form of self-reflective inquiry undertaken by participants in social situations (teachers) in order to improve the rationality and justice of their own practices. Action research is often used to investigate specific issues or problems associated with classroom or school life. The researcher in this research is concerned with using a systematic process in solving educational problems and making improvements.

Zuber-Skerritt (2001:14) in <http://scribdassets.com> describes action research as critical in the sense that practitioners not only look for ways to improve their practice within the various constraints of the situation in which they are working, but are also critical change agents of those constraints, and of themselves. It is reflective in that participants analyze and develop concepts and theories about their experiences.

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that action research is a research which aims to solve educational problems and improve the educational practice by doing reflection.

Action research takes place in the teacher's own classroom and involves a cycle of activities namely planning, acting, observing and reflecting.

The procedures of action research illustrated as follows:



**Figure 3.1 Simple Action Research Model**  
(From zuber-skerritt, 2001:15)

#### 1. Planning

Planning refers to the proposed instructional strategy to be developed in the research to solve instructional problems.



## 2. Acting

Acting refers to the implementation of new teaching techniques and collecting data. Data collection could include by administering tests, observing students, and conducting surveys and interviews.

## 3. Observing

In observing, the data indicating success and other instructional problems are recorded, the researcher will take a note of the process of action, the action's effects, environment, and some troubles.

## 4. Reflecting

Reflecting is the process of analyzing data to determine how far the data collected have shown the success of the strategy in solving the problem. Reflection shows what factors support the success of the strategy or what other problems may occur during the implementation process.

### **Subject**

The subject of this research was the second year students of SMA Swasta Dharma Pancasila Medan, Jln. Dr. Mansyur No. 71 C, class XI- IPA 1 which consists of 42 students.

### **Data Collection**

The researcher used written tests, diary notes, observation sheets, and questionnaire sheets as the instruments of data collection. The data in this study were analyzed by using qualitative and quantitative design. The qualitative data were taken from diary notes, observation sheets and questionnaire sheets, while quantitative data were taken from students' writing scores.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The researcher took three writing test scores to show the improvement of students' achievement in their writing assignments from the score of the orientation test given before conducting the research and the writing tests done in the last meeting of each cycle.

The researcher applied the following formula:

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

where:  $\bar{x}$  = the mean of the students' scores  
 $\sum x$  = the total scores of the students  
N = the number of the students

The students' scores increased from the first competence test to the last competence test. It can be seen in Table 4.1.

**Table 4.1 Students' Writing Scores in Test I, Test II and Test III**

No.	Students' Initials	Test I (orientation test)	Test II (last meeting of cycle I)	Test III (last meeting of cycle II)
1.	AP	38	74	75
2.	ASL	33	63	82
3.	AP	24	35	69
4.	AW	34	76	87
5.	AH	49	69	87
6.	AS	61	63	69
7.	DO	28	60	79
8.	DDK	48	70	92
9.	DC	22	43	78
10.	DS	32	70	88
11.	DD	43	84	92
12.	EEB	38	64	65
13.	HU	32	65	74
14.	HA	42	63	71
15.	HS	24	56	74
16.	HSH	47	64	79
17.	IN	64	73	79
18.	JA	30	76	79
19.	KI	69	79	93
20.	M	40	53	64
21.	MPA	19	63	75
22.	M	17	48	71
23.	MABS	36	54	82
24.	MFAL	55	57	84
25.	MFP	11	54	66
26.	MFA	37	72	76
27.	MTK	36	77	89
28.	NY	33	75	82
29.	NB	18	42	64

30.	NSS	47	68	89
31.	PM	56	87	93
32.	RZMK	46	72	82
33.	RA	24	45	81
34.	RTY	18	63	77
35.	RA	40	63	84
36.	SR	62	70	82
37.	SN	85	89	98
38.	SA	50	68	79
39.	TPUK	13	63	64
40.	WW	40	63	82
41.	YS	56	69	82
42.	ZAP	29	68	82
$\sum X$		1626	2734	3336
$\bar{X}$		38.7	65.1	79.4

From the data above, it can be said that the mean of students' writing scores after studying hortatory exposition text through Dictogloss Technique increased from 38.7 to 79.4. Based on the data analysis, it could be concluded that all the students got improvement in their scores even though they got different improvement.

