

An Analysis of Students' Ability and Difficulties in Writing Descriptive Text (A Case Study at MTsN 2 Makassar)

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Abstrak

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui kemampuan siswa dalam menulis teks deskriptif dan untuk mengetahui kesulitan yang dihadapi siswa dalam menulis teks deskriptif. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian kuantitatif dengan menggunakan deskriptif kuantitatif sebagai desain penelitian, serta menggunakan SPSS 22 dalam mengolah data. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa kemampuan menulis teks deskriptif siswa dikategorikan baik. Ditemukan juga beberapa kesulitan yang dihadapi siswa dalam menulis teks deskriptif diantaranya sulit dalam menyusun kosa kata dan menuangkan ide dalam bentuk tulisan.

Kata kunci: Kemampuan menulis, kesulitan menulis, teks deskriptif.

Abstract

The objective of this research was to determine students' ability to write descriptive texts and to determine the difficulties faced by students in writing descriptive texts. This research is quantitative research and used quantitative descriptive as a research design, also used SPSS 22 in processing the data. The results of this research showed that students' descriptive text writing skills were categorized as good. It was also found that some of the difficulties faced by students in writing descriptive texts include difficulty in compiling vocabulary and expressing ideas in written form.

Keywords: Writing ability, writing difficulties, descriptive text..

1. INTRODUCTION

According to Tench (2003) one of the foundation of successful in public relation and the Pamela (1991) states that it is important for every human being to master the various components of language to convey thoughts, wishes, intentions, feeling, and information in a written form. The components of languages are speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The four language components consist of two groups, where listening and reading are receptive skills while writing and speaking are productive skills. As a productive skill, writing is one of the important skills which taught in school. According to Tarigan (2012), writing skills are a communication tool that is not directly or not face-to-face with others. Where the writing activities involve the author as

the element to convey the message or content of the writing, and media of writing and the reader is a receiver. It means, to use writing as a communication tool, someone needs to have a good writing ability so what they want to convey to others can be understandable. Writing is one of ability that when someone master it, it can help in several things.

Based on the explanation above, it clearly explains that writing is an activity when someone express their ideas, thoughts, or feeling in a paragraph. Writing is not an easy thing, writing becomes the most difficult aspect in the language to master. Writing is something that when someone do it, mind takes a major role in carrying it out. Kunter et al (2013) state there are three aspects that are part of the student learning process, namely knowledge, attitude, and ability. Writing is one of the very important abilities to have. This ability is an ability that can be trained. That is, practicing writing skills is very important. Although writing is a trainable ability, the fact is in school there are still many students who are less capable of writing.

Descriptive text is one kind of text that will be teach in Junior High School, and can be use as a tool to analyze the students knowledge about English by see their writing ability in writing descriptive text, and what difficulties faced by students during writing descriptive text. Emilia (2011), defining descriptive text is a text that purpose to give information about something or someone. Descriptive text is a clear description about people, object, or events using appropriate details. While Nugraha et al (2017) explain descriptive text is a kind of text that used to describe

2. METHOD

In this research, the researcher analyzed the students' ability and their difficulties in writing descriptive text. So, in this research the researcher applied a quantitative method. Zook & Pearce (2018), Quantitative description is a behavioral sensory evaluation method that uses a description panel to measure the sensory properties of a product. In line with that statement, researcher applied quantitative descriptive as a research design. This research was conducted in MTsN 2 Makassar and used purposive sampling technique as the technique to take the sample. So, the sample in this research was taken from Class VIII.3. Researcher used writing test to determine students writing ability in writing descriptive text and used questionnaire to determine students difficulties in writing descriptive text. analyze the data that relate with students writing ability in descriptive text, researcher used TOEFL writing score in ranges from 10-100 for students writing score, while in calculated the mean score of students' writing ability, researcher used descriptive analysis through SPSS and categorized it by using Likert Scale that adapted from Sugiyono (2014).

Table 2.1
Likert Scale

No	Mean Score	Criteria
1	85-100	Very good
2	64-84	Good
3	52-68	Middle
4	36-51	Low
5	20-35	Very low

Students' improvement un writing test calculated in percentage used the formula by Gay, et al (Then, to find out the percentage of questioner, researcher used the following formula:

$$P = f/n \times 100$$

Sugiyono, (2008).

Where:

P = percentage

f = frequency of each answer

n = total sample

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

Regarding students' writing ability, based on the writing test that have done, it found that students' writing ability in class VIII.3 was categorized good where in writing test, the highest score that students got was 90, while the lowest score that students got was 40, and the mean score of students' writing ability was 64.26

Based on result of the questionnaire regarding to students difficulties, it found several reason that make students felt difficult in writing descriptive text such as hard in composing the vocabulary, hard to express the ideas into the form of writing, and it also found several reason that comes from the learning environment. One of them is because students felt disturb when their friends make a noisy in the classroom.

Discussion

After calculated the data by using SPSS 22, the mean of students writing ability was 64.26. Below the table of the data significance where the exact significance was >0,05.

