

**EMAIL AS A MEDIA IN TEACHING ENGLISH TO IMPROVE  
STUDENTS 'WRITING ABILITY IN SMP NEGERI 1 MADANG  
SUKU III OKUT**

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**Abstract**

Writing is one of the must-have skills when learning a language. Likewise with English, there are 4 skills in English that must be owned that is writing, listening, reading and speaking. Writing is a process of creating, developing, composing ideas using written language. In this research, there are 2 objectives: 1) to know whether writing ability in English subjects by using email is better than conventional learning student 2) to know whether students show positive attitude toward learning English using Email. This research uses quasi experimental method and design of non-equivalent control design. In this design gives two different treatments to two groups namely experiment class and control class. The experimental class and control class were given pretest before treatment, then for control class was done by conventional learning, after experiment class and control class were given each treatment and then given the final test (posttest) in both classes. The results of this study are 1) the ability to write English students whose learning using email better than students who learning conventional2) Students showed a positive attitude towards learning using email.

***Keywords: writing ability, learning media, email, student attitudes***

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**I. INTRODUCTION**

English is one of the subjects in school. English is an international language that is important to learn in the era of globalization and information which there have been many developments in all fields such as the fields of technology, information, trade, business, economics etc. English dominates all aspects of communication. This makes it very important to learn English because English

has many benefits including 1) the opportunity to get a more decent job wide open. The ability to use two languages will become more value 2) mastering English will make it easy to adapt and talk with anyone when moving from one country to another 3) can easily follow and understand the economic boom and the development of technical innovation that is happening 4) with understanding English helps in understanding technology properly and in many other ways. So to be able to understand teaching English by attracting a learning media is needed.

Learning media in the student learning process have function such as, a) teaching will attract more students' attention so that it fosters interest in fighting not only listening to the teacher's description but also other activities such as observing, doing, demonstrating and others. One of the learning media used in information and technology-based learning is to use email. Writing a letter is one of the materials in English in junior high school which is quite difficult for students to learn. This is because writing is very important because it helps develop students' critical thinking and helps them to understand and communicate complex ideas (in Fadila: 2015 as cited in Allyn: 2015). According to the education teacher's article (2016) a personal letter that is a letter made and used for personal purposes, such as a letter to a pen pal, an expression of love, and so on. Furthermore, personal letters are a type of letter that contains personal needs that are usually written in private and addressed to others using a language that is not standard.

#### **a) Characteristics of Personal Letters**

Personal letters have the following characteristics:

1. Do not have letterhead.
2. Do not have a letter number.
3. Opening and closing greetings are very diverse and more relaxed, non-formal.

4. In the use of free (non-standard) language according to the wishes of the author.
5. Free letter format.

**b) Personal letter sections**

1. Address and place of date of Writing Text.
2. Greetings.
3. Opening Paragraph.
4. Content Paragraph.
5. Closing Paragraph.

**c) Types of personal letters**

1. Love Letter is a letter addressed by someone to express their love because they are embarrassed to express it directly.
2. Letter between pen pals is a letter written by someone to get acquainted and befriend someone who is far away, who has never met or met before.
3. Letters between parents and children  
This personal letter reveals how a child misses his/her mother because he/she is wandering in the city of people to complete his studies.

**d) Letter between friends who are far away**

This letter contains someone who misses his friend who has now moved to another city.

Writing is a complex task that requires consistent practice and requires guidance. It is also stated by Oshima and Hogue (2007) that students need experimentation by writing words, phrases and sentences with constant, experimental, and many mistakes. According to Siahaan (2008) stated that writing is defined as productive ability in written language. This is the ability of the author to communicate information to the reader. It's means that writers can effectively transfer their information to readers. Writing is a capability of

productivity and how to get used to it like in learning and teaching. We treat it in class has some similarities with teaching and learning of speaking (Pollard, 2008: 49).

Lado in Elina Syarif, Zulkarnaini, Sumarno (2009) also expressed his opinion about writing, namely: putting graphic symbols that represent the language understood by others. Thus writing is a complex skill by putting symbols that are understood by others. One of the learning media that can be used to teach writing is using email.

Email is an abbreviation of electronic mail which is a letter or message in digital format. E-mail can be accessed easily with various gadgets such as computers and smartphone phones. At the beginning of the e-mail used as a means of communication between internet developers and now along with the development of technology, e-mail is used for various purposes, one of which is as a learning media and can be accessed by anyone. Email is one of the effective learning media. Using email can be one way for students not to get bored in learning. And also sometimes there are some students who feel unfair in evaluating their duties. Because usually those who do late assignments with those who do the assignments on time do not have significant differences in assessment. According Fiwka (2017) in dimas (2016) Email is an abbreviation of electronic mail or electronic mail. Definition of E-mail or electronic mail is one type of internet service that can be used to send letters electronically. According to Ali Zaki & Smitdev Community email is an electronic mail, which allows everyone to send messages via the internet network (fiwka: 2017) Furthermore, according to Happy Chandraleka Email is a letter delivered through an electronic device called Jasmadi & E-Media Solusindo, Email stands for electronic mail, in short, e-mail is a method of sending messages electronically via the internet (Dimas: 2012).

