
A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY ON DIFFICULTIES IN WRITING DESCRIPTIVE TEXT FACED BY THE EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS

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ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis kesulitan dalam menulis teks deskriptif yang dihadapi siswawkelas VIII SMP Negeri 7 Sigi. Peneliti menggunakan desain deskriptif kuantitatif dengan teknik convenience sampling. Sampel yang diambil sebanyak 30 dari 30% dari total populasi. Instrumen pengumpulan data berupa tes. Pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan pemberian tes menulis teks deskriptif. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa sebagian besar siswa mengalami kesulitan dalam setiap aspek seperti tatabahasa 93% siswa, kosakata 90% siswa, mekanik 90% siswa, konten 87% siswa, dan pengorganisasian 83% siswa.

Kata Kunci: Analisis, Kesulitan, Menulis, Teks deskriptif.

ABSTRACT

This research aims in analysis the difficulties in writing descriptive text faced by the students at the eight-grade of SMP Negeri 7 Sigi. The researchers applied descriptive quantitative design by haphazard sampling technique to choose the sample. There were 30 samples taken from 30% of the total population. The instruments of data collection wastest. The data were collected by giving the test of writing descriptive text. The findings of the research shows that there are most of the students have difficulty in each aspects such as grammar 93% of students, vocabulary 90% of students, mechanic 90% of students, content 87% students, and organizing 83% of students.

Key words: Analysis, Difficulties, Writing, Descriptive Text.

INTRODUCTION

Writing is one of the four language skills which is essential to be comprehended by students. Since it is essential, writing skill needs a serious attention of the teachers. When teaching writing skill, the students have to express ideas, feeling and opinion in a good way trough combining words, and sentences. According to Raimes (1983:252), "Writing is an effective way for learners to generate words, sentences, and chunks of discourse and to communicate them in a new language." Writing helps people to communicate in daily life. Such as writing for example; notes, messages, letters, papers, and etc.

Writing is considered to be the most difficult skill compared with other language skills. This skill is not only putting letters, symbols, and numbers, but also involves some language components, such as spelling, grammar, vocabulary, and punctuation. Writing is used as indirect communication and also one of the common ways to convey written information.

Based on Curriculum 2013, there are several kinds of text which have to be mastered at the Junior high school and one of them is descriptive text. There are many text types in writing that can be used by the teacher to increase the students' ability in writing skill. One of the text types in writing that should be mastered by the students is descriptive text. To write a good descriptive text, the students have to know the detail information about the object that will be described, such as name, amount, color, function, size and other characteristics. Besides, the students have to know the elements of writing and the generic structure of descriptive text.

Before doing and making a good writing, the students need to gather much information by listening to other people, doing discussion with others, and reading more books. One of the ways to know the skill of the students in mastering a language is by looking at their writing. By writing, the students can deliver the messages to the readers.

In this case, the writer will closely investigate the difficulties in English learning process in writing descriptive text in SMP Negeri 7 Sigi. Having carried out preliminary research to the students of SMP Negeri 7 Sigi on writing descriptive text, the researchers found that the students got difficulties in writing descriptive text. The students just wrote what they wanted to write based on their idea without thinking that their writing was full of errors without considering the aspects of good writing.

Based on the problem above, the writer investigated the students' difficulties in writing descriptive text. The researchers were interested in conducting a research entitled *A Descriptive Study On Difficulties in Writing Descriptive text Faced by the Eight Grade Students at SMP Negeri 7 Sigi*.

METHOD

The researchers applied descriptive quantitative design by haphazard sampling technique to choose the sample. There were 30 samples taken from 30% of the total population. The instruments of data collection wastest. The data were collected by giving the test of writing descriptive text. The findings of the research shows that there

are most of the students have difficulty in each aspects such as grammar 93% of students, vocabulary 90% of students, mechanic 90% of students, content 87% students, and organizing 83% of students. the advantage of this approach is in focusing on specific aspects of instruction that most reflect the objectives being covered when the writing assignment given. Based on the theories above.

