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ABSTRACT

Soehela, Sinta. 2017. *An Analysis of the Tenth Grade Students' Ability to Write Personal Descriptive Text by Using Picture at SMKN 1 Padang.*

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The purpose of this research was to describe the tenth grade students' ability to write personal descriptive text by using picture at SMKN 1 Padang. The design of this research was descriptive. The population of this research was the tenth grade students. The number of population members was 87 students, and they were distributed into three class. The researcher used cluster random sampling technique to select the sample. The total number of sample members was 31. In collecting data, the researcher used writing test. The researcher asked the students to write personal descriptive text based on some pictures with their own words by considering four components of writing text: generic structure, language features, vocabulary and mechanics. In analyzing the data, the researcher did several steps. Firstly, she presented the raw score of each sample, calculated average score by first scorer and second scorer, classified the students who got high and low ability (KKM), and counted the percentage them.

Based on the result of data analysis, it was indicated that the tenth grade students' ability to write personal descriptive text by using picture at SMKN 1 Padang in general was high. It was proved by the fact that 74.1% of them could write personal descriptive text by using picture (generic structure, language features, a correct vocabulary and mechanics). There were 38.7% students who were classified into low ability in writing generic structure, 54.8% students classified into high ability in using language features, 74.1% students were classified into high ability in using correct vocabulary and 100% students classified into high ability in using mechanics of personal descriptive text by using picture.

Based on the result, the researcher gives suggestion to the English teacher to give more examples about descriptive text like described places, animals and things and exercises about writing personal descriptive text by using picture. The students are suggested to study more about writing personal descriptive text and do more exercises to improve their ability. The next researchers are suggested to use this research as a reference to conduct other relevant research.

Key words: Writing, Personal Descriptive Text, and single Picture.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter the researcher discussed about background of the problem, the identification of problem, the limitation of the problem, the formulation of the problem, research questions, purposes of the research, significant of the research, and definition of the key terms.

1.1 The Background of the Problem

English is one of the important subjects taught at Senior High School. In learning English, there are four basic skills that must be mastered. The four basic skills are listening, speaking, reading and writing. Listening skill is the ability of someone in listening about what the speaker says. Speaking skill is the ability of someone in extent the information to the audience. Reading skill is the ability of someone in reading or understanding the text or paragraph. And writing skill is the ability of someone in expresses their ideas or feeling, perception, and point of view in writing form.

Writing is one way to communicate other people besides speaking, reading and listening. The word “writing” seem to be very simple and easy to understand. However, it cannot be ignored. When students write a paragraph, he/she will write not only semantically correct but he/she will also use a correct grammar.

Azhar (2015) stated that writing clear sentences requires you to learn the rules of English grammar and mechanics such as the correct use of verbs and pronouns, as well as commas and other marks of punctuation.

Based on curriculum 2013, there are several kinds of writing text that have to be introduced at senior high school, such as narrative, descriptive, news item in daily activity. Writing as a language was considered as a difficult subject for students. In facts, the students have many ideas or experiences in their life but they cannot explain their ideas into written form. The students of SMKN 1 Padang, the students assumed that writing is difficult because they should consider many things such as about generic structure, language features, vocabulary and mechanics.

In writing students should have sufficient vocabulary, and they must know meaning of the words that they use. If the students make mistakes in using words in written form to deliver the ideas, it can change the meaning of the sentence and also make the reader confused.

Descriptive text is a kind of the text that should be mastered by the students. Its function is to describe particular person, place and thing. Descriptive text has generic structure and language feature. Generic structure consists of identification that is used to identify phenomenon to be described and description that is used to describe parts, qualities, and characteristic of something. Besides, descriptive text also uses language features. There are pronouns, nouns, noun phrase, adjective, present tense and attribute has and have. In this case, in teaching descriptive text in senior high school, the teacher had an effective and interesting technique to make the students can achieve the learning goal of writing descriptive text.

Based on the researcher experience studying at SMKN 1 Padang, some of the students were still confused in writing personal descriptive text by using picture. In addition, based on the result of informal interview and discussion that the researcher did with some students of the tenth grade students at SMKN 1 Padang, most of them are still unable to write personal descriptive text. As we know writing personal descriptive text by using picture has generic structure (identification and description), language, correct vocabulary and mechanics. Based on the description above the researcher is interested in conducting a research entitled "An Analysis of the tenth grades students' ability to write personal descriptive text by using picture at SMKN 1 PADANG".

1.2 The Identification of the Problem

In writing, there are many kinds of text that is taught at senior high school. Some of them are narrative, descriptive, and news item in daily activity. When it was develop by giving description, it was called descriptive text. Descriptive text describes a process or sequence of events or the characteristics or structure of something. And narrative text tends to give background of information that was an account of description of past events. Argumentative paragraph is a writing that has a purpose to explain and give information about something.

