

A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY OF STUDENTS' ABILITY IN WRITING DESCRIPTIVE TEXT AT THE EIGHTH GRADE OF SMPN 4 KOTABUMI ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/2022

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Abstract: Writing is an activity of putting thoughts or ideas into writing so that other people can read and understand them. Writing is the act of making notes or information on media using handwriting. Writing is an activity for us to be able to express what is in our feelings and encourage individuals to express what we are thinking or feeling. The problem in this research is the students' writing ability in descriptive text at SMPN 4 Kotabumi. The purpose of this study was to determine students' ability to write descriptive texts. This study used a descriptive quantitative method with a sample that the researcher took, namely 30 students. In collecting the data, the researcher used writing and documentation test instruments. Data analysis was carried out by processing data using the average student score, the results of data processing from the writing test obtained from the overall recapitulation of student scores with a score of 61 in the sufficient category. And it can be concluded that the ability of students' writing tests at SMPN 4 Kotabumi is in the sufficient category.

Keywords : Writing, Descriptive Text, Students.

Abstrak: Menulis adalah kegiatan menuangkan pikiran atau gagasan ke dalam tulisan agar orang lain dapat membaca dan memahaminya. Menulis adalah tindakan membuat catatan atau informasi pada media dengan menggunakan tulisan tangan. Menulis adalah kegiatan untuk kita dapat menuangkan apa yang ada dalam perasaan kita dan mendorong individu untuk mencurahkan apa yang sedang kita pikirkan atau rasakan. Masalah dalam penelitian ini adalah kemampuan menulis siswa dalam teks deskriptif di SMPN 4 Kotabumi. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui kemampuan menulis teks deskriptif siswa, penelitian ini menggunakan metode kuantitatif deskriptif dengan sampel yang peneliti ambil yaitu 30 siswa, dalam pengumpulan data tersebut peneliti menggunakan instrument tes menulis dan dokumentasi. Analisis data dilakukan dengan olah data menggunakan rata-rata nilai siswa, hasil olah data dari tes menulis yang diperoleh dari keseluruhan rekapitulasi nilai siswa dengan skor 61 dalam kategori cukup. Dan dapat disimpulkan bahwa kemampuan tes menulis siswa di SMPN 4 Kotabumi adalah kategori cukup.

Kata kunci : Menulis, Teks Deskriptif, Siswa.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Writing is an activity to create a note or information on a medium by using letters. Writing can be done on working media using tools such as pens and pencils. Writing is expressing ideas, opinions and a series of sentences and conveying thoughts or views, composing stories and describing them. Writing can also be said in an effort to describe thoughts, ideas and feelings in the form of symbols. The meaning of the symbol is a written language system as a means of communication.

Writing is a creative process by expressing ideas in written form with the aim of informing, convincing, and entertaining. From creative results, the meaning can be called essay or writing, the two words have different definitions. In writing activities with the delivery of information is the result of the author's creativity using creative thinking. According to Suhendra (2015, p. 5) writing is a person's activity in expressing ideas for a piece of writing. Writing skills must be improved as an expression of ideas or ideas in written form, because writing is often difficult to find ideas so that one's writing skills need to be improved.

Writing is a very important activity and is an activity to produce and convey language

to others. Productive language is an activity to convey ideas, thoughts, or feelings in written form. This writing activity has many benefits, the structure of language and vocabulary through many exercises or regular practice. Tarigan (2008, p. 22) states that writing is recording letter symbols that describe a language that can be understood. Writing can be considered as a process as well as a result. Writing is an activity that someone does to be able to produce articles. According to Nurgiantoro (2001, p. 298), writing is a productive activity, namely, the activity of producing language. Writing skill is one type of language activity that must be mastered by students. Many experts have stated the meanings that have been written. According to Abbas (2006, p. 125), writing skills are the ability to express opinions, ideas, and feelings to others through written language. accuracy of the language used, grammar, use of spelling and vocabulary. Basically the purpose of writing is as a communication tool in written form. Every type of writing certainly has a purpose.

Writing is the whole series of one's activities in expressing ideas and conveying them through written language to the reader as intended by the author. Then writing is also not just a motor activity but also involves one's mentality. Writing is a medium for

communicating. Through writing, a person can convey meaning, ideas, thoughts and feelings through a series of written words. Writing is an ability that can be learned and needs to be trained, because a skill will be more skilled if it is often practiced. Indah in Situmorang (2018, p. 166) states that the variety of language used in expressing something can be in the form of spoken or written. In a more complete variety of languages, there are four abilities, namely the ability to listen, speak, read and write. These four skills are basically interrelated and form a single unit. Among the four abilities above, writing is an ability that requires special attention. It may seem easy, but actual writing requires a lot of attention and practice. So it is not excessive if writing is said to be a complex skill and requires adequate mastery of language. From the explanation above, it can be concluded that writing is a language skill that is used to convey ideas or thoughts and to convey messages or communicate through written language as a tool, making it easier for readers to understand them.

