

**AN ANALYSIS OF THE SECOND GRADE STUDENTS' PROBLEMS IN
WRITING A SHORT MESSAGE AT SMPN 27 PADANG**

THESIS

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The researcher

ABSTARCT

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The purpose of this research was to find out the second grade students’ problems in writing a short message at SMP N 27 Padang. The design of this research was descriptive. The population of this research was 231 students who were registered in 2016/2017 academic year. The researcher used convenience sampling technique in taking the sample. It means the sample was available class at the time, the students were distributed into two classes. The total sample members were 66 students. The members of population were taught by using the same curriculum, syllabus, material and English teacher.

The instrumentation of this research was writing test. The researcher gave some topics of short message, and the students chose one of them. The topics were short message of giving information, instruction, cancellation and invitation. Then the researcher asked the students to write a short message in 20 minutes. The researcher used content validity to see the validity of the test. To find out the reliability and also to minimize subjectivity, the researcher used inter rater technique. The researcher use Pearson Product Moment formula to calculate the coefficient correlation of two sets of data identified by first assessor and second assessor and the result was 0.70 (high correlation). It means the test was reliable.

The result of this research showed that the students had problems in writing the organization, expressing ideas, in using grammar, in using vocabulary and mechanic. In detail, 15 (21,96%) students had problems in writing the organization, 26 (39,39%) students had problems in expressing idea, 19 (28,78%) students had problems in using grammar, 11 (16,66%) students had problems in using vocabulary, 51 (77,27%) students had problems in using mechanic. The researcher found the most problems made by the students were in using mechanic.

Based on the result of the research, the teacher was suggested to give more explanation clearly about how to write the organization of short message completely, give more exercises in expressing ideas, give more examples and exercises in using correct grammar, give some tips how to remember vocabulary easily and use appropriate word in writing and explain more the correct use of mechanic. The students are expected to study hard and learn more to improve their understanding and do more exercises in writing a short message.

SURAT PERNYATAAN

Saya yang bertanda tangan di bawah ini:

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Dengan ini saya menyatakan bahwa skripsi yang berjudul An Analysis of the Second Grade Students' Problems in Writing a Short Message at SMPN 27 Padang adalah benar hasil karya sendiri.

Sepanjang sepengetahuan saya, dalam skripsi ini tidak terdapat karya atau pendapat yang ditulis atau diterbitkan oleh orang lain, kecuali sebagai acuan dengan mengikuti tata penulisan karya ilmiah yang lazim.

Demikian surat pernyataan ini saya buat dengan penuh kesadaran dan rasa tanggung jawab sebagai anggota masyarakat ilmiah.

Padang, 6 Juli 2017
Saya yang menyatakan

SUFANI YETRA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	i
SURAT PERNYATAAN	iii
ABSTRACT	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS	v
LIST OF TABLES	viii
LIST OF APPENDICES	ix
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	
1.1 The Background of the Problem	1
1.2 The Identification of the Problem	3
1.3 The Limitation of the Problem.....	4
1.4 The Formulation of the Problem.....	4
1.5 Research Questions	4
1.6 The Purpose of the Research.....	5
1.7 Significance of the Research.....	6
1.8 Definition of Key Terms.....	6
CHAPTER 2: REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE	
2.1 Writing	8
2.1.2 Concept of Writing.....	8
2.1.2 Components of Writing.....	9
2.1.3 Types of Writing	11
2.1.4 Process of Writing.....	12

2.1.5 Writing Problem in Classroom Learning.....	13
2.2 Short Functional Text.....	14
2.2.1 Concept of Short Functional Text	14
2.2.2 Types of Short Functional Text.....	14
2.2.3 Short Message	17
2.2.3.1 Sentence of Short Message.....	19
 CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHOD	
3.1 Research Design.....	20
3.2 Population and Sample.....	20
3.3 Instrument	21
3.4 Technique of Collecting the Data	23
3.5 Technique of Analyzing the Data	25
 CHAPTER IV: FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS	
4.1 Finding	27
4.1.1 The Students' Problems in Writing Short Message	27
4.1.2 Students' Problems in Writing the Organization of Short Message	28
4.1.3 Students Problems in Expressing Idea in Writing Short Message	29
4.1.4 Students' Problems in Using Grammar in Writing Short Message	29
4.1.5 Students' problems in Using Vocabulary in Writing Short	

