

A PROBLEM ANALYSIS AND TEACHERS STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE WRITING (GREETINGS CARD) SKILLS FOR JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL IN SMP NEGERI 9 PEMATANGSIANTAR

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ABSTRACT

This research started from the problem of the less skills of students in writing, especially in the use of grammar in students of SMP N 9 Pematangsiantar. The purpose of this research is to see the progress in student abilities in writing skill through Greetings card, as well as to find the difficulties faced by students. This research is quantitative research. The population in this study were students of class VIII SMP N 9 Pematangsiantar. The instrument used is a writing test. Data from students' writing tests were analyzed based on indicators and then interpreted and became research findings. From the results of this study, it was found that students had weak abilities in writing Greetings card. Based on the tests that have been given, it was also found difficulties faced by students when writing greetings card, namely in the use of language. This difficulty relates to the use of the tenses, action verbs, linking verbs, and pronouns.

The causes of this difficulty are interlingual transfer, intralingual transfer, and the lack of vocabulary possessed by students. So it can be concluded that students still have many difficulties in writing a good and correct sentence in Greetings card according to the applicable rules. Furthermore, based on the results of this study, it is expected that teachers can provide better teaching techniques and students can do more exercises to improve students' writing skills.

Keywords: Writing difficulties, Teachers' strategies, Greetings card

INTRODUCTION

Writing is one of important skills that students are able to do because writing can help them to think critically and deeply to build a good writing. Writing also necessary component of education, livelihood, and functional basics in our society. By learning writing, the students will get knowledge how to write effectively, how to express thought and share it with anyone else through writing. Belkhir & Benyelles, (2017) state that writing is the most difficult skill for second or foreign language learners to mastered. From the statement, we can concluded that writing is a very important subject because we have to share mind or idea from our brain in writing. It is not easy to choose the words and combine them into a good writing. Beside that we have to pay attention in the grammatical sentence. So it is normal, if the students think that writing is difficult subject to do because they have to focus for many things such as; idea, concept, vocabulary and grammar. By involves many aspects, writing is considered as a difficult skill.

Some of them refer to language use is the ability to write correctly and suitable sentences; mechanical skills refer to the ability to use punctuation correctly and grammatical sentence; the content refers the ability to think creatively and develop thought including all relevant information; stylistic skill refers to the ability to manipulate sentences and use language effectively; judgment skill refers to the ability to select, organize and order relevant information. According to Klimova, (2012) writing which was once considered the domain of

the elite and well educated, has become an essential tool for people's life in today's global community. A narrative is typically written in the first person (did this or that), but don't go overboard. Not every sentence-or even every other sentence-should include. Writing skills are categorized as the last language skills that must be able to do by all students. as a language skill, writing is not only a difficult skill for students but also a challenging activity and also frightening. Writing is considered as a difficult skill because it involves many aspects (Zhang, 2013).

Based on the background of the research above, the researcher would like to identify the problem as follows: (1) What are the problem's that make students difficult in learning writing skill in Junior High School?, (2) What are the teacher's difficulties in teaching writing for Junior High School students?

THERETICAL FRAMEWORK

Greetings Card

Greetings card are an illustrated piece of card or high quality paper featuring an expression of friendship or other sentiment. Although greeting cards are usually given on special occasions such as birthday, holiday or other big days celebration, they are also sent to convey thanks or express other feelings.

According to RANI, (2021) "Greeting card is a card to express friendship or other expression." Lestari et. al. define (2014: 8) "Greeting card is card to express someone feeling. "A greeting card is an illustrated, folded card featuring and expression of friendship or other sentiment. According to definitions above, it can be concluded that greeting card is a card to express someone's feeling to others using interesting pictures.

Components of Writing

General component, they are grammar, mechanic, vocabulary, organization and fluency (content). "Hughes" as explained below:

a. Grammar

Grammar is rules of language. Grammar is not a constraining imposition but a liberating force, it frees us from a dependency on context and a purely lexical categorization of reality.

b. Vocabulary

In addition, vocabulary is a list of words used in alphabetical order and with the explanation of their meaning

c. Mechanics

Mechanic is the use of good graphic conversation of the language. In general, mechanics is often being matters such as formatting, correct grammar, punctuation, spelling and capitalization.

d. Organization

Organization should be taken care of well in writing because good paragraphs have unity in the sense that, all of the sentences discuss one main idea and supporting sentence explain the main idea.

e. Fluency

Fluency is an important element of writing to connect any ideas by using the appropriate transition signals (words and phrase).