Based on an interview on March 22, 2021 at SMPN 4 Kotabumi with a seventh grade English teacher, the teacher said that the process of learning English for seventh graders in descriptive texts only learns the

basics such as recognizing images, places, and so on. Then the difficulties in learning that exist in students, namely students do not understand each sentence into a paragraph. Furthermore, the teacher said that in learning to write descriptive texts, students did not understand the steps that must be learned in writing descriptive texts. Many factors cause this to happen, including the lack of students in learning vocabulary.

This research is important to study because it is one of the most important aspects of language skills, with this ability students can express ideas, thoughts, creativity, and abilities through writing. Based on the problems above, the researcher is going to analyze further about the Student's Ability in Writing Descriptive Text in SMPN 4 Kotabumi.

II. METHOD

Research Method

In this research, the researcher used descriptive method, with quantitative approach. Researcher used descriptive research because this research is not to test hypotheses but to describe phenomena that exist in the field. According to Sugiyono (2019, p. 17) quantitative research is used to

examine certain populations or samples, data collection uses research instruments, data analysis is statistically quantitative, with the aim of testing.

Arikunto (2013, p. 3) explains descriptive research is research that intended to investigate the circumstances, conditions, or the other thing that have been mentioned, the result are presented in the form or research report. In this study the researcher used were descriptive research, because the researcher describe about the writing skill. Ari (2005, p. 32) explains that descriptive is used to solve problems as well as answer current problems. Performed with take the steps of data collection, classification and analysis or processing data makes conclusions and reports with the main purpose to make an objective description of a situation in a descriptive.

Research Instrument

In this study, the instrument that the researcher used were is a writing test and documentation. Writing test in the form of an essay to determine the students' ability in writing descriptive text. Documentation is used to collect data and then review it.

Data Collecting Technique

Data collection is the steps in obtaining complete, objective and accountable data in accordance with the research problem. To obtain the data needed in this study, researcher used several techniques as follows:

a. writing test

Researcher take data at SMPN 4 Kotabumi to carry out writing test activities carried out by students. The topic that the researcher used is about the people. Then the researcher gave a worksheet in the form of an image to the students and then the students described the image. Writing test aim to measure students' ability in writing descriptive text.

b. documentation

The data collected by the researcher was in the form of students' worksheets in writing descriptive texts, as well as photos of teaching and learning activities carried out at SMPN 4 Kotabumi.

Data Analysis Techniques

Data analysis carried out by researcher when the data collected was obtained from

test results. After the data collected has been obtained, then the data processing process is carried out. This data is in the form of a descriptive text writing ability score. According to Sudijono (2011, p. 81) said there are steps to processing the collected data as follows:

- a. the average level of mastery of each specified aspect
- b. the average level of mastery of the overall aspects studied to find the average value of the overall aspects under study, using the following formula:

$$R = \frac{\sum X}{\sum N}$$

Description:

- R : mean/average value
 $\sum X$: amount of data
 N : total data

After getting the average value, the next step is to determine the class interval category as follows:

The formula used is:

$$K = 1 + 3.3 \log n$$

Description :

- K = number of classes
 n = number of respondents
 log = logarithm

TABLE 4
CLASS INTERVAL SCORE

No.	Qualification	Score
1.	Very good	90-100
2	Well	71-89
3	Enough	61-70
4	Less	10-60

Source: The results of calculations researcher

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

In this study, data collection was carried out for two weeks, starting from September 27, 2022 to October 12, 2022. In collecting data, researcher used written tests and documentation. The function of this writing test is to determine the students' ability in writing descriptive text, and the function of documentation is to strengthen the data in the writing test which is the student's value in writing.

The number of samples in this study was 30 students and the written test question sheets that the researcher distributed to students were in the form of essays and displayed in tabular form to make them easier to read and understand.