The total maximum expected score (MES) of writing test is 100 points. To determine the degree of students' ability in writing descriptive text, the researchers need following formula:

$$\text{Score} = \frac{25C+25O+20G+20V+10M}{4}$$

The highest score is 100 and the lowest is 25. Then students' score are interpreted as their achievement in writing descriptive text. And the score of each point assessment shows the difficulties faced by the students. The quality score, the researchers uses the following standard (based on KKM in SMP Negeri 7 Sigi):

Table 3.4
Standard of Scoring

Score	Interpretation
1 – 74	Low
75 – 84	Fair
85 – 94	Good
95 – 100	Excellent

Based on the initial data, the researchers tabulated the data by counting the response from each data.

After got the test, researchers took the score of the students, the difficulties showed the score of mistakes in writing descriptive text. The researchers described the data and also the percentage of data. It is to make the result of the research clear and readable. Finally, the researchers concluded the result of this research and

researchers presented it in the form of narrative.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

FINDINGS

In this research, test is used by the researchers to know the students' difficulties in writing descriptive text. The test was given by the researchers to the students on 30 April 2021. In the test the students were asked to create a descriptive text. The students worked on the test under the supervision of the researchers and the English teacher. To know the difficulties of students in writing descriptive text, researchers analyzed the value obtained by students from each point of assessment that is used to assess the ability of students. Researchers concluded students have constrains if their scores under 3 in each point of assessment. Following table the data about students' difficulties in writing descriptive text from the test.

Table 4.1
Students' Score in Writing Descriptive Text

No	Name of Student	Score						Total score after input in scoring formula
		Max Score	C	O	G	V	M	
1	A	4	1	1	2	2	1	35
2	B	4	2	3	1	1	1	43,75
3	C	4	2	1	1	1	2	33,75
4	D	4	1	1	1	1	1	25
5	E	4	1	1	1	1	3	30
6	F	4	1	2	1	1	2	33,75
7	G	4	3	1	2	1	2	45
8	H	4	2	3	1	2	2	51,25
9	I	4	1	2	1	1	2	33,75
10	J	4	1	1	1	1	1	25
11	K	4	1	1	1	2	1	30
12	L	4	1	2	1	1	2	33,75
13	M	4	1	2	3	2	2	48,75
14	N	4	3	2	1	1	3	48,75
15	O	4	3	2	1	3	3	58,75
16	P	4	2	1	2	2	3	46,25
17	Q	4	1	1	1	1	2	27,5
18	R	4	1	1	1	1	2	27,5
19	S	4	3	2	1	3	3	58,75
20	T	4	2	1	3	2	1	46,25
21	U	4	2	3	2	3	2	61,25
22	V	4	1	1	1	1	1	25
23	W	4	1	1	1	1	1	25
24	X	4	1	1	1	1	1	25
25	Y	4	1	1	1	1	1	25
26	Z	4	1	1	1	1	1	25

27	Aa	4	1	1	1	1	1	25
28	Bb	4	1	2	1	2	1	36,25
29	Cc	4	1	1	1	1	1	25
30	Dd	4	1	2	1	2	2	38,75
Total								1093,75
Mean								36,46

The table above showed the students' ability in writing descriptive text. The highest score is 83,75 and the lowest score is 25, and the mean score is 36,46, that indicated their ability is low category. The table also showed all the points assessment considered to be the eighth graders' difficulty in writing descriptive text.

According to the rubric of scoring, students have five difficulties in writing descriptive text, they are content, organizing, grammar, vocabulary, and mechanic. The result of the test showed their difficulties in each point of assessment, if their score under 3 in point of assessment, researchers concluded they have difficulties in the point of assessment.

Table 4.2

Students' Difficulties

No	Difficulties	Number of Students	Frequency	Percentage
1	Content	30	26	87%
2	Organizing	30	27	90%
3	Grammar	30	28	93%
4	Vocabulary	30	27	90%
5	Mechanic	30	25	83%

The table showed the highest percentage is 93% of students have difficulty in grammar, the second percentage are 90% of students have difficulty in vocabulary and 90% of students have difficulty in mechanic, the third percentage is 87% of students have difficulty in content, and the last percentage is 83% of students have difficulty in organizing.

