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An Analysis of Students' Writing Skill in Descriptive Text of the Second Year
Students at SMPN 2 Bangun Purba

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# AN ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' WRITING SKILL IN DESCRIPTIVE TEXT OF THE SECOND YEAR STUDENTS AT SMPN 2 BANGUN PURBA

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ABSTAK

Penelitian ini melaporkan tentang analisis kemampuan siswa kelas dua di SMP N 2 Bangun Purba dalam menulis teks deskiptif dan juga menemuka faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhinya. Penelitian ini menggunakan jenis penelitian desktiptif sebagai rancangan penelitiannya. Penelitian ini mengikutsertakan satu kelas dari siswa kelas dua SMP N 2 Bangun Purba sebagai sampel penelitian. Data penelitian ini dikumpulkan melalui tes menulis. Kemudian, data ini dianalisis berdasarkan nilai yang diperoleh oleh siswa yang akhirnya dikategorikan kedalam lima level kemampuan menulis (Harris, 1969) dan dua struktur organisani sebuah teks deskriptif (identifikasi dan deskripsi) sebagai indikator untuk menentukan kemampuan siswa dalam menulis teks deskriptif. Hasil temuan dari penelitian ini menunjukkan beberapa poin. Poin pertama bahwa, secara umum, nilai rata-rata siswa dalam menulis teks deskriptif adalah 56 dan kemampuan mereka ini dikategorikan dalam level rata-rata. Poin keempat adalah bahwa ada dua faktor yang mempengaruhi kemampuan menulis siswa. Faktor-faktor tersebut adalah terkait dengan (1) komponen kemampuan menulis (grammar, kosakata, mekanik, style, dan organisasi), dan (2) struktur organisasi teks deskriptif, yaitu identifikasi dan deskripsi.

Kata kunci: Menulis, Teks descriptive, Kemampuan

## ABSTRACT

*This research reports on an analysis of the students' writing skill in descriptive text of the second year students at SMPN 2 Bangun Purba and also to find out the factors affect it. This study employed a descriptive research as the research design. This study involved a class of second year students as the sample of the research. The data were collected through writing test. Then, the data were analysed based on their writing test score which were categorized into five levels of writing skill (Harris, 1969) and two organization structures of descriptive text (Identification and description) as the indicators to see the students' writing skill in descriptive text. The findings of the study show some points. The first point is that, generally, the students' mean score of writing skill particularly in writing descriptive text was 56 and it was considered as the average level of skill. The second is that there are two factors affect the students' writing skill. They are related to (1) the components of writing (grammar, vocabulary, mechanics, style, organization) and (2) the organization structure of descriptive text (identification and description).*

*Keywords: Writing, Descriptive Text, Skill*

## INTRODUCTION

Writing is one skill in language learning including English. Writing is used to inform ideas or feeling to others in written form. The skill to write could make people are able to gather or obtain information, to see connections between ideas, to organize ideas into an explainable concept, to absorb and process information, to learn actively particularly in written form (Hairston, 1986). Nowadays, writing skill is becoming increasingly important in global community particularly in education both in

second- and foreign- language learning (Weigle, 2002:1).

Regarding the importance of this subject especially in language learning, the government has arranged it in the curriculum. It is stated that the students are expected to be able to express their ideas in written form in various kinds of text. Furthermore, based on the curriculum, it is stated that the second year students of junior high school level are expected to be able to express their ideas in written form in some kinds of text. One of them is descriptive text. Descriptive text refers to a text which focuses on describing particular things. Items or individuals and it specifies some of their characteristics (Emilia and Christie, 2013:36). In other words, it is assumed that at the ened of learning process, the second students of junior high school need to be able to write descriptive text.

In accordance with this case, the teacher needs to pay special attention to the students' skill in writing. Furthermore, based on the researcher's observation in the pre eliminary research, the second year students of SMPN 2 Bangun Purba, many students still have difficulties in the writing process. The first one is due to their weakness in vocabulary and grammar. It is difficult for the students to express their ideas about the topic. Beside that, most of the students only translated their thoughts from their native language into English. Then, they often select the appropriate choice of word. Based on the consideration of the importance of writing skill, mainly in form of descriptive text for junior high school level, the researcher is interested to conduct a research to serve the aim to analyse students' writing skill in descriptive text of the second year students at SMPN 2 Bangun Purba.