From the explanation above, researcher used percentage of the answers to determine the writing ability of SMPN 4 Kotabumi

students in the very good, good, sufficient, very low categories. The researcher used the formula of According to Sudijono (2011, p. 81) said there are steps to processing the collected data as follows:

- a. the average level of mastery of each specified aspect
- b. the average level of mastery of the overall aspects studied to find the average value of the overall aspects under study, using the following formula:

$$R = \frac{\sum X}{\sum N}$$

Description:

R : mean/average value

$\sum X$: amount of data

N : total data

The results of processing the percentage data will explain the level of student ability. While the documentation as a supporting tool and analyzed and described to strengthen the answer with an explanation of the percentage.

The written test is an evaluation that must be carried out to measure or monitor student abilities, by means of which the teacher gives all students the theme of writing descriptive tests with the theme of people,

and students are assigned to describe what students see from the picture. The presentation of student writing test data at SMPN 4 Kotabumi is as follows:

**TABLE 5
STUDENTS ASSESSMENTS IN
WRITING TEST**

No	Name	Score
1.	A.K	55
2.	A.Z.F	45
3.	A.P	35
4.	A.S	55
5.	A.D.R	50
6.	AZ.P	45
7.	C.Z	45
8.	D.R	75
9.	D.O	65
10.	E.P	65
11.	K	50
12.	H.P	50
13.	L.P.S	55
14.	M.R.F	40
15.	M.A.W	65
16.	M.A	65
17.	M.F	30
18.	M.Rz	70
19.	R.D	70
20.	P.R.A	90
21.	N.S	55

22.	N.A.S	70
23.	R.D.J	55
24.	R.P	60
25.	S.T.W	75
26.	Y.A	70
27.	N.D.S	50
28.	Y.L	60
29.	F.S.P	65
30.	F	35
	Total	1.715

The table above explains the overall student scores from the descriptive writing test, it is clear that each score can be obtained by students, from 30 students there are various variations of student scores ranging from the highest, medium and lowest. From the table above, this is the calculation of students scores from the writing test, so the researcher calculated the number of students score and from the 30 students it was stated that the total score was 1.715

After getting the average value, the next step is to determine the class interval category as follows:

1. The formula used is:

$$K = 1 + 3,3 \log n$$

Description :

K = number of classes

n = number of respondents

log = logarithm

Answer :

$$K = 1 + 3,3 \log n$$

$$K = 1 + 3,3 \log 30$$

$$= 1 + 3,3 \times 1,47$$

$$= 1 + 4,851$$

$$= \mathbf{5,851 \text{ (Rounded up to 6)}}$$

2. Determine the length of the class/interval class/interval length (c) can be obtained by the formula:

$$C = \frac{R}{K}$$

Description :

C = class length / interval

R = range

K = number of classes

Range Formula (R)

$$R = (H - L)$$

Description:

R = Range

H = Highest score

L = Lowest score

Answer :

$$R = (H - L)$$

$$= 90 - 30 + 1$$

$$= 61$$

$$C = \frac{R}{K}$$

$$= \frac{61}{6}$$

$$= \mathbf{10,16 \text{ (Rounded up to 10)}}$$

From the results of the calculation above, an average of 10 is obtained. The next steps are to determine the score category on the student's writing test scale. The formula used is to define the above categories as follows:

3. Assign categories

$$\text{interval length} = \frac{H-L}{n \text{ kategori}}$$

Description :

H = highest score

L = lowest score

n category = the number of categories which is desired

Before using the formula to use the desired category, the researcher will first explain the value of the score. Determination of the score based on the highest score and lowest score. The ideal score for the scale is 90 and 35. A score of 35 is the lowest score and 90 is the highest score. The next step is to determine the category in question with the formula described above:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{interval length} &= \frac{H-L}{n \text{ kategori}} \\ &= \frac{90-30}{4} \\ &= \frac{61}{4} \\ &= 15,25 \end{aligned}$$

From these calculations, then determine the intervals and categories as follows:

No.	Qualification	Score
1.	Very good	90-100
2	Well	71-89
3	Enough	61-70
4	Less	10-60

Source: The results of calculations researcher

Then substituted into this formula :

$$R = \frac{\sum X}{\sum N}$$

$$R = \frac{1715}{30}$$

$$R = 61$$

Therefore, it can be concluded that the writing test for students is in the enough category, because it can be seen from the score criteria 61 - 70 is in the enough category.