All of the texts above have different genre one to another. The teacher has important role in supporting students understanding about the text types. Considerations that should be done by the students in writing descriptive text are: the generic structure, the language features, vocabulary, mechanics (spelling and punctuation).

Descriptive text describes a process or a sequence of events of the characteristic or structure of something. The generic structure of descriptive text consists of two parts namely the identification, the students mention the special participant, like people, thing or place. Then in description, the students should mention the part, quality, and characteristic of subject being described. The language features deal with grammar of the text, it is created with present tense, using adjective (spelling and punctuation).

In vocabulary, the problem might occur in the choice of word that they use. In grammar, the problem might occur in using tenses. In spelling, the problem might occur in using period, colon, semi colon, dash and other period punctuation. These aspects are important ones in writing because these are basic components in order that the writing is understood by the reader.

The use of picture in writing personal descriptive text can help students to catch and express their ideas easily. Take an example when the students ask to write about an artist or public figure. They will get difficulty in writing sentences or paragraph because the students' may need very long time to express their idea that was appropriate to the topic. That was why pictures help students in getting the ideas easily only by looked at the pictures.

There are several kinds of pictures that can be used in teaching writing, according to Yunus in Leni (2006:15), introduced four kinds of picture. First is Composite picture, These are large single picture, which show a scene (hospital, beach, canteen, railway station, street) in which number of people can be seen doing things. The second is a picture series, a picture series is a number of related

composite pictures linked to form series of sequence. Hence, its main function is to tell a story or sequence of events. The third is single picture, these are single picture of objects, person, animals or activities such pictures vary in size from small newspaper pictures and can be mounted singly. The last is, specialized picture (posters, charts, advertisements, brochures), wall posters are not designed specifically for teaching but rather for advertising or propaganda purpose.

1.3 The Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification above, the researcher limited her study to an analysis of the tenth grade students' ability in writing of personal descriptive text by using single picture at SMKN 1 Padang. Furtherly, this study was focused on the students' ability to develop generic structure (identification and description), the language features (using simple present tense and adjective), using word choice (vocabulary), and also mechanics (spelling, capitalization and punctuation) by using single picture.

1.4 The Formulation of the Problem

In relation to the limitation of the problem as discussed above the researcher formulates the problem of this study as "How is the students' ability to write personal descriptive text by using picture of the tenth grade at SMKN 1 Padang?"

1.5 Research Questions

In line with formulation of problem, the research questions are formulated as the followings:

- 1) How is the students' ability to write generic structure in writing personal descriptive text using picture by the tenth grade students at SMKN 1 Padang?
- 2) How is the students' ability to use language features in writing personal descriptive text using picture by the tenth grade students at SMKN 1 Padang?
- 3) How is the students' ability to use correct vocabulary in writing personal descriptive text using picture by the tenth grade students at SMKN 1 Padang?
- 4) How is the students' ability to use mechanics in writing personal descriptive text using picture by the tenth grade students at SMKN 1 Padang?

1.6 The Purposes of the Research

Based on the research questions above, the general purpose of this research was to describe:

- 1) The students' ability to write generic structure in writing personal descriptive text by using picture.
- 2) The students' ability to use language features in writing personal descriptive text by using picture.

- 3) The students' ability to use correct vocabulary in writing personal descriptive text by using picture.
- 4) The students' ability to use mechanics in writing personal descriptive text by using picture.

1.7 Significance of the research

The researcher expects that the result of this research would contribute scientific information for better teaching-learning process. For the teachers, by having known students' ability to write personal descriptive paragraph by using picture they can consider it for their next teaching or giving some exercises or more example of writing personal descriptive paragraph to the students. For the researcher, this research can increase her knowledge and experiences in doing research about to write personal descriptive text by the tenth grade by using picture.

1.8 The Defenition of the Key Terms

There are some key terms in this research that should be clarified in order to avoid misunderstanding about them. The terms can be defined as follows:

1. Writing is one of the four language skills and it is a productive skill that should be processed by students in learning English at junior high school, senior high school and university.
2. Descriptive text is a kind of text that describes about person, place, and things.

3. Personal descriptive text is a kind of descriptive text that describes people.
4. Identification is a part of descriptive text that use to identify phenomenon to be describes.
5. Description is a part of descriptive text that describe parts, qualities, and characteristic.
6. Picture is an idea of how something looks of what something is like.
7. Single picture is objects, person, animals or activities such pictures vary in size from small newspaper pictures and can be maounted singly, according to Yunus in Leni (2008:15).