

## THE USE OF E-DIARY TO IMPROVE STUDENT'S WRITING SKILL

Abas Oya<sup>1,\*</sup>, Meisyaroh<sup>2</sup>, Kamsini<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1,\*</sup> Dosen STKIP Harapan Bima, Indonesia

<sup>2</sup> Mahasiswa Universitas Ahmad Dahlan, Indonesia

<sup>3</sup> Mahasiswa Universitas Ahmad Dahlan, Indonesia

\* Email: abasoya01@gmail.com

### Abstract

*This journal aims to implement E-diary to improve students' writing skill. Writing is the most difficult thing to do for most students in the classroom. Students often find difficulties to write their ideas in limited time and the condition of the classroom. Some students were also annoying to their other friends. To improving the writing skill, It is also needed to practice it routinely. One of the ways to improve students' writing skill is E-diary writing. By using E-diary writing, students can practice writing the daily experience routinely whenever and wherever without limiting by the time. E-diary also can make diary writing more interactive and exciting.*

**Keyword:** *Writing Skill, Online Learning, Diary And E-Diary*

### Abstrak

*Jurnal ini bertujuan untuk menerapkan E-diary untuk meningkatkan keterampilan menulis siswa. Menulis adalah hal yang paling sulit dilakukan bagi sebagian besar siswa di kelas. Siswa sering mengalami kesulitan untuk menuliskan ide-idenya dalam waktu dan kondisi kelas yang terbatas. Beberapa siswa juga mengganggu teman-temannya yang lain. Untuk meningkatkan kemampuan menulis juga perlu dipraktekkan secara rutin. Salah satu cara untuk meningkatkan keterampilan menulis siswa adalah menulis E-diary. Dengan menggunakan E-diary writing, siswa dapat berlatih menulis pengalaman sehari-hari secara rutin kapanpun dan dimanapun tanpa dibatasi oleh waktu. E-diary juga dapat membuat penulisan diary menjadi lebih interaktif dan menarik.*

**Kata kunci:** *Keterampilan Menulis, Pembelajaran Online, Diary dan E-Diary*

## INTRODUCTION

Writing is not easy. It is needed practice, and it also requires not only ideas but grammar and vocabulary in expressing the thoughts. Writing is a complex skill to learn and to teach, as it necessitates the acquisition of many other professions (Ningrum et al., 2013). According to Meyers (2005), writing is similar to producing speech. It is a way of communicating with others through the paper. As a writer writes, he acts as assembling, organizing and expressing ideas in a way that is comprehensible to the reader or the audience.

There are many ways to improve writing skill. One of them is using E-diary. Diaries, according to the literature, are part of

the learner-centered approach where learners take responsibility for their own and learning is more favorable. McDonough and McDonough (1997) emphasize the role of diaries as a means for autonomous learning where the writer is in control of his/her writing not worrying about grammar and the mechanics of scripts. Allison (1998) further adds that when learners choose their topic to write about, they are more immersed in the language. The more learners have choices to make, the better learning takes place, and the more learners are motivated and interested in the activity.

E-diary or electric diary is writing diary by using internet media. By using online media like internet, students can

improve their skill by writing their journals or their daily activities wherever and whenever they want to do and the teacher's role here as the supervisor and encourage them only. These actions do not limit by the time of school, so the students have much time to write their daily activities with fun. Online learning also encourages passive students to more interactive and uses the collaborative approach in which students and the teacher co-create the learning process. (<http://angellearning.com>, accessed October 25, 2017)

## METODE PENELITIAN

The study used descriptive method. According to Williams (2007) descriptive research is a research method that can determine the situation in current phenomenon. Nassaji (2015) also states that the goal of descriptive research is drawing and classifying the phenomenon. In addition, Walliman (2011) defines that descriptive research relates to an observation in collecting the data.