The focus issues in the study are limited on the analysis of students' writing skill in descriptive text of the second year students at SMPN 2 Bangun Purba and the factors which affect it. Moreover, there are some kinds of texts that are taught in junior high school level based on the curriculum. They are narrative, descriptive, procedure, and etc. However, in this study the researcher only focuses on writing descriptive text as an indicator to determine the students' writing skill.

The problems of this study are formulated in the following questions: (1) How is the students' writing skill in descriptive text of the second year students at SMPN 2 Bangun Purba? (2) What factors affect the students' writing skill in descriptive text of the second year students at SMPN 2 Bangun Purba?

Furthermore, the objective of the study is to analyse the students' writing skill in descriptive text of the second year students at SMPN 2 Bangun Purba and to find out the factors affect it.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employed a descriptive research. Descriptive research involved collecting data to test hypothesis or to answer question about the opinions of people about some topic or issue (Gay, 2000:315). The purpose of a descriptive research was to examine a phenomenon that is occurring at a specific place(s) and time. Furthermore, the finding of the research was used in order to analyse the students' writing skill in descriptive text of the second year students at SMPN 2 Bangun Purba.

This study took place in SMPN 2 Bangun Purba, which was located in Bangun Purba Sub District, Rokan Hulu Regency. It was conducted from the first week of December to the third week of December 2014.

The participants of the research were the second year students of SMPN 2 Bangun Purba. There were 196 students of the second year ones of SMPN 2 Bangun Purba. Because the population was large enough, it was necessary to have sample to conduct the research. In this research, the writer used cluster random sampling technique. Cluster random sampling is sampling in which groups, not individuals, are randomly selected (Gay, 2000:141). Finally, class 2A which consisted of 28 students had been chosen as the samples of the research.

Moreover, in accordance with the aim of the study which focus on the analysis of students' writing descriptive text skill, research instrument which was used in this study was writing test sheet. In this case, the teacher gave such instruction for the students to write a descriptive text on their sheet. The students are free to choose the topic of their writing so that they can easily write the descriptive text based on their own ability and their interest. Then, the students were given 80 minutes to finish their writing. Their writing checked and graded by the three raters based on five components which affect someone's writing

skill. The components are grammar, vocabulary, mechanics, style, and organization. They gave scores to the students' writing based on the components of writing and the guidelines to give the scores in range of 1 to 6. Furthermore, based on the scores which were gotten from the raters, the research calculated the scores so that the finding of the research was be revealed in form of the information related to the analysis of students' writing skill in descriptive text of the second year students at SMPN 2 Bangun Purba.

Furthermore, there were five components of writing (grammar, vocabulary, mechanics, style, and organization) and two organization structures of a descriptive text (identification and description) that were used as the indicators to know the writing skill of students of SMPN 2 Bangun Purba. The components were used by the raters in checking and giving scores for the students' writing. Then, the scores from the raters were analyzed by using some formulas in which at the end, it was found the real scores, the mean scores, and the level of the students' writing ability. There are five level of the students' writing ability encompassing poor, fair, average, good, excellent Harris (1969).

Table 1: The Students' Score Skill Level

| Test score | Level |
|---|---|
| 81 – 100 | Excellent |
| 61 – 80 | Good |
| 41 – 60 | Average |
| 21 – 40 | Fair |
| 0 – 20 | Poor |

## THE PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH FINDINGS

The presentation of the research findings involve the students' writing skill in five components of writing skill, the students' writing skill in descriptive text, the students' writing skill in general, and the factors which affect the students' skill in writing descriptive text.

The first is the students' writing skill in five components of writing skill. There are five components that have great influence in writing skill encompassing the grammar, vocabulary, mechanic, style and organization. In terms of grammar, it was found that the mean score of writing skill of second year students at SMPN 2 Bangun Purba was 58 and categorized as average level.