Writing Comprehension

Writing Comprehension is the ability to understand written text, spoken word, and visual images.

Causes of writing difficulties :

- 1) students often have difficulty with the areas of productivity, complexity and grammar.
- 2) this skill requires a lot of practice to have an improvement and because students must produce a well-accepted written form that can be read and understood.
- 3) that most students hate learning to write because learning to write is boring and difficult.
- 4) in learning to write greetings card, many students make mistakes and have difficulty in building and developing their imagination & create words

Problems And Teacher Strategies Of Problems To Improve In Writing Skills.

a. Lack of Knowledge about Writing Stages

classifies the writing complexities into psychological, linguistic and cognitive problems. It means that writing does not come naturally but rather gained through continuous effort, much practice and improvement, it becomes a complex skill.

b. Lack Learners' Motivation

Writing tasks can be developed rapidly when students' concerns and interests are acknowledged, when they are given lots of chance to write and when they are invited as participants. It means that learners will be encouraged to write if writing tasks motivate them and keep them interested and curious about the subject

c. Inadequate Time

Learners need time for creating ideas, organizing their ideas, writing drafts, proof reading and re-writing. Writing, which is an important part of language learning, is essentially a reflective activity that requires enough time to think about the specific topics.

d. Lack of Practice

Writing is essentially a creative process and good writers must learn to communicate their ideas clearly to an unseen audience. In addition, learners must take the responsibility for their learning if meaningful learning is to take place. Furthermore, to become a good writer, a student needs to practice a lot.

e. Teachers' Feedback

the real teachers become readers rather than judges, they should perhaps look not so much at what the learners have failed to achieve but rather at what they actually succeeded in doing. This might help students writers to appreciate receiving comments and use them in their revisions then try to fix the failed well

f. Insufficient word stock and writing mechanics

Even the most talented students need to learn how to understand complex sentences, differentiate between different nouns, use proper punctuation and proofread their writing for errors.

METHOD

In this research is a qualitative research. According to Sugiyono, (2016) qualitative case studies are to find meaning, process groups and to gain an in-depth understanding of individuals, or situations. Qualitative studies are also strategies to identify phenomena and influences that optimize and generate new basic theories about the latter. In other words, qualitative research provides a rich narrative description. This strategy is to understand the process by which events and actions occur. Thus, in this research descriptive is a conducted in the purpose to describe systematically about the fact and characteristics of the subject. The researcher used descriptive design in this research is focused on a certain phenomenon in the school environment about the students difficulties in comprehension English writing text.

The subject of this research was the students at grade VIII of SMP N 9 Pematangsiantar. The researcher took the sample, the sample was taken by using cluster sampling technique that is choosing a class randomly. The instrument for this research was writing test of Greetings

card. Writing test was used in this research to find out the students' ability and their difficulties in writing Greetings card. For this research, students were asked to write a Greetings card based on some topics given. The researcher used the result of the test to analyze students' difficulties in writing Greetings card, and to find out some factors that made them get difficulties in writing Greetings card. However, before doing the test, the validity of the test was seen. Content validity was used to find out the validity of the test. "Content validity is the degree to which a test measures an intended content area" (Gay,2000:163). It means that, the test that was used must be relevant with students' knowledge. Because of that, the researcher asked students to choose one of the topics from some topics given. Then, the topics that were chosen by students were used as topics for writing recount text test.

DISCUSSION

The teacher's strategy to overcome the difficulties of the content aspect.

The second resource person said that to start learning about texts, should know the characteristics of the content they learn, for example what do they know about greetings card and what they can write for greetings card. She also said that the use of media in teaching greetings card or other texts is helpful, it will make students better understand the material to be presented and can reduce boredom during the learning process.

