

# AN ANALYSIS OF THE FIRST YEAR STUDENTS' ABILITY IN WRITING A NEWS ITEM TEXT OF THE NEWS ON VIDEO AT SMA N 4 PARIAMAN

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## Abstract

**This research was aimed at describing the ability of the first year students in writing news item text of the news on video at SMA N 4 Pariaman. The design of this research was descriptive. The researcher used cluster random sampling technique in taking the sample. The researcher took 50% of the population as the sample. It means that there were 35 students as the members. The data of this research were the students' scores in writing news item text of the news on video. To take the data, the researcher used writing test preceded by looking as video. The researcher tried out the test before giving the the real test to the sample. The researcher analyzed the data by computing Mean (M) and Standard Deviation (SD). Then, the researcher counted the percentage of the students was in high, moderate, and low ability in writing test. The test was tried out to the students out of sample (X<sub>5</sub> class). To know the reliability of the test, the researcher used Person Product Moment. The reliability of the test was 0,99 and it was categorized in very high level. From the result of data analyzing, it showed that the ability of the first year students in writing news item text of the news on video at SMAN 4 Pariaman was moderate. Reffer to the result of this research, the researcher gave suggestion to the English teachers to improve the students writing text such as the teacher should give more explanation to the students about news item text. And also, for the students, the students should do more exercises to write news item text. Furthermore, in order to improve the research about writing news item text, the researchers suggested to conduct a research about the factors that influence the students' ability in writing news item text. Key words : Writing, news item text, Ability.**

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## Introduction

English is one of the important subjects that should be learned at senior high school. In learning English, the students need to learn the four language skills. They are listening, speaking, reading and writing. In other words, writing is a skill to organize thinks and ideas in written that is often performed in daily life and it is useful when completing education

successfully for the students. Based on the genre-based curriculum (KTSP), the teaching of writing is done through genres or different kinds of text that the students learn in senior high school. They are recount, narrative, hortatory, analytical exposition, anecdote, discussion, report, procedure, explanation, hotatory exposition, review, descriptive and news item texts. News item text is used to spread

out the information about current news that happen in human daily life. As the matter of fact, news item text can be found in newspaper, or news on video. News item text is a text which says about the news. Its purpose is to inform the readers, the listeners, or the viewers about events of the day which are considered newsworthy or important (Sudarwati and Grace, 2006:197).

Based on the researcher' interviewed to some students and one of English teachers about writing news item of the news on video at SMA N 4 Pariaman on May 2, 2013, they made a text of the news on video. The researcher asked to one of English teacher about using video when they are teaching news item text. The teacher also taught steps in writing news item text of the news on video. The first, started with brainstorming about news item. The second, asked them what is the current news today and tell about the current news. The third, played of the news on video. The last, after the video was finished, rewrite the news. The teacher and students of SMA N 4 Pariaman always uses infocus to teach English. However, the students still made mistakes in writing news item text on video. The students had problems in writing generic structure (newsworthy event, background event, source), language features and mechanics. Example, sometimes the students did not

write newsworthy event direct to the point, sometimes the students did not develop every pieces of information, sometimes the students did not write quotation in source, and sometimes the students might confuse to use simple past tense and passive sentence in news item text. These are identified through their writing on news item exercise.

Based on the fact above, the researcher was interested in doing the research on a study of an analysis of the first year students' ability in writing a news item text of the news on video at SMA N 4 Pariaman.

## **Research Method**

The researcher used descriptive design in this research. It described students' ability in writing a news item text concerning with the generic structures, language features, and mechanics. Gay (1987:175) states that a descriptive study determines and reports the way things are. The researcher used descriptive design because she described the ability of the first year senior high school students in writing news item text of news on video that was focused on generic structures, language features, and mechanics.

Gay (1987) says that population is the group of interest to the research, the group to which she or he like the results of

the study to be generalizable. The population of this study was the first year students of SMA N 4 Pariaman in academic year 2012/2013. They were divided into eight classes. They were class X<sub>1</sub>, X<sub>2</sub>, X<sub>3</sub>, X<sub>4</sub>, X<sub>5</sub>, X<sub>6</sub>, X<sub>7</sub>, X<sub>8</sub>. The researcher chose the first year students as the population because they had learned about news item text. The total population of the first year students of SMA N 4 Pariaman was 281. It can be shown in Tabel 3.2

**The Population and Sample of the Research**

Class	Population
X. 1	35
X. 2	38
X. 3	34
X. 4	37
X. 5	35
X. 6	32
X. 7	35
X. 8	35
8 classes	281

Based on the Tabel 3.2, the researcher found the population was large, so the researcher took a sample. According to Gay (1987:101), sampling is the process of selecting a representative number of individuals out of large. If it large is not effective of the time.

In this research, the researcher used cluster random sampling technique to select the sample of this research. According to Gay (1987: 129), cluster random sampling may be the only flexible method of selecting of sample when the researcher is unable to obtain a list of all members of the population.

