

# AN ANALYSIS OF THE SECOND GRADE STUDENTS' ABILITY IN WRITING A DESCRIPTIVE TEXT AT SMP PERTIWI I PADANG

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## Abstract

The background of the problem is that many students could not write a descriptive text well, so that students are difficult to write. Descriptive text is difficult enough to be learned by the students, because the students could not use simple present, linking verb, and adjective in writing a descriptive text. The purpose of this research was to describe the student's ability in writing a descriptive text at SMP Pertiwi I Padang. Descriptive text is a text which describes the characteristics of a person, place or thing. The generic structure of descriptive text are identification and description. Identification is part which identifies the subject to be described. Description is part which describes the quality, characteristics and parts. The design of this research was descriptive method. The result of the data analysis showed that student's ability in writing a descriptive text at SMP Pertiwi I Padang was moderate. It was proved by the fact that there were 4 students (14.81%) who had high ability, 19 students (70.37%) had moderate ability, 4 students (14.81%) had low ability. Based on the findings, it can be concluded that the ability of the second grade students' at SMP Pertiwi I Padang was moderate. It means that most students could do writing test, but some students had problems in writing a descriptive text.

**Key words:** analysis, ability, writing, descriptive text.

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## Introduction

English is widely used as an international language. When someone learns English, she/he has to try to do her/ his best in order to be able to understand English, especially the four language skills; listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Writing is one of the four language skills that is very important to learn. Based on the writer's experience while she did teaching practice at SMP Pertiwi I Padang on February 2013, many students could not write descriptive text well, so that students are difficult to write. Descriptive text is difficult enough to be learned by the

students, because the students could not use simple present, linking verb, and adjective in writing descriptive text. According to Harmer (1988: 33), writing is frequently preparation for some the other activity, in particular when students write sentences as a preamble to discusses activity.

The purpose of this research was to describe students' ability in writing descriptive text at SMP Pertiwi I Padang. Relating with the formulation of the problem above, the purposes of this study were formulated as follows:

1. To describe the ability of the second grade students at SMP Pertiwi I Padang in writing generic structure (identification and description) of descriptive text
2. To describe the ability of the second grade students in using language features (simple present, linking verb and adjective at SMP Pertiwi I Padang of descriptive text.
3. To describe the ability of the second grade students at SMP Pertiwi I Padang in using vocabulary of descriptive text.
4. To describe the ability of students' at SMP Pertiwi I Padang in using mechanics (punctuation, capitalization and spelling) of descriptive text .

### **Research Method**

This research was used to describe the students' ability in writing descriptive text. Relating to this, the writer used descriptive method. Gay (1987: 189) states that descriptive research includes collecting data to test hypotheses or to answer questions related to the current status of the subject.

The purpose of this research was to describe students' ability in writing descriptive text at SMP Pertiwi I Padang. The population of the research was the second grade students at SMP Pertiwi I Padang. The total population was 106 students and they were distributed into four classes; VIII.1, VIII.2, VII.3, VIII.4.

Cluster is whole group of similar characteristics. The writer chose one class among VIII.1, VIII.2, VIII.3, and VIII. 4 class as the sample. In selecting the sample, the writer did some procedures. Firstly, the writer wrote the names of each class (VIII.1, VIII.2, VIII.2, VIII.3, VIII.4) on four pieces of paper and put them into a box. Secondly, the writer closed her eyes and took one piece of paper among four pieces of paper from a box. The papers represented the sample. The writer got paper VIII.1, it meant that class VIII.1 was selected as the sample. To collect the data the writer used some steps as follow:

1. The writer gave the test for the students.
2. The writer collected the test.
3. The writer copied all sheets of students answer. The original answer sheet of students was given to the first scorer and the other one was for the second scorer.
4. The first and second scorer read the answer sheet of students.
5. The first and second scorer gave score based on the criteria below;

To analyze the data the writer used some steps as follow:

1. The writer the raw score of students
2. The writer counted the average score between the first scorer and the second scorer.

$$\frac{\text{score I} + \text{score II}}{2}$$

3. The writer calculated mean by using the formula (Arikunto, 2012: 299).

$$M = \frac{\sum x}{n}$$

**Notes:**

M : Mean

$\sum x$  : The total number of score.

n : The total number of sample.