## DISCUSSION

### 1. Writing Skill

Today, the ability to write has become an indispensable skill in our global literary community. Writing skill at least at primary levels is a necessary condition for achieving employment in many walks of life and is directly taken for granted in literary cultures.

In the field of second language teaching, the only half-century ago experts were saying that writing was primarily a convention for recording speech and for reinforcing grammatical and lexical features of the language. Now we understand the uniqueness of writing as skill with its features and convention. We also fully understand the difficulty of learning to write "well" in any language, even in our native speaker.

The form of writing used to tell or related is called narration; that used to describe is called description; that used to explain or interpret is called exposition (or expiration); the form of writing used to persuade or argue is called argumentation. The narrative is the form of writing used to relate the story of acts or events. Narration place occurrences in time and tells what happened according to the natural time sequence. Types of narration include short stories, novels, and news stories, as well as significant part of our everyday social interchange in the form of letters and convention.

### The role of teacher in teaching writing skill

Harmer (2004: 41-42) points out that there are some tasks that the teachers should do to help their students become better writers. They are as follows.

#### a. Demonstrating

Teachers have to be able to draw the features of the genre of the written texts so that the students are aware of the differences among the types of written documents. Pick a topic and write. Don't get stuck on figuring out what to write about. You can write about anything. You can write about what you do, things you hear or see, news, or make up

#### b. Motivating and provoking

Students often find themselves lost for words when they are writing. In this case, teachers can help them by stirring them into having ideas, enthusing them with the value of the task and persuading them what fun it can be.

#### c. Supporting

Students need a lot of help and reassurance once they get going, both with ideas and with the mean to carry them out. Write more than one draft. Draft means a preliminary version of the piece of writing. Sometimes, best writing becomes better after you take a break and work on a second or third selection.

d. Responding

Teachers react to the content and construction of a piece supportively and often (but not always) suggest its improvement. When teacher revise or (rewrite) their students work, the teacher is usually able to get their student message across more clearly. Teacher makes think of things that teacher does not consider to write the first draft and teacher can add it in a later draft. Don't write about the same thing every day or you will get bored. Try writing the same story from different perspective or different tenses

e. Evaluating

Teachers correct the students' writing. It can be a note which indicates where they wrote well and where they made mistakes. It is a giving feedback towards the students' writing. The teacher should have a friend that knows English correct or edit their student work. Having another person read student work helps generate more ideas to better your students write.

The explanation above shows that the teachers take an essential role in the development of the students' writing skills. Good teachers are they who can perform those tasks while teaching writing. They can facilitate the students in their learning so that the students could develop their writing strategies. Keep all of your writing in one place.

## 2. Online Learning

Online Learning can be defined as an approach to teaching and learning that using internet technologies to communicate and collaborate in an educational context. Online education is the computer based educational tool or system that enables students to learn anywhere and anytime.

Online learning has changed teaching and learning process by redesigning traditional classroom instructional approaches,

personalizing instruction and enhancing the quality of learning experiences. E-learning offers the ability to share materials in any kinds of forms such as, videos, slideshows, and conducting webinars (live online classes).

There are many advantages that we got using online learning. They are:

a. *Enabling student-centered teaching approaches*

Every student has his/her learning style. Some students are visual learners, some are audio learners, and some learn better when they learn by doing. Online learning environments permit the teacher the build one course, yet implement the variety of resources, so the students can utilize materials that suitable for them.

b. *Students share perspectives*

Through the online forum, like discussion board and chat, students can share their opinion with the different view from other friends and think critically freely. These benefits allow the students to combine new idea with their own. It is line with research that states that "as learners become aware of the variations in interpretation and construction of meaning among a range of people, they construct an individual meaning."(Alexander,1997)

c. *Provide opportunities for exploration*

A teacher can also provide to increase the student's exploration and active learning by giving them course materials is utilized in the real-world situation.

d. *Continual access to materials*

When a teacher provides course content and learning activity online, students are not more worry about accessing documents. Students also can complete their assignments during their most productive times. Students also obtain the materials at any time without feeling frustration because the library was closed.

e. *Providing just-in-time methods for assessing and evaluating students' progress.*

Students' assessment is critical in education. The result of the test of our students informs the teacher whether a teaching-learning process is successful or not. Online assessment tools provide the teacher with many ways to build, distribute and compile information quickly and easily.

f. *Enhancing students to students communication*

Online learning can increase contact between the class member and increase students motivation and participation in class discussion. Students are daring and confrontational regarding the expression of ideas (Kubala, 1998)

g. *More fun*

The using of multimedia makes teaching-learning process interactive and fun.