To select the sample, the researcher wrote all the name of each class on a small piece of paper and then puts them into a box. The researcher shock the box and took one of the paper in the box with closed eyes. The chosen paper represented sample. X<sub>1</sub> class was selected, so the students in X<sub>1</sub> class consist of 35 students became a sample of the researcher.

The instrument of this research was writing test in the form of writing text. The reason of using writing test because the researcher wanted to know the students' ability in writing news item text after they watch news, the title of the news is "The Accident of Ustad Jefry" because the tittle was popular news. The researcher showed the video about news and students made news item text after watching it. The test materials were developed based on curriculum and teaching materials. The time allocated was 60 minutes. It was 10 minutes for showing the video and 50 minutes for write the paragraph of news item text. The researcher did try out test on

June 18, 2013 because the researcher wants to know the reability of the test and the time allocation was enough or not.

To find out the realibility of writing test, the researcher used Product Moment formula (Arikunto, 2010:81) as follows :

$$r_{xy} = \frac{N\sum xy - (\sum x)(\sum y)}{\sqrt{\{N\sum x^2 - (\sum x)^2\} \{N\sum y^2 - (\sum y)^2\}}}$$

Where:

$r_{xy}$  = the coefficient correlation between x and y variables

N = the total number of test items

x = the score from scorer 1

y = the score from scorer 2

The researcher used degree of coefficient correlation based on Arikunto's idea (2012: 89) as follows:

0.81 – 1.00 : very high

0.61 – 0.80 : high

0.41 – 0.60 : enough

0.21 – 0.40 : low

0.00 – 0.20 : very low

Gay (1987:139) states that if the coefficient correlation is very high, it mean the test is reliable. Actually, to prove the test was reliable in collecting data, the researcher did the try out to the 35 students

(class X<sub>5</sub>) in June 18, 2013 on Tuesday (13.00 WIB). After conducting the try out, the researcher found that the degree of coefficient correlation of the test was 0.99 and the time allocation was enough. The time allocated was 60 minutes. It was 10 minutes for showing the video and 50 minutes for writingthe paragraph of news item text. It categorized in very high correlation, if the coefficient correlation is very high, the test is classified reliable. The total scores of all correct answer were 100. The highest score for try out test was 99 and the lowest one was 41.

In analyzing the data, there is some steps that the researcher used. They are:

- 1) Presenting the raw score and then researcher calculates students grade by using the following formula.
- 2) Calculating Mean (M) and Standard Deviation (SD) (Arikunto, 2012:299)
- 3) Classifying the students' ability into high, moderate, low ability focus the following categories (Arikunto, 2012:299)
  - > M + 1 SD were high
  - ( M- SD ) ( M + SD ) were moderate
  - < M – SD were low
- 4) Calculating the percentage of the students who get high, moderate, and low ability in using the

following formula : (Arikunto, 2012:298)

$$P = \frac{R}{T} \times 100\%$$

Where:

P = Percentage of the students scores

R = The sum of the students who get excellent, good, and bad

T = The sum of the students

- 5) Interpreting the result of analyzing the data by using formula above.

## **Finding and discussions**

### **Findings**

Based on the criteria of scoring, the highest possible score was 100 and the lowest possible score was 34. After the researcher analyzed the data, she found that the highest score achieved was 97 and the lowest score was 47. And the researcher also found mean of students' score in writing news item text was 83.1 and standard deviation was 11.5 (see Appendix 6). The result of data showed that the students' ability in writing news item text was moderate. It was proved by the fact that 2 students (5.7%) with the range score > 94.6 got high ability, 30 students (85.7%) with the range score 71.6- 94.6 got moderate ability and 3 students (8.6%) with the range score < 71.6 got low ability.

Based on the criteria of scoring, the highest possible score in writing generic structure was 70 and the lowest possible score was 27. After the researcher analyzed the data, she found that the highest score achieved was 70 and the lowest score was 40. Having calculated mean and standard deviation, it was found that mean was 58.4 and standard deviation was 6.7. The result of the test showed that the students' ability in writing generic structure was moderate. It was proved by the fact that 4 students (11.4%) with the range score > 65.4 got high ability, 28 students (80%) with the range score 51.7-65.4 got moderate ability, and 3 students (8.6%) with the range score <51.7 got low ability.

