AN ANALYSIS ON THE ABILITY OF THE FIRST YEAR STUDENTS OF SMA SEMEN PADANG IN WRITING A NEWS ITEM TEXT

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Abstract

This research was aimed to describe the ability of the first year students of SMA Semen Padang in writing a news item text. The design of this research was descriptive research. The population of this research was the first year students of SMA Semen Padang. The number of population was 203. Thirty four students were selected as sample by using cluster random sampling technique. In collecting the data, the researcher used writing test. Before giving the test, the researcher tried out the test to the student out of sample. The researcher used inter-rater technique to find out the reliability of the test. Based on the result of data analysis, the researcher found that the ability of the first year students of SMA Semen Padang in writing a news item text was moderate. In details, their ability in writing the generic structures was moderate, their ability in using language feature was moderate and their ability in applying mechanics was moderate. Based on the findings, it can be concluded that the ability of the first year students of SMA Semen Padang was moderate. It means that there were some students still got difficulties in writing generic structure, using language features, and applying mechanics.

Key words: Analysis, Writing, News Item Text.

Introduction

Writing is one of important skills to be mastered because of some reasons. First, through writing the learners can communicate with others. Second, the learners can know how to express their ideas, feeling and their experience in order to make the readers understand them. Third, writing is important for academic purpose. For example, the students will not be able to write the thesis without master of writing skill. So, we must have skill in writing.

Writing is an act to create communication between a writer and readers. According to Barnet and Stubbs's (1990:3), writing is a physical act which requires practices and students can learn it through practice. Murcia (1991) says that by writing a person might communicate a variety of messages to close or distant, know or unknown reader.

Among the kinds of text, one of them was taught to the first year students is a news item text. News item text has function to inform the reader, listeners, or viewers about events of the day which are considered newsworthy or important. A

news item text has several aspects of generic structures (newsworthy, event, background event, and source), language features, and mechanics.

Wannabe, Little Einstein (2011) state that news item is the kind of associated text with the news. We can found a news items text such as radio or on television. For a written text we can find in the newspaper or magazines. A news item aim to inform the readers, listeners or viewers about events that are considered important or newsworthy. It is supported by Wikipedia (2012) states that a news item is the particular prose style used for news reporting such as in newspaper as well as in news items that is air on radio and television. It encompasses not only vocabulary and sentence structure, but the way in which stories present the information for intended reader.

If the students can understand all of the components of news item text, they will be able to compose a good news item text. Based on the researcher's experience while doing practice teaching on February-April 2013 at the first year students of SMA Semen Padang, she still found that students had problems in writing news item text. They still had problems in writing generic structure, using language features, and mechanics. That fact inspires the researcher to know their ability in writing news item text. So, it is necessary to prove scientifically about their ability in writing news item text.

The purpose of the research was to describe the first year students' ability of SMA Semen Padang to write news item text. Specifically, the purposes of this research were as follows,

1. To describe the students' ability in writing generic structure of news item text.
2. To describe the students' ability in using language features (past tense, action verb, saying verb, and adverb of time and place) of news item text.
3. To describe the students' ability in applying mechanics (spelling, punctuation and capitalization) of news item text.

Research Method

In this study, the researcher used a descriptive research. The researcher used descriptive research design to know the student's ability in writing news item text.

According to Gay (1987: 102), the population is the group to which the researcher would like the results of the study to be generalizable. The population of this research was the first year students of SMA Semen Padang. The number of population was 203 students.

In this research, the researcher used cluster sampling to select the sample. The

researcher chose the sample group randomly because the members of all classes were homogeneous. The number of sample was 34 students.

The instrumentation of this research was writing test. The researcher assigned the sample or students to write a news item text based on topics given. They choose one of the topics which they most liked.

A good test should be valid and reliable. The test is valid in content if it fixes with the materials that have been thought to the students. Relating to this, constructing the test was based on the curriculum, syllabus and teaching materials used at the first year class of SMA Semen Padang.

To find out the reliability of the test, the researcher used inter-rater technique. It meant there were two scorers (scorer 1 and scorer 2). After calculating the coefient correlation between the scores given by first and second answer, the researcher found that the degree of the coefficient correlation of the test was 0.88 (Appendix 3).