DISCUSSION

This section presents the discussion based on the findings of the research. It concerned about students' difficulties and the factors causing the difficulties in writing descriptive text.

1.1.1 Students' Difficulties in Writing Descriptive Text

Eighth graders' difficulties in writing descriptive text can be seen from the high number of percentage of students who are wrong in making descriptive text on the test. Based on the results of data analysis, the researchers found that students had difficulties in all assessment points. In detail, these difficulties are discussed as follow.

1. Content

For content, the student who has the difficulty is 70% of the total of the students. In making the content, the students have to make a paragraph corresponding to the task, the paragraph should be interesting and attractive.

2. Organization

For organizing, the student who has the difficulty is 67% of students. Organizing in descriptive text consists of identification and description. Most of students could not make a good organizing in their writing of descriptive text.

3. Grammar

For grammar, the student who has the difficulty is 83% of students. They could not make some grammatical sentence in their writing of descriptive text. Most of students forgot about use of have and has, they still cannot use possessive pronoun, etc.

4. Vocabulary

For vocabulary, the student who has the difficulty is 70% of students. Vocabulary is the word of the students in writing the descriptive text as well as selecting the right word to use. But most of them still lack vocabulary in making descriptive texts so the text they make is limited with the same words and the text they make is very short. The use of the word sometimes does not match the usefulness of the word.

5. Mechanics

In Mechanic, student who has the difficulty is 70% of students. Most of students still had this difficulty.

CONCLUSION

After conducting the research, the researchers draw conclusion that the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 7 Sigi academic year 2020/2021 have difficulties in all aspects of writing descriptive text. It can be seen from the result of the test done by the students. Most of students have difficulty in each aspects such as such as grammar 93% of students, vocabulary 90% of students, mechanic 90% of students, content 87% students, and organizing 83% of students.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Praise to the Lord Jesus Christ, the Immanuel! The researchers would like to express the greatest gratitude to God, for His abundant grace, blessings, strength, guidance, endurance, spirit, and health that have been bestowed upon him in accomplishing this skripsi. Everything He did and gave in the whole of this skripsi accomplishment is never enough to be described by words. Firstly the researcher gives his sincerest gratitude to his beloved parents, Mugi Setyono and Feibe Sembel for their endless love, prayers, patience and support that they have given all the time. Secondly, he would like to give a bunch of thank you to his precious siblings, Juan Fegi Putranto and Jesi Fegi Putrianti He thanks to them for every warm hugs, simple but meaningful prayers, and little fights made us stronger. Most of all thanks for always make his proud and being big motivation..

Second, another enormous gratitude and appreciation are given to the other influential people in the skripsi completion. The researcher would like to express his boundless thanks for his kind hearted and great supervisor, Dr. Darmawan, S.Pd., M.Phil.. His invaluable guidance, revision, assistances, advices, suggestion, and support are very helpful for the researcher in finishing this skripsi. The next appreciations are intended to the impressive and helpful, Dr. H. Jamiluddin, M.Hum. and Hj. Hastini, S.Pd., M.A. who has given their important and worthwhile ideas, critics, and correction in order to get improvement of this research.

The researcher, thereafter, showed his thankfulness to the rector of Tadulako University, Prof. Dr. Ir. Mahfudz, MP.; the Dean of Teacher Training and Education Faculty, Dr. Ir. AmiruddinKade, S.Pd., M.Si.; the head of Language and Art Education Department, Dr. Hj. Sriati Usman, M.Hum; and the coordinator of English Education Study Program, Dr. Hj.Rofiqoh, M.Ed., for their administrative assistance. Hearty

gratefulness also goes to all of lecturers in English Education Study Program in which the writer ever experiences various purposeful knowledge.

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