

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PEN PAL PROJECT IN WRITING RECOUNT TEXT IN SMP DHARMA BAKTI MEDAN

Oleh:

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Abstract

This research describe the effectiveness of pen pal project, to find out students' responses used new strategy especially for writing recount text skills in SMP Dharma Bakti Medan. And also how to prepare all the students to learn recount text topic with implementation of pen pal project. The researcher used seven grade students in SMP Dharma Bakti Medan as the subject of research with 30 participants. Research method that used by the researcher is qualitative-descriptive. Observation sheet along teaching and learning process is usefull for the researcher to observe pen pal project application by teacher to all the participants. The result of this research showed that pen pal project was effectived to increase students' writing ability. Students more active to write after exchanging the letter to their friends or their family. In the last meeting students answered some questions about implementation of pen pal project and they interested to write recount text after send the letter. They agree that pen pal project prepared them to study about recount text topic. Based on the research, pen pal project can be a solution and motivation for teacher and students to create effective learning process. Improve students' writing skills without trapped in stucture and vocabulary dificulties. The researcher expected the result of this study give some benefit for teachers, students and the others reseachers

Key Words : Writing Skill, Pen Pal Project, Recount Text

1. INTRODUCTION

Writing skills are the skills that move mechanically. Writing skills can not be mastered only through theory, but are done through exercises and practices that are completed to produce well-structured writing. Writing that contains about how to think, arrange the right, and good sentences (Hasani, 2005: 2). Writing skills are the last in the language learning process after listening, speaking and reading skills. Of the four that skills the most difficult writing skill to master is writing. It requires writing skills that require mastery of various things that are not appropriate and outside the language itself which will be contents of the essay. Writing exceries in Indonesian language can accustom students to apply linguistics knowledge such as grammar, vocabulary, language style, spelling and so on.

The reality in the field, based on experience in implementing writing learning in class shows that writing skills are often feared and even avoided by students, this is due to the limited vocabulary they have. Students have difficulty expressing even simple things in written form, and students are less active in learning to write, because they feel bored and are not motivated to be active and explore their ideas. The time used is partly dominated by the teacher to explain, so students are not facilitated to express their ideas, both with their friends and with their teachers and seeing the current conditions, where the development of increasingly sophisticated technology that is very

influential in the lack of interest of students in writing,

Even entering English class, most teachers find it difficult in learning activities,, especially in writing lessons, this is proof by the number of students who do the activities like make a joking, playful, not serious in the learning class. This is because the teacher's learning activities are still using boring methods, such as expository, lecture method and tasks, this causes learning activities to be have control over of teachers even though some subject matter certainly requires the application of various strategies because indeed the objectives of each lesson are different.

From this problem, it is need to conduct research on the implementation of new learning strategies by English teachers.. The researcher tittle of this study is "The Effectiveness of the Pen Pal Project in Teaching Recount Text".

Pen pal is often interpreted as a pen friend, that is, a friend who lives far from us so that we communicate through correspondence. Pen pal project will become an alternative way to increase motivation for regular writing activities. There are many advantages in using pen pals. As explained by Walker-Dalhouse, Sanders, and Dalhouse (in Larrotta and Serrano, 2012) that pen pal writing can provide valuable learning experiences for students even though it does not involve direct instruction in writing. Pen Pal project can provide students with language skills and social skills. Through pen pal letter exchanges ESL students learn more than just writing in English; they learn

the different functions of the language, grammar, vocabulary, idioms, and culture.

Recount text is a part of the text that recounts events experienced in the past. This type of text can not only be used in schools but also in other written and electronic media, for example it can be used in diaries, blogs, letters, biographies etc. A recount text has three main parts, namely Orientation, Sequence of Events, and Reorientation.