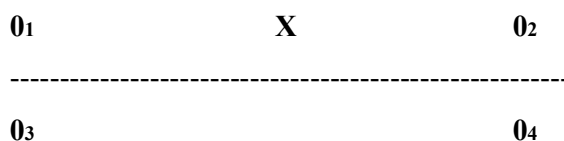
Based on observations made by researchers on students at SMP NEGERI 3 Madang Suku III OKUT students' ability to write in English was still low and

students were less interested in English subjects. This is because the learning media used by teachers does not vary and seem monotonous. Based on the description above, the researcher wants to apply learning using e-mail learning media in the material of writing a personal letter in class VIII of SMP NEGERI 1 Madang Suku III OKUT with the formulation of the problem in this study is as follows:

- 1) Was the ability to write in English subjects using e-mail better than students who study conventionally?
- 2) Did students show a positive attitude towards learning English using Email?

## **II. METHODOLOGY OF THE RESEARCH**

In this study, the writer used quasi-experimental research design. Quasi experimental design is a form of experimental research used extensively which involves one experimental group and one control group. Quasi-experimental design is one of experimental research design. In this research, firstly the writer administered the pre-test to the sample students (experiment group and control group), then the writer taught the students in experiment group. Finally, the writer administered the post-test to the students, both of groups.



Where:

- 0<sub>1</sub> = Pre-test of experimental group
- 0<sub>2</sub> = Post-test of experimental group
- X = Treatment
- 0<sub>3</sub> = Pre-test of control group
- 0<sub>4</sub> = Post-test of control group

Qualitative data is data from the content of the attitude scale that contains the response or attitudes of students to the learning of writing personal English letters using email, the steps used are as follows:

Change qualitative scale data to quantitative scale

The attitude scale instrument is only given to the experimental group with the aim to determine the students' attitude towards the email learning model, in the attitude scale instrument there are 4 (four) groups namely; 1) student attitudes towards learning English; 2) student attitudes toward learning using email; 3) student attitudes toward the questions received during the research process; 4) the combined value of the average attitude of students towards learning English using email.

Measurement of the attitude scale used is a Likert scale, the degree of assessment of the degree of measurement is as follows:

Calculate the average score

Before making an interpretation, the data obtained is calculated using the following formula:

$$X = \frac{W F}{F}$$

Information:

X = Average

W = Value for each category

F = Number of students who choose each category

If  $\geq 3$ ; then it can be viewed as a positive attitude towards learning by using email

If  $< 3$ , it can be seen that the students' attitude is negative towards learning by using email

### III. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Based on the testing of the initial test (pre-test) of the experimental class and control class, the results obtained are both classes are homogeneous, normally distributed, the initial ability of the two classes is not significantly different. The results of the initial test (pre-test) to see the development of writing students after being given a learning treatment, after learning both the experimental class and the next control class is to do the final test (post-test), the results of quantitative data collection and analysis techniques using t test ( post-test) in the experimental class and control class are as follows:

**Table I**  
**Result of *t*-test (*Post-test*) experiment and control class**

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means					95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	Lower	Upper
Nilai <i>Post-test</i>	Equal variances assumed	.018	.893	3.882	62	.000	13.000	3.349	6.306	19.694
	Equal variances not assumed			3.882	61.479	.000	13.000	3.349	6.304	19.696

Based on Table I the results of the final test t-test output (post-test) experimental class and control class obtained t count on the part of the equal

variances assumed is 3.382 while the t table is 1.67, it turns out the table is smaller than t count, meaning that students' writing ability the learning using e-mail is better than students who are ordinary (conventional) learning.

The rapid development of science and technology can be used positively in learning, one of which is the use of email learning device applications as a support in the process of teaching and learning activities of writing students in English subjects. Based on the results of the study a positive attitude and help understanding the field of study, students who learn English using teaching aids or teaching, their attitude towards English is more positive and their authority is better than those who do not use it.

**Table 2 the result of students' attitude**

<b>English Learning Aspects</b>	<b>Nilai Rata-Rata</b>	<b>Item</b>
Students' attitudes towards learning English	3.56	Positive
Students' attitudes toward learning by using Email	3.41	Positive
Students' attitudes to the English questions given	3.41	Positive
Overall Average number of aspects of English learning	3.48	Positive

Based on Table 2, it can be seen that the results of the student attitude scale showed a positive attitude towards learning using e-mail, experimental class students who received e-mail learning in English were relatively new and new experiences for students in the English learning process.

Based on the results of the study, it is appropriate that the media / teaching aids add students to be positive and help understanding their fields of study, students who learn English using teaching aids or teaching, their attitude towards



English is more positive and their authority is better than those who do not use them. Learning media are all tools or objects that can be used in teaching and learning activities, with a view to delivering material, learning by e-mail support tools which are a place for students to express their ideas or hobbies to write letters through technology.

### **III. CONCLUSION**

There are two conclusion from this research, they are:

1. The ability to write English students who learn to use email is better than students who study conventionally.
2. Students show a positive attitude towards learning English using email.

### **SUGGESTION**

As for further suggestions regarding the potential that can be developed from the research results are as follows:

- 1) Research is expected to be useful as information and data for future researchers whose focus is on writing skills.
- 2) This study is expected to inspire teachers to use e-mail as a learning medium to improve students' writing skills in English

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