The indicator of successful achievement of students was that they got score up to 75. The researcher applied the following formula:

$$P = \frac{R}{T} \times 100\%$$

where: P = the percentage of the number of the students  
R = the number of those who get the scores.  
T = the total number of the students

In Test I, there was 1 student (2.3%) who got up to 75 point. In Test II, there were 8 students (19.04%) who got up to 75 points and in Test III, there were 31 students (73.8%) who got up to 75 points. The range of the first test (2.3%) and the third test (73.8%) was 71.5%. It had been proved that the applying of Dictogloss Technique in teaching learning activity helped the students improve their achievement in writing hortatory exposition text.

The writer also analyzed the qualitative data to support this research finding. The qualitative data were taken from diary notes, observation sheets and questionnaire sheets to know how dictogloss technique could improve the students' ability in writing.

The diary notes indicated that the situation of teaching and learning process was better from the first to the last meeting. The students were interested, enthusiastic, and active when teaching learning process was running. They paid full attention and did the assignments seriously.

Then, from the observation sheets, there was significant progress that was shown in every meeting, especially in the second cycle, the students were enthusiastic, active and interested in studying. Their attention became better and their mistakes were decreased.

Last, the questionnaire sheets showed that most of the students' understanding about hortatory exposition text became improved by using dictogloss technique. Based on the students' comments written on questionnaire sheets showed that dictogloss technique could create their creativity in writing because they could elaborate the ideas provided by dictogloss technique. The steps on Dictogloss Technique help the students write systematically and make them active. Writing hortatory exposition text by using dictogloss technique was interesting.

Based on the results of quantitative and qualitative data, it was found that the use of dictogloss technique had successfully improved hortatory exposition writing achievement.

## **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS**

### **Conclusion**

After analyzing the data, it was found that the students' writing scores improved from the cycle I until the cycle II. The improvement was shown by the mean of the students' scores from the first test (orientation test) 38.7, the second test (in the last meeting of cycle I) 65.1 and the last test (in the last meeting of cycle II) 79.4. The students' scores continuously improved in each writing test. The percentage of the students who were competent in writing hortatory exposition text was also improved, where in Test I, there was 2.3%, in Test II 21.4% and in Test III, the percentage was improved to be 71.4%.

From the data, it can be concluded that teaching hortatory exposition writing by using dictogloss technique helps the students to improve their achievement in writing hortatory exposition text.

### **Suggestions**

This study shows that the application of Dictogloss Technique improves the students' achievement on writing hortatory exposition text. Due to the conclusion above, there are some points suggested as follows:

- 1) The teachers may apply dictogloss technique as one of the alternatives teaching techniques, especially teaching writing, to stimulate students' interest in writing.
- 2) The students can improve their writing skill.
- 3) Readers may use the information in this research as a useful input in teaching-learning process especially for teaching writing.

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## **APPENDIX**

### **The Mean of Students' Scores**

In Test I, the students' total score was 1626 and the number of the students was 42.  
The mean was:

$$\bar{X} = \frac{1626}{42} = 38.7$$

In Test II, the students' total score was 2734 and the number of the students was 42.  
The mean was:

$$\bar{X} = \frac{2734}{42} = 65.1$$

In Test III, the students' total score was 3336 and the number of the students was 42.  
The mean was:

$$\bar{X} = \frac{3336}{42} = 79.4$$

### **The Number of Competent Students**

The percentage of the improvement of students' hortatory exposition writing achievement in Test I:

$$P = \frac{1}{42} \times 100\% = 2.3\%$$

The percentage of the improvement of students' hortatory exposition writing achievement in Test II:

$$P = \frac{8}{42} \times 100\% = 19.04\%$$

The percentage of the improvement of students' hortatory exposition writing achievement in Test III:

$$P = \frac{31}{42} \times 100\% = 73.80\%$$