1. Orientation in the sequence of events the text of the retelling is the main element in the form of events involving who, experienced what, in the past, with the orientation structure (the introduction of the actor, place and time). this provides the necessary background information to understand the text. Based on the 5W questions (Who, What, Where, When and Why) that will be used to get more detailed information.
2. The Sequence events is the author will tell the sequence of events that occurred in the past based on the time and place of these events.
3. Reorientation is the closing of the story text, which aims to bring back events in the past. Reorientation This also consists of closing the story or it can be in the form of a personal commentary on the story write

2. METHOD

The researcher used qualitative-descriptive to collect data of participants. According to Moelong (2006: 5) descriptive research is a research method that seeks to find a picture and interpret objects as in fact. So, in this research is descriptive research carried out in order to systematically determine the effectiveness of the pen pal project (teachers and students of SMP Dharma Bakti Medan) accurately.

Subject or participant

Students of smp dharma bakti Medan especially class of seven grade personate as participants of the research. The class consisted of 30 students in 2020/2021 academic year. This study used a qualitative purposive technique, it using sampling jenuh technique.

Instrument

The researcher prepared questionnaire sheets as the instrument of research. The questionnaire sheets consists of 7 questions, and material for the pen project. The questionnaire is shaped like a format (multiple choice).

Technique of Data Collection

This research used observation technique. The researcher collect the data from students' questionnaire. The researcher as the investigator's collect the data first from word or picture than statistics and numbers (Ary et al, 2010: 424).

Technique of Data Analysis

Analysis is interpretation or the process of research that used by researcher to decrease the data to story. (LeCompte and Schensul 1999). There are some purpose of qualitative research such as :

- a. To examine participants' knowledge about specific materi or program
- b. To explore a culture or social norms
- c. To make sure relationships between subject and strategy

The researcher focus on students' knowledge and students' ability about writing recount text topic. The last prepared students to increase writing skills.

The series to conducting the data can developing by applying an activity like filled observation notes, interview sheets and others document. The next steps is identifying relationship between themes and pattern. Verifying the interpretation with conducting investigation from different aspect. The researcher may compare the old data earlier data) and new data later data). The last is drawing conclusion. (Miles and Huberman 1994).

1. Data collection

The researcher observe the students' problem when the process of teaching and learning. Filled the observation sheets after collect the result of students' questionnaire.

2. Reduction

The researcher found the strategy that used by teacher to share the topic. Then the strategy evaluate to know how far the strategy gave the impact to students ability. The result of interview from the teacher that the teacher used extracurricular lecture strategy. Students fell so bored and the result of study may unsuccessful.

3. Display

Pattern and the possibility of conclusion that the reseacher action for the research.

4. Conclusion Draw

The researcher mention and describe the conclusion folowed by the effect and may benefit for the students and others from research activity.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

Data Result

The reason the researches choose class vii as participants is wanting to test whether the "pen pal project" can be used as a learning preparation material for students. In accordance with the 2013 curriculum, the materials discussed about structure, grammar, vocabulary and genre of text so students are teached to complete word into sentences according to english language.

The results from the questionnaires show that almost all students are not recognized with the term 'pen pal project' but some of the students have already exchanged letters with his friends or brother. This indicates that some of the students

have been executed part of the "pen pal project" but not yet knowed the terms. Some of the students have never read a text recount but almost all of them do not know the generic structure of a text recount. There are the constraints students faced in writing activities, that is lack of vocabulary, ungrammatical, and selection of topics.

Discussions

Because students' low knowledge of the topic recount text, the teacher provides an explanation of the meaning, generic structure, tenses and the purpose of the recount text.

At first students found it difficult to write the contents of their letter. With the help of the teacher, giving certain keywords and themes to be written makes students more fluent in choosing vocabulary and composing sentences. Common themes written by students are culture, daily activity and holiday. They wrote their letters with gusto and hoped their letter would receive a reply

The second meeting begins with the application of a "pen project" in learning. The teacher explains the meaning of "pen pal project" and the benefits obtained when having friends to exchange letters from other countries. Students can get to know the new culture from their friends. With advances in technology, all students already have internet access with their smartphones. Teachers teach to create e-mail accounts and search for sites to find friends and students are asked to write letters to their new friends.