The researcher analyzed the data as the following steps:

1. Calculating the Mean (M) and Standard Deviations (SD)
2. Classifying the students' ability into high, moderate, and low ability
3. Calculating the percentage of the students who got high, moderate, and low ability

Findings and Discussion

Findings

The result of data analysis showed that the highest score based on students' answer sheet was 90.5 and the lowest score was 53.5. The researcher got that mean was 72.6 and standard deviation was 10.4 (see Appendix 5). The result of data analysis also showed that 9 students (26.5%) got high ability, 17 students (50%) got moderate ability, and 8 students (23.5%) got low ability (see Appendix 7). To make sure, see Table 4.1 below:

The Classification of Students' Ability in Writing a News Item Text

Quality	Number of Students	The Percentage of the Students' Ability
High	9	26.5%
Moderate	17	50%
Low	8	23.5%
Total	34	100%

In writing the generic structure of news item text, the result of data analysis showed that the highest score based on students' answer sheet was 63 and the lowest score was 31.5. The researcher got that mean was 48.3 and standard deviation was 9.4 (see Appendix 9). The result of data analysis also showed that 8 students (23.5%) got high ability, 20 students

(58.8%) got moderate ability, and 6 students (17.7%) got low ability (see Appendix 11). To make sure, see Table 4.2 below:

The Classification of Students' Ability in Writing Generic Structures

Quality	Number of Students	The Percentage of the Students' Ability
High	8	23.5%
Moderate	20	58.8%
Low	6	17.7%
Total	34	100%

In writing newsworthy event of news item text, the result of data analysis showed that the highest score of students' ability in writing newsworthy event of news item text was 25 and the lowest score was 12. Having calculated mean and standard deviation, it was found that the mean was 18.54 and standard deviation was 3.9 (see Appendix 12). The result of data analysis also showed that 7 students (20.6%) had high ability, 19 students (55.9%) had moderate ability, and 8 students (23.5%) had low ability, (see Appendix 14). To make sure see, Table 4.3 below:

The Classification of Students' Ability in Writing Newsworthy Event

Quality	Number of Students	The Percentage of the Students' Ability
High	7	20.6%
Moderate	19	55.9%

Low	8	23.5 %
Total	34	100%

In writing the background event, the result of the data analysis showed that the highest score of students' ability in writing background event of news item text was 19 and the lowest score was 11.5. Having calculated mean and standard deviation, it was found that the mean was 15.6 and standard deviation was 2.1 (see Appendix 15). The result of data analysis also showed that 9 students (26.5%) got high ability, 19 students (55.9%) got moderate ability, and 6 students (17.6%) got low ability (see Appendix 17). To make sure, see Table 4.4 below:

The Classification of Students' Ability in Writing Background Event

Quality	Number of Students	The Percentage of the Students' Ability
High	9	26.5%
Moderate	19	55.9%
Low	6	17.6 %
Total	34	100%

In writing the source, the result of the data analysis showed that the highest score of students' ability in writing source of news item text was 20 and the lowest score was 7. Having calculated mean and standard deviation, it was found that the mean was 14.19 and standard deviation was 5.16 (see Appendix 18). The result of

data analysis also showed that 5 students (14.7%) got high ability, 22 students (64.7%) got moderate ability, and 7 students (20.6%) got low ability (see Appendix 20). To make sure, see Table 4.5 below:

The Classification of Students' Ability in Writing Source of News Item text

Quality	Number of Students	The Percentage of the Students' Ability
High	5	14.7 %
Moderate	22	64.7%
Low	7	20.6 %
Total	34	100%

In using language features, the result of the data analysis showed that the highest score of students' ability in using language features of news item text was 22.5 and the lowest score was 14. Having calculated mean and standard deviation, it was found that the mean was 18.1 and standard deviation was 2.2 (see Appendix 21). The result of data analysis also showed that 5 students (14.7%) got high ability, 24 students (70.6%) got moderate ability and 5 students (14.7 %) got low ability, (see Appendix 23). To make sure, see Table 4.6 below:

The Classification of Students' Ability in Using Language Feature

Quality	Number of Students	The Percentage of the Students' Ability
High	5	14.7 %

Moderate	24	70.6%
Low	5	14.7 %
Total	34	100%

In using applying mechanics, the result of the data analysis showed that the highest score of students' ability in applying mechanics of news item text was 8 and the lowest score was 4. Having calculated mean and standard deviation, it was found that the mean was 6.2 and standard deviation was 1.08 (see Appendix 24). The result of data analysis also showed that 5 students (14.7%) had high ability, 23 students (67.65%) had moderate ability, and 6 students (17.65%) had low ability (see Appendix 26). To make sure, see Table 4.7 below:

The Classification of Students' Ability Applying Mechanics of News Item Text

Quality	Number of Students	The Percentage of the Students' Ability
High	5	14,7%
Moderate	23	67,65%
Low	6	17,65%
Total	34	100%

Discussion

As already discussed previously, this study found that the students' ability in writing a news item text was moderate. This finding indicated that most of students still had problems in writing each component of news item text. It is because the students did not understand enough

about how to write newsworthy event, writing background event, writing source, using language features and applying mechanics of news item text.