Message.....	30
4.1.6 Students' Problems in Using Mechanic in Writing Short	
Message.....	30
4.2 Discussions.....	31
4.2.1 Students' Problems in Writing Short Message.....	31
4.2.2 Students Problems' in Writing the Organization of Short	
Message	31
4.2.3 Students' Problems in Expressing Idea in Writing Short	
Message	34
4.2.4 Students' Problems in Using Grammar in Writing Short	
Message	34
4.2.5 Students' Problems in Using Vocabulary in Writing Short	
Message	35
4.2.6 Students' Problems in Using Mechanic in Writing Short	
Message	36
CHAPTER V: CONCLUSSION AND SUGGESTIONS	
5.1 Conclussions	38
5.2 Suggestions	39
REFERENCES.....	41
APPENDICES	43

LIST OF TABLES

Table 3.1: The Distribution of Population Members	21
Table 3.2 : Students' Problems	25
Table 4.1 : Students Who Had Problems in Writing Short Message	28
Table 4.2 : Students Had Problems in Writing Short the Organization of Short Message	28
Table 4.3 : Students Had Problems in Expressing Idea in Writing Short Message	29
Table 4.4 : Students Who Had Problems in Using Grammar in Writing Short Message	29
Table 4.5 : Students Who Had Problems in Using Vocabulary in Writing Short Message	30
Table 4.6 : Students Who Had Problems in Using Mechanic in Writing Short Message	30

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1:Writing Test	43
Appendix 2:Checklist of Students' Problems in Writing Short Message.....	44
Appendix 3:The Calculation of Reliability in Writing Short Message	47
Appendix 4:Average Number of Students' Problems of Two Assessors	50
Appendix 5:Average Number of Students' Problems in Organization	51
Appendix 6:Average Number of Students' Problems in Expressing Idea.....	52
Appendix 7:Average Number of Students' Problems in Grammar	53
Appendix 8:Average Number of Students' Problems in Vocabulary.....	54
Appendix 9:Average Number of Students' Problems in Mechanic	55
Appendix 10:Percentage of students' Problems in Writing Short Message	56
Appendix 11:Letter of Permissions	57

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher discusses background of the problem, identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, formulation of the problem, research questions, purposes of the study, significance of the study, and definition of key terms.

1.1 The Background of The Problem

English is an international language that should be learned in almost every country in the world. Nowadays, English language mastery as an international language is important. English is often used by the people in this world in every subject. In Indonesia, it is one of the subjects that should be learned in educational institution. In learning English, there were four skills that should be mastered, they are listening, speaking, reading and writing. All of them are important because every skill has different function and they are related to each other. So, it is important for the students to learn all of the skills to master English.

One of four skills in English is writing. Writing is important skill to mastered because through writing someone can express his/her ideas, feeling, and experience in order to make readers understand them. Writing is a complex skill, such as ability to use vocabulary and grammar and to express idea. To make a good writing, the students should have the basic knowledge in components on vocabulary, grammar, organizing idea and using mechanics.

Writing is the important skills in studying English. The students should learned to write well because it is used extensively in higher education. If students did not know how to express themselves in writing, they won't be able to communicated well with many people. Furthermore, a writing sample, such as an essay completed for a class, may be required as part of the process. This is almost always the case for students who pursue graduate studies, and graduate work usually requires the completion of several comprehensive essays. Additionally, scholarships are often rewarded based upon the writing ability of applicants. For these reasons, any student who wants to further his/her career needs to know how to write well.

Short functional text is a text that is very simple and to the point. Functional text is important because it is created to give information in our daily life. Functional texts are consumed by a reader for the purpose of accomplishing something or getting people to the next step of what they need to do. Short functional text has particular meaning and purpose which can be used in our daily life. It may be in the form of *notice, letter, announcement, advertisement, label, and short message*. Unfortunately, the students in junior high school have difficulties in writing short message.