At the third meeting, the teacher require students to writing a recount text. Because at previous meeting, they had gained an understanding of the recount text material and had implemented the 'pen pal project' strategy making it easier for students to write. The theme given by the teacher is 'my holiday'. Students generally begin writing by introducing themselves and sharing their experiences and how they felt about the vacation. Even though using simple language, students have been able to write recount text in accordance with the generic structure.

The last meeting was used by the teacher to evaluate the results of the students' writing. Researchers also asked several questions about the responses and responses of students to the "pen pal project" strategy. All students feel interested in this strategy and find it easier to understand the learning material.

4. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclussion

Pen pal is not only used to communicate but can also be used by English teachers as a new strategy in teaching, especially in recount text material. Students also have the opportunity to improve their English skills which are very much needed in this era. The ability of students in the world of technology supports the implementation

of "pen pal projects" which can provide many benefits for students.

So, this study proves that students are very enthusiastic and interested in the 'pen pal' strategy in writing recount text.

Suggestion

These methods and strategies can be used by teachers to attract students' interest in learning. The Researcher hope that this strategy can be a solution for students in facing their difficulties in the process of learning English, especially in writing recount text.

. In this Section, the researcher expected that this research will useful in the future. And the researchers also suggest for other researcher to go deeper to improve this research.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

First, the researchers would like to thank the one and only God who has given health and knowledge to the researchers so they can completed this research on the time. Although there are many obstacles faced by the researchers in carrying out this research , the researchers are grateful because the God still provides strength and inspiration to the researchers so they can completed the research entitled "The Effectiveness of Pen Pal Project in Writing Recount Text in SMP Dharma Bakti Medan" to fulfill the researchers requirements in order to get the degree of Sarjana Pendidikan at the English Departement Faculty of Teaching and Education, Unpri..

This research did not escape from several people who have helped, guided, advised and motivated the researchers to be more enthusiastic doing this research and the people whom the researchers respected the most are as follows:

1. Dr. dr. I. Nyoman Ehrich Lister, M.Kes., AIFM as the Institute Chief in UNPRI Medan.
2. Prof. Dr. Chrismis Novalinda Ginting, M. Kes., AIFO as the Rector UNPRI Medan.
3. Dian Syahfitri, S.S., M.Hum. as the Dean of Faculty Teaching and Education, UNPRI Medan.
4. Yenita Br Sembiring, S.S., M.Hum. as the head of English Department UNPRI Medan.
5. Madina, S.Pd.,I., M.A. as the Secretary of English Department UNPRI Medan.
6. Irma Khorot Daulay S.S., M.Hum., as the researchers advisor and examiner who has valuable time to guide, advise, motivate, advice also giving comment and suggestion to the researchers during the research with her patiently.
7. All lecturers who had taught and guide the researchers during academic years in this university and all the staff of Faculty Teaching and Education Unpri.
8. Balasen Sembiring, BA. as the headmaster of SMP Dharma Bakti Medan, thankyou forgiving

- the researcher achance too do a research in this school.
9. Usdek Barus, S.Pd. as the english teacher of SMP Dharma Bakti Medan.
 10. Special thanks to the researcher parents , who always giving pray, love, motivation and encouragement for the researcher on study
 11. The researcher friends that can not mention one by one who have was support and motivated the researcher during doing this research

Finally, the researchers are realized this research is not perfect , so the researchers are accept any criticism and suggestions in this research to make it better in the future. the researcher expected this research will beneficial in the future, especially for the reseachers and the readers in general.

BIO-PROFILE

Kardo, Sadariah and Fitri are the students of Faculty teaching English Department, Prima Indonesia University in Medan. This research colleted for beachelor's degree assignment and have been publish to give information for reader and escort for the others reseacher.

Dr. Irma Khoirot Daulay, S.S., M.Hum. is a English lecturer in Prima Indonesia University. Dr. Irma Khoirot Daulay, S.S., M.Hum also as a supervisor and leader in this research.

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