4. The writer calculated standard deviation by using the formula (Arikunto, 2012: 299):

$$SD = \sqrt{\left(\frac{\sum x^2}{n}\right) - \left(\frac{\sum X}{n}\right)^2}$$

**Notes:**

SD : Standard deviation.

n : The total number of sample.

x : Total grade.

5. The writer classified the students' ability.

$$>M + SD = \text{High}$$

$$\text{Between } M - SD = M + SD =$$

Moderate

$$<M - SD = \text{Low}$$

6. The writer calculated the percentage of students who got high, moderate, and

low ability by applying the following formula:

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

**Notes:**

P : Percentage of the students who got each grade.

R : The sum of the students who got high, moderate, and low.

T : The sum of the students.

7. Then, the writer got the percentage of the second grade students ability in writing a descriptive text at SMP Pertiwi I Padang.

**Findings and Discussions**

The writer describes and discusses the result of her research on students' ability in writing a descriptive text that including findings and discussions. After the scores of students' answer were checked, the writer analyzed them to find out the total students who had high, moderate, and low ability. The writer classified many aspects of students' ability in writing a descriptive texts that includes generic structures (identification, description), language features (using simple present, linking verb and adjective), appropriate word (vocabulary), and mechanics (punctuation, spelling and capitalization).

**Students' Ability in Writing a Descriptive Text**

In this research, the writer described students' ability in writing a descriptive text. To find out the students' ability in writing a descriptive text, the writer counted students' score. Based on the criteria of scoring, the highest score was 100 and the lowest score was 28. The result of test indicated that the highest score was 91 and the lowest score was 52. After the writer calculated mean and standard deviation, it was found that mean was 68.96 and standard deviation was 10.32. There were 4 students (14.81%) which were categorized had high ability, 19 students (70.37%) which were categorized had moderate ability, and 4 students (14.81%) which were categorized had low ability.

#### **Students' Ability in Writing Identification and Description of Descriptive Text**

In this research, the writer described students' ability in writing identification and description of descriptive text. To find out the students' ability, the writer calculated students' score. Based on the criteria of scoring, the highest score was 30 and the lowest score was 12. The result of the test indicated that the highest score was 27 and the lowest score was 10.5. After the writer calculated mean and standard deviation, it was found that mean was 20.72 and standard deviation was 4.31. The result of the data

indicated that there were 4 students (14.81%) had high ability, 18 students (66.67%) had moderate ability, and 5 (18.52) students had low ability.

#### **The Students' Ability in Using Language Features of Descriptive Text**

In this research, the writer described students' ability in using language features of descriptive text. To find out the students ability in using language features of descriptive text, the writer counted the students' scores. Based on the criteria of scoring, the highest score was 30 and the lowest score was 12. The result of the test indicated that the highest score was 26 and the lowest score was 14. Then, the writer calculated mean and standard deviation, she found that mean was 19.30 and standard deviation was 3.22. The result indicated that there were 4 students (14.81%) had high ability, 19 students (70.37%) had moderate ability, 4 students (14.81%) had low ability.

#### **The Students' Ability in Using Vocabulary of Descriptive Text**

In this research the writer described students' ability in using vocabulary of descriptive text. To find out students' ability in using vocabulary of descriptive text, the writer counted students score. Based on the criteria of scoring, the highest score was 20 and the lowest score was 2. The result of the test indicated that the highest score was 20 and the lowest score

was 4.5. Then, the writer calculated mean and standard deviation, she found that mean was 16.33 and standard deviation was 3.37. The