Based on the researcher's interview with some students and English teacher when teaching practice in SMP 27 Padang, the students had studied about short message. However, the students said that they had many problems when the teacher asked them to write in English. The students lack of vocabulary, they did not know about the mechanic, grammar and also had problem in making good

sentence arrangement. Besides, they were not interested in writing because English was considered as difficult subject for some students.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher wanted to know about students' problems to write short message. The researcher did an analysis of the second grade students' problem in writing short message at SMP N 27 Padang.

1.2. Identification of the Problem

In this research, the researcher focused to do research about students problem in writing short message. Short message is a kind of short functional texts. Short message is a message in a simple form that is used to inform something to someone. This is a written communication similar to a letter but without formal address. Short message has many functions, for example for making an appointment, a meeting, cancellation, asking someone to do something, and to inform good or bad news.

Based on interview to the teacher in SMP N 27 Padang, there are some problems that researcher identified about students problems in writing short message. Firstly, the students lack of vocabulary. As we know, vocabulary is the most important element to make a correct sentence. The students are difficult to express their ideas and to make a good sentence because they do not have sufficient vocabularies. So, the students are confused when the teacher asks them to write an expression. Secondly, the students have problem in mechanics, they are punctuation, spelling and capitalization. In English, it will be a big problem if the students spelling in writing incorrect, because the meaning become different. Of course, the teacher will be

confused to read student's work. They also do not care with punctuation. For example, when the teacher asks them to make a paragraph, they consolidate all of the sentences without comma and full stop. In using capitalization, they do not know in what situations they should use capital letter. Thirdly, the students difficult to organize and expressing their ideas. They need much time to think what should they write. Lastly, the students have problem in using punctuation.

Based on explanation above, there are a lot of mistakes of the students in writing short message, such as in using vocabulary, grammar, mechanics, organization and expressing ideas. So, in this research the researcher described the students' problems in writing short message at SMP N 27 Padang.

1.3. Limitation of the problem

It is important to set a limitation in doing research to make clear understanding and to guide the readers about the topic of the study. Therefore, the researcher limited this study on second year students' problem in writing short message at SMP N 27 Padang which focused on imperative and declrative sentence. The reason is that the students already studied about imperative and declarative sentence.

1.4. Formulation of problem

Based on the limitation of the problem above, the researcher focused on writing short message. So, formulation of the problems is "What problems do the second year students of SMP N 27 Padang have in writing short message?"

1.5. Research Questions

Based on the formulation of the problems, research questions are as follow:

1. Do the students have problems in writing the organization of short message?
2. Do the students have problems in expressing idea of short message?
3. Do the students have problems in using grammar in writing short message?
4. Do the students have problems in using vocabulary in writing short message?
5. Do the students have problems in using mechanics in writing short message?

1.6. Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this research that is related to formulation of the problem above is to describe the second grade students' problems in writing short message at SMP N 27 Padang. The specific purposes of the research are:

1. To find out whether the students have problem in writing the organization of short message
2. To find out whether the students have problem in expressing idea of short message
3. To find out whether the students have problem in using grammar in writing short message?
4. To find out whether the students have problem in using vocabulary of short message

5. To find out whether the students have problem in using the mechanics in writing short message

1.7. Significance of the Research

Based on research result, this research has some significance for English teachers and students. For the teachers, this research will give some information about the problems faced by the second grade students in writing short message. This research will give some consideration for their future teaching and also the teacher can discover some strategies to solve the students' problem in writing short message. They can ask their students to do more exercises in writing short message or give more examples of short message. For the students, they will know their problems in writing short message and it can make them aware about their problem in writing short message. For the researcher, this writing will be useful in improving her own English.

1.8 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding, it is necessary for the researcher to provide the definition of some key terms in this research as follow :

1. An analysis is a research activity on students' problem in writing short message.
2. Problem is something that is hard for students in writing short message.

3. Writing is a process to make a short functional text in the form of short message.
4. Short functional text is a text that has social function to inform something. It calls short functional text because the text is short and has specific information.
5. Short message is a message in a simple form that is used to inform someone.