Another finding of this research was that the ability of most students in writing newsworthy event was moderate. Based on students' writing about a news item text, they did not write newsworthy event direct to the point and they did not attract the readers to read the news. For example:

a) <u>Student's writing</u> :Taufik Hidayat retire from the sport , and the nation thanks retiring Taufik Hidayat on Monday, June 17 2013, 12:PM at the center at the Istora Senayan. The media that expose by Jakarta Post.

<u>The possible form</u> :Taufik Hidayat was at the center stage at the Istora Senayan on Monday, but he not playing in the finals instead he was bidding his final farewell to badminton and his fans.

The next finding of this study was that the students' ability in writing background event of news item text was moderate. Based on students' writing task, they did not develop every pieces of information in newsworthy event with details of the event. For example:

a) <u>Student's writing:</u> The farewell party on time Thursday (20-4-2013) at 08.00 -11.00 am at location UPI Convention Centre

<u>The possible form</u>: The farewell party of SMA Semen Padang showed many performances, they are musical drama, solo song, dance, parade band and others. It started from 08.00-11.00 am, and the students can entrance UPI Convention Centre by giving invitation card.

This study also found that the students' ability in writing source of news item text was moderate. Based on answer sheet, the students did not give some comments from sources and did not write quotation in source. For example:

a) <u>Student's writing</u>: Board of trustees' daarut Tauhid, Dudung Abdul

<u>The possible form</u>:"Indonesia has lost tremendous cleric. He was an outstanding preacher, he was especially preacher who had special segments namely young people." Said Board of Trustees Daarut Tauhid, Dudung Abdul Gani

The students' ability in using language features was moderate. It meant that students still did not understand about the usage of the correct language features well. In order word, it can be said that students did not understand grammar yet.

- Based on the students' writing task, the students might be confused to use simple past tense form in news item text.

Student's writing:

➢ Taufik Hidayat <u>is</u> at the center stage at the istora senayan on Sunday.

The possible form:

➢ Taufik Hidayat <u>was</u> at the center stage at the Istora Senayan on Sunday.

• Another case, the students made some mistakes in using adverb of time and place in news item text

Student's writing:

➢ Taufik Hidayat was at the center stage <u>on</u> the Is tora senayan <u>at</u> Sunday

The possible form:

➢ Taufik Hidayat was at the center stage <u>at the Istora Senayan</u> <u>on Sunday</u>

The last finding of this study was that the students' ability to use the appropriate mechanics was moderate. It meant that students still didn't understand how to apply mechanics well. For example:

Student's writing:

➢ <u>mohammad</u> Ahsan and Hendra seized Indonesia's last <u>litle</u> opportunity by winning the mens' doubles title

The possible form:

➢ <u>M</u>ohammad Ahsan and Hendra seized Indonesia's last <u>title</u> opportunity by winning the <u>men's</u> doubles title (spelling and punctuation)

Conclusion

In accordance with the findings and discussions, it can be concluded that the ability of the first year students of SMA Semen Padang in writing a news item text was moderate in general. It is supported by the fact that 17 students (50%) got moderate ability.

It can be concluded that the ability of the first year students of SMA Semen Padang in writing the generic structures of news item text was moderate in general. It is supported by the fact that 20 students (58.8%) got moderate ability.

The next conclusion that could be drawn was that the ability of the first year students of SMA Semen Padang in writing newsworthy event of news item text was moderate. It is supported by the fact that 19 students (55.9%) got moderate ability.

Another conclusion of this study was that the ability of the first year students of SMA Semen Padang in writing background event of news item text was moderate. It is supported by the fact that 19 students (55.9%) got moderate ability.

It could also be concluded that the ability of the first year students of SMA Semen Padang in writing source of news item text was moderate. It is supported by the fact that 22 students (64.7%) got moderate ability.

Still another conclusion that could be drawn in this study was that the ability of the first year students of SMA Semen Padang in using language features of news item text was moderate. It is supported by the fact that 24 students (70.6%) got moderate ability.

The last conclusion of this study was that the ability of the first year students of SMA Semen Padang in applying mechanics of news item text was moderate. It is supported by the fact that 23 students (67.65%) got moderate ability.

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