### 3. Diary and E-Diary

a. Definition of Diary and E-Diary

According to Stanley, Shimkin, and Lanner (1988: 3), diary or journal is personal account book that record or kept one's life. Similar to Shimkin and Lanner's description, Fitzpatrick (2005: 4), states that dairy is the private personal record of a writer's life experience. E-Diary is writing diary using online electronic as the medium. An electronic journal can be kept for the variety of reason, but that doesn't mean you can only hold one. Because it is so easy to store your thoughts online, we can keep a personal four your daily opinion, one of a record of your travels, one to express your feeling (<http://penzu.com>.accessed on November 03, 2017).

Diary can be the practical way to improve students writing skill by writing their daily experience routinely. It will make a change from unsuccessful activity to familiar one since the purpose of a journal or diary is "to give

your writing a daily workout" (Massiello, 1986: 37).

b. The Implementation of Diary and E-Diary in Education

To most students, writing in the classroom is a hard thing to do. They often feel unconfident and reluctant of their writing. Also, the limited time also makes them have not enough time to write all their ideas in the classroom. About those problems, a teacher can give a task to write diary or journal to students at home. Spaventa (as cited in Tuan, 2010: 82) points out that writing a journal or a diary is keeping a record of ideas, opinions, and descriptions of daily life which help the writers to develop their creativity. Writing diary also allows students to write freely and continuously.

Several scholars such as Art of (as quoted by Tin in Tuan, 2010: 82) state that diary writing or personal writing has several values.

"It is a powerful tool to find our untapped creative power, uncover our family history, learn to see the world more clearly, heal unsolved issues, understand our fears, and explore our motivation. Through personal writing, we can develop both writing skills and awareness, can develop greater awareness and interpersonal understanding, increasing the ability to relate to others."

Ngho (as cited in Tuan, 2010:82) also adds the benefit of diary writing that it also provides students with excellent opportunities to improve their writing skills and good chances to record their thoughts and feelings. Moreover, Langan (2008: 16 & 2011: 14) says that keeping a diary is one of the excellent ways to get practice in writing.

E-diary or electronic diary makes writing diary more interactive and exciting and more access able. Students free to upload their writing without limiting by time, and the teacher also easy to do supervision and encouragement to the students writing. From the explanation from some researchers, we can conclude that dairy can

improve students' writing skill and E-diary makes it more interactive and more exciting and more accessible.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion of the data in this study, it can be concluded that the implementation of diary writing in the teaching and learning process of writing is believed to be an efficient way to improve the students' writing skills.

Also, diary writing was introduced to students to get them familiar with the writing process so that they would be encouraged to write frequently on their own. The diary writing in this study is meant to keep the students' personal experiences in which it could be integrated with a written text. The writer recommended to the student for real practice of the implementation of diary writing in a diary book or electronic journal; so that they could begin to write their personal experiences on it. They were free to determine the topic of writing as long as it was about past experiences. It can be their love story, their family relationship or their friendship.

By keeping a diary, the students developed their writing skills or at least they wrote better day by day because it gave them more opportunities to write freely whatever they want to write about. Through diary writing, students got more writing practices, which they rarely

did in the classroom. Diary writing was aimed at giving the students more writing practices outside the classroom. At the school, they got the knowledge about how to write a written text, and then they implemented their expertise by writing a diary as the outside classroom activity.

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