There are four language features that students have to focus in writing news item text: past tense, action verb, saying verb and passive sentence. After the researcher gave score to the students. The researcher can conclude that the ability of the students in writing language features was moderate. Based on the criteria of scoring, the highest possible score was 25 and the lowest possible score for this component was 5. The result of the data analysis showed that the highest score of students' ability in writing language feature was 25 and the lowest score was 5, she also found mean was 20.6 and standard deviation was 4.5. After the researcher

found that 0 student (0%) with the range score  $>25.1$  got high ability, 32 students (91.4%) with the range score 16.1-25.1 got moderate ability, and 3 students (8.6%) with the range score  $<16.1$  got low ability

Based on the criteria of scoring, the possible highest score for this component was 5 and the lowest score for this component was 2. The result of the data analysis showed that the highest score of students' ability in applying mechanics was 5 and the lowest score was 2, she also found mean was 4.3 and standard deviation was 0.6. The result of data showed that the students' ability in applying mechanics was high. It was proved by the fact that 16 students (45.7%) with the range score  $>4.9$  got high ability, 13 students (37.1%) with the range score 3.7- 4.9 got moderate ability, and 6 students (17.2%) with the range score  $<3.7$  got low ability. Based on the result of the research, in general the students' ability in writing news item text was moderate. There were three aspects that the researcher analysed in writing a news item text. They are, ability to write generic structure, ability to write language features, and ability to apply mechanics. In writing generic structure and language features were moderate, but in applying mechanics was high. It was indicated that the majority of students had moderate ability; there were 80% students with the

range score 51.7- 65.4 have moderate ability in writing generic structure, there were 91.4% students with the range score 16.1- 25.1 have moderate ability in writing language features and there were 45.7% students with the range score  $>4.9$  have high ability in applying mechanics. Based on the finding, the students' ability in writing generic structure was moderate. It was indicated 80% students were in moderate category. It means that more than 20% students still did not understand how to write generic structure well.

## **Discussions**

In writing newsworthy event, sometimes the students did not write newsworthy event direct to the point.

Student's writing: An accident was happened at the south Jakarta, on Friday, 26 April 2013, this accident was killed a famous actor and famous preacher.

The correct one: An accident happened at South Jakarta that killed a famous actor and preacher on April 26, 2013.

In writing background events, sometimes the students did not develop every pieces of information in newsworthy event. For example:

Student's writing: The accident happened when Jefry Albuqori riding a motorcycle when sick, and he hit tree.

The correct one: The accident happened when Jefry Albuquerque was riding motorcycle while he was sick. He hit a road divider and tree. It made severe injuries in his body. He was taken to Pondok Indah Hospital..

In writing source, sometimes the students did not write quotation in source.

Student's writing: David Silahoi said Jefry Albuquerque was riding motorcycle very quickly and lost his better sense.

The correct one: "Jefry Albuquerque was riding motorcycle very quickly and lost his better sense" said David Silahoi.

Based on the finding, the students' ability in writing language features was moderate. It was indicated 91,4% students were in moderate category. It means that most of the students still did not understand how to write language features well. Since the language features dealing with grammar, it can be said that the students have not understood grammar yet. The following are the examples of students' writing:

Based on the answer sheet, sometimes the students might confuse to use simple past tense form in news item text. For example:

Student's writing: The accident happen when Jefry Albuquerque is riding quickly.

The correct one: The accident happened when Jefry Albuquerque was riding motorcycle quickly.

Another case, sometimes the students made some mistake in writing passive sentence. For example:

1. Student's writing : The news is report by RCTI reporter
2. The correct one : The news is reported by RCTI reporter

Based on the finding, the students' ability in applying mechanics was high. It was indicated 45,7 students were in high category. It meant that some students still did not understand how to apply mechanics well. Below are the examples of students' writing:

Students' writing: the accident happened when Jefry Albuquerque was ridding motorcycle.

The correct one: The accident happened when Jefry Albuquerque was riding motorcycle.

## **Conclusions**

Based on the result of data analysis, the researcher drew the conclusions as follow:

1. The ability of first year students at SMAN 4 Pariaman in writing news item text of news on video was moderate. It was supported by that

fact that there were 2 students (5.7%) with the range score >94.6 got high ability. 30 students (85.7%) with the range score 71.6-94.6 got moderate ability. And 3 students (8.6%) with the range score < 71.6 got low ability.

2. The ability of first year students at SMAN 4 Pariaman in writing generic structure was moderate. It was supported by that fact that there were 4 students (11.4%) with the range score > 65.4 got high ability. 28 students (80%) with the range score 51.7-65.4 got moderate ability. And 3 students (8.6%) with the range score < 51.7 got low ability.
3. The ability of first year students at SMAN 4 Pariaman in writing language features was moderate. It was supported by that fact that there were 0 student (0%) with the range score >25.1 got high ability. 32 students (91.4%) with the score 16.1-25.1 got moderate ability. And 3 students (8.6%) with the range score <16.1 got low ability.
4. ability of first year students at SMAN 4 Pariaman in applying mechanics was high. It was supported by that fact that there were 16 students (45.7%) with the range score >4.9 got high ability.

13 students (37.1%) with the range score 3.7-4.9 got moderate ability. And 6 students (17.2%) with the range score <3.7 got low ability.

The researcher suggests to the next researchers to find out other relevant aspects in writing news item text. For example, the difficulties of the first year students at SMAN 4 Pariaman to write a news item text of the news on video. Besides, the researchers are suggested to conduct a research about the factors that influence the students' ability in writing news item text.

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