Discussion

Writing is an activity in terms of expressing one's ideas or thoughts in the form of a series of sentences or words in the form of writing, which can be understood by the reader. Besides that, writing is also an activity to create a note or information using characters, writing can also be poured on paper-shaped media using tools such as

pencils or pens. The research entitled *Descriptive Study of Students' Ability in Writing Descriptive Text At The Eighth Grade of SMP 4 Kotabumi Academic Year 2021-2022*, this study aims to describe or measure the ability of Grade VIII students of SMP 4 Kotabumi. In this case the researcher collected data by using a written test because that way the researcher can find out the abilities of each student in writing descriptive text and then with documentation, namely with the help of documentation can strengthen the data in the written test which is the student's value in writing.

The research was carried out from September 27 2022 to October 12 2022 or carried out for two weeks. In this section, data on written test results obtained from research at SMP 4 Kotabumi can provide very clear results on the issues that have been discussed. Furthermore, after the researcher obtained the students' scores, the researcher determined the results of intervals and categories and the results were as follows: very good for grades 90-100, well for grades 71-89, enough for grades 61-70, and lastly less for grades 10-60.

The results that the researchers obtained were based on the results of calculating the overall average value of the students, the results were sufficient with an

average value from the range of values of 61% - 70%, and the highest student score with a score of 90, a total of 1 student, and the lowest score of students with a value of 30 was 1 students. So in this case it can be concluded that students understand enough about descriptive text, although there are some students who still don't understand, because there are several factors that can hinder students in writing tests, one of which is lack of vocabulary so that students have difficulty stringing words into a sentence or students lack understand grammar. And with this research the researcher hopes that in the future students can learn to write well and expand their vocabulary knowledge so that they can write even better.

In this case, based on the research above, support from teachers is needed so that in the future the learning process can run better, especially in learning English. And for students it is hoped that they will be much more active in learning and enrich their vocabulary mastery so that they can easily string words into a sentence so that the learning objectives are achieved by obtaining satisfactory results.

Meanwhile, Fitri's previous research (2017) entitled *Analysis of Students' Skills in Writing Descriptive Texts for Grade VIII SMPN 7 Tambusai Utara*. In the results of his

research, researcher analyzed 5 components of descriptive text written by students such as content, organization, grammar, vocabulary, and mechanics. From these results, the researcher found that the average score of students in writing descriptive texts was 51.87 and it means that their writing skills in descriptive texts could be categorized in a less level.

Furthermore, from the second researcher, Zulaikha (2018), entitled the analysis of students' abilities in writing descriptive texts for the second semester of the English education program at STKIP Nurul Huda Oku Timur. In this case, the results of the analysis found by the researchers in general the average score of students' writing skills, especially in writing descriptive texts, is 60 and considered the average level of ability. And it can also be concluded that the skills of writing descriptive text in semester 2 of the English education program at STKIP Nurul Huda are in the medium category.

The third researcher, Siregar (2020) entitled students' ability to write descriptive texts for seventh grade at SMPN 11 Padang Sidempuan. The results of the study showed that the average score of students' writing descriptive text mastery was 78.5. The results

showed that students' mastery in writing descriptive texts was in the good category.

In conclusion, the three previous researchers got results in different categories, from the poor category, the medium category, and the good category.

While this research produces enough with an average value of 61 from the value range of 61 – 70. The similarity between this research and previous research is that they both examine students' descriptive text writing skills, while the differences are in the research location, number of samples and class.

IV. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion

Based on the results of research conducted by researchers entitled A Descriptivve Students' Ability In Writing Descriptive Text At The Eight Of Grades Of SMPN 4 Kotabumi academic year 2021/2022. Researchers have 5 aspects of assessment in assessing content, organization, grammar, vocabulary, and mechanic. The five aspects have different scores, so each student's descriptive test writing will be assessed by the researcher according to the 5 aspects of the assessment,

after that the researcher calculates the student's overall score and ranks the scores from the highest with a score of (90), to the highest score lowest (30). Thus it can be concluded that the ability to write descriptive text in class VIII students of SMPN 4 Kotabumi is said to be sufficient, with a result of 61% from the range of 61% - 70% because there are many students who understand writing descriptive tests and get quite good scores on descriptive tests.

5.2 Suggestions

Through this final project, the researcher would like to give suggestions as follows:

1. For teacher

Teachers should use writing learning methods that are in accordance with the

conditions and abilities of students, and use effective learning media. In addition, the teacher must provide a lot of writing exercises to students.

2. For future researcher

This research is also expected to be a reference for future researcher and the researcher has tried to ensure that there are no mistakes in this research, but the researcher realizes that this research cannot be separated from weaknesses and errors, therefore, for the common good and for the perfection of this thesis, suggestions and constructive criticism from readers are very welcome. The researcher hopes that this thesis will be useful for all of us, especially for researcher.

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