Table 2: The level Students' Writing Skill in Grammar

| Total of real score | Mean score | Level |
|---|---|---|
| 1618 | 58 | Average |

Then, in vocabulary, it was found that the mean score of writing skill of second year students at SMPN 2 Bangun Purba was 61 and categorized as good level.

Table 3: The level Students' Writing Skill in Vocabulary

| Total of real score | Mean score | Level |
|---|---|---|
| 1724 | 61 | Good |

Furthermore, in terms of mechanics, it was found that the mean score of writing skill of second year students at SMPN 2 Bangun Purba was 54 and categorized average level.

Table 4: The level Students' Writing Skill in Mechanics

| Total of real score | Mean score | Level |
|---|---|---|
| 1516 | 54 | Average |

In addition, in terms of style, it was found that the mean score of writing skill of second year students at SMPN 2 Bangun Purba was 53 and categorized average level.

Table 5: The level of Students' Writing Skill in Style

| Total of real score | Mean score | Level |
|---|---|---|
| 1488 | 53 | Average |

Then, in terms of organization, it was found that the mean score of writing skill of second year students at SMPN 2 Bangun Purba was 55 and categorized average level.

Table 6: The level of Students' Writing Skill in Organization

| Total of real score | Mean score | Level |
|---|---|---|
| 1534 | 55 | Average |

The second is the students' writing skill in descriptive text. Here, the findings show that the students' mean score in terms of identification was 58.75 in which it considered as in average level. Then, the

students' mean score in terms of description was 55.96 in which it also considered as in average level.

Table 7: The level of Students' Writing Skill in Descriptive Text of Identification and Description

| Indicators | Total of real score | Mean score | Level |
|---|---|---|---|
| Identification | 1645 | 58.75 | Average |
| Description | 1567 | 55.96 | Average |

The third is the students' writing skill in general. Here, the average score of the writing skill of the second year students of SMPN 2 Bangun Purba in general was 56 and it was considered as the average level of skill.

Table 8: Level of Students' Writing Skill

| Total of real score | Mean score | Level |
|---|---|---|
| 1579 | 56 | Average |

The last is the factors which affect the students' skill in writing descriptive text. there are two factors which afffect the students' writing skill. The first factor is related to the components of writing (grammar, vocabulary, mechanics, style, organization). Here, vocabulary was becoming the component which highly affect the students' writing skill. The second one is related to the organization structure of descriptive text (identification and description). From those two points of structure, the students got the highest mean score in identification part (58.75). It was indicated that this part mainly affect the students' writing descriptive text skill.

**CONCLUSIONS**

Regarding the data presentation and its analysis in the previous part, there were two points as the conclusions of the study. The first point is that students' writing skill in descriptive text of the second year students at SMPN 2 Bangun Purba in terms of four out of five components (grammar, mechanics, style and organization) were considered as the average level, and one of them (vocabulary component) was considered as the good level. Mofeover, the students' writing skill in descriptive text was analyzed based on two organization sructure of a descriptive text encompassing identification and description.

In this case, the students' mean score in terms of identification was 58.75 in which it considered as in average level. Then, the students' mean score in terms of description was 55.96 in which it also considered as in average level. Thus, generally, the students' mean score of writing skill particularly in writing descriptive text was 56 and it was considered as the average level of skill. Thus, from the data presentation, it can be concluded that the writing descriptive text skill of the second year students of SMPN 2 Bangun Purba was in average level.

Furthermore, the second point is that there are two factors affect the students' writing skill in descriptive text of the second year students at SMPN 2 Bangun Purba. They are (1) related to the components of writing (grammar, vocabulary, mechanics, style, organization) in which vocabulary was becoming the component which highly affect students' writing skill, then (2) related to the organization structure of descriptive text (identification and description) in which the students got the highest mean score in identification part (58.75). It was indicated that this part mainly affect the students' writing descriptive text skill.

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