For example, the use of imagination and visual in teaching greetings card, there are students who cannot capture the material without visual media. Therefore, the teacher displays an example of a greetings card through the way they see and imagine about an event. In addition, the second resource person said that writing is an application of what students have learned. If students can write, they will learn to write the draft that is taught but if they cannot write the teacher will write guided to help students practice writing. He also said that the ability to understand a student's text in junior high school was only a function of the text.

The visualization is suitable to be applied in a class that has many student characteristics. A work group not only helps students gain knowledge but they can build social interactions. The learning process is also supported by visualization. It will make the learning process more fun and interesting. and it helps students not to be bored during the study.

Strategy teacher for overcoming organizational difficulties

Based on the first and second interviews to start learning to write a greetings card, the teacher and the second student shared parts of the greetings card to become good organizers. The strategy used in the organizational aspect is the same as the strategy in the generic aspect because the two aspects are interrelated. The teacher calls this strategy semi-guided writing. Through this strategy, students will be more active because there is communication between teachers and students. This is the right strategy to use in the teaching aspect because through this alternative strategy the teacher can guide students in writing subjects so that students feel easier in writing skills.

Teacher strategies for solving grammatical difficulties

The first informant said that before teaching students to write a greetings card, a teacher must teach grammar. For example, the teacher gives an example of a greetings card to students, then students are given the task of identifying certain grammatical aspects such as tenses by underlining the words. After that, the teacher will explain more about the tenses. To motivate or encourage students in learning greetings card, the first person interviewed considers that the use of media is important, for example random words that are designed into several colors to become one sentence in each color. After arranging the colorful words into

correct sentences, students arrange the sentences in the correct order into a paragraph and make a greetings card.

She said that to start learning greetings card, the teacher gave an explanation of the relationship between the use of language and the event of the greetings card they want to use. Because they need to know when to use the words which are related to the situation of the greetings card.

Teacher strategies for overcoming mechanical difficulties

According to the second informant, writing is a productive skill and the most complicated language skill, so before starting writing practice, students should start learning learning skills, namely comprehensive skills such as reading activities. Students will find the correct spelling in words, application of punctuation marks, use of capital letters and paragraphs to be used in writing texts.

In addition, the second interview said that if students are looking to start reading diligently, they can explore new knowledge about writing styles on their own. If they do not understand the meaning of certain words, they can look it up in a dictionary or with a teacher or study guide. So, the suggestion is that students need to practice reading more both at school and at home. The assessment of the writing mechanism is low because this section is not paid much attention both when practicing and when writing. The teacher only focuses on the subject matter.

CONCLUSION

It is concluded that students are still have the same difficulties from the past. To minimize the problems, the students only need media such as smart phone or laptop and internet connection that they can use not only for online class as what they've done nowadays but also they can use it at their home as privacy to write their learning activity. It is an easy way to reduce the stress and to motivate students in writing and to give them a personal space to write their own improvement, worries, and problems personally. In teaching and learning process, teachers also need the students point of view about their ability, because there are many reasons that cannot be expressed by the students in the result of the test. And then, for the teacher, it might be considered as teaching evaluation for the next teaching sessions and learning process. Therefore, it is suggested that teachers need to develop more systemized forms of feedback and make it clear to student and what they are to do with it.

Also what teachers can use to overcome grammatical difficulties is random words. And to overcome the mechanical difficulties, the teacher only suggested to the students to improve their reading habits that can help them to multiply their vocabulary because it makes the students memorizing lots of words they can use to write and overcome their difficulties. students can be overcome if the teacher applies the right strategy and work together with students.

And the suggestions can be formulated as below :

1. Suggestions for English Teacher

- a. The teacher should explain what is greetings card about to the students and provide further examples to help them know the content. As a result, they can work the content well
- b. In their English writing, the teacher should provide inspiration and attention also the correction

2. Suggestions for the students

- a. In order to improve their writing abilities in English, students need to learn and practice more and know what is the thing that they lack of.

b. Students should be more focus in the teaching and learning process; they should inquire about something that they don't understand about the topic.

3. Suggestion for the other researchers

Because many students are lack when it comes to writing in english , more study with the same item and other perspectives in other writing problems is needed. The researchers then suggest that more study be done on the students' difficulties in creating greetings card

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