Table 3.1
Significant Test

		Writing-test
N		34
Normal Parameters ^{a,b}	Mean	64.26
	Std. Deviation	13.769
Test Statistic		.138
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)		.099 ^c
Exact Sig. (2-tailed)		.492
Point Probability		.000

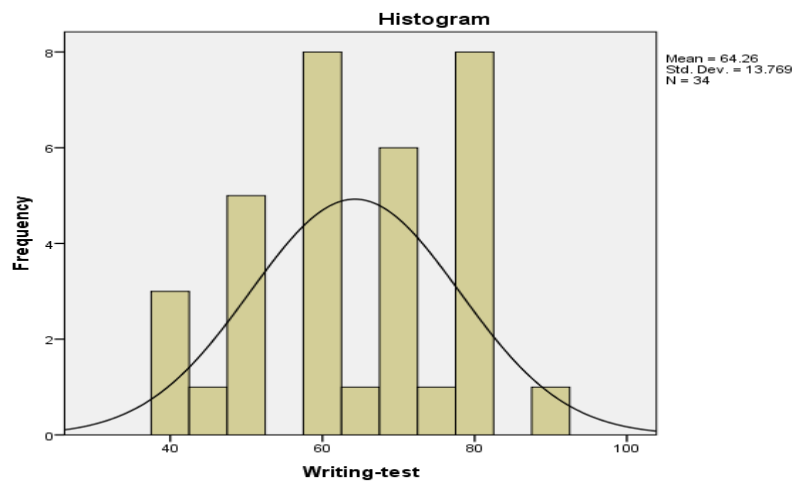
Based on the table above, it showed the result significant test by used exact significant was >0,05, its mean that the data was significant and accepted After did a significant test, to know more about the students writing test, the data was tabulated as follow:

Table 3.2
Writing-test

Score	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
40	3	8.8	8.8	8.8
45	1	2.9	2.9	11.8
50	5	14.7	14.7	26.5
60	8	23.5	23.5	50.0
65	1	2.9	2.9	52.9
70	6	17.6	17.6	70.6
75	1	2.9	2.9	73.5
80	8	23.5	23.5	97.1
90	1	2.9	2.9	100.0
Total	34	100.0	100.0	

From the table above, it showed the result of students writing score, from 34 students 3 students got 40, 1 student got 45, 5 students got 50, 8 students got 60, 1 students got 65, 6 students got 70, 1 students got 75, 8 students got 80 and 1 students got 90 as the highest score. From the table above, its also showed the percentage of students who got 60 and 80 was same, where the percentage was 23.5%. Its clearly showed that students in MTsN 2 Makassar, especially at class VIII.3 have an ability in writing descriptive text, but not a few also have difficulties in writing descriptive text.

The easier ways to see the students mean score, as follow the histogram of students writing test:



From the histogram above, it showed the mean of students' writing ability was 64.26. Meanwhile, students' ability was categorized by using Likert Scale that adapted from Sugiyono (2014). Based on the result, where the mean of students' writing ability was 64.26, so it categorized

good. Based on explanation above, it concluded that students have ability in writing. Their writing ability was categorized good, they were able to write descriptive text but still got some difficulties in writing it.

Table 3.3
Questionnaire Result

Num.	Strongly Agree		Agree		Undecided		Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Total	
1	2	5,88%	0	0%	5	14,7%	0	0%	27	79,42%	34	100%
2	7	20,58%	0	0%	0	0%	18	52,94%	9	26,48%	34	100%
3	0	0%	9	26,48%	12	35,29%	13	38,28%	0	0%	34	100%
4	19	55,88%	9	26,48%	6	17,64%	0	0%	0	0%	34	100%
5	5	14,7%	4	11,76%	0	0%	11	32,36%	14	41,18%	34	100%
6	0	0%	19	55,88%	4	11,76%	11	32,36%	0	0%	34	100%
7	28	82,35%	2	5,88%	4	11,77%	0	0%	0	0%	34	100%
8	21	61,76%	10	29,41%	3	8,83%	0	0%	0	0%	34	100%
9	19	55,88%	7	20,58%	6	17,65%	0	0%	2	5,88%	34	100%
10	13	38,23%	13	38,23%	0	0%	8	23,52%	0	0%	34	100%

Based on explanation of the result of each questionnaire above, it showed that students difficulties in writing descriptive text was because its hard to composing the vocabulary in writing descriptive text. In this statement, 61,76% students voted strongly agree. Students also have a difficulty in writing descriptive text because its hard to express their ideas into the form of writing, where in this statement 55,88% students strongly agree in it. The difficulties of students writing descriptive text not only comes from the students itself, but it also comes from the students learning environment .It supported with the questionnaire result, 82,35% students strongly agree with a statement that they feel disturb when their friends make a noisy during the learning process in the classroom. It clearly showed that students' ability and difficulties in writing may come from the students or due to the poor state of the learning environment.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the explanation about the result of research that has conducted in MTsN 2 Makassar, especially in class VIII.3 researcher concluded that students in MTsN 2 Makassar, especially in class VIII.3 have ability in writing, with the mean score was 64,26 and categorized good. Regarding to the difficulties faced by students, researcher concluded that students in class VIII.3 got several difficulties in writing descriptive text. The first one is, it is difficult for students to composing the vocabulary, student also got difficult in express their ideas in their mind into the form of writing. Some students also find it difficult because the often read the English book, so it can conclude that the vocabulary is not familiar for them. Not only that, students also got difficulties in writing descriptive text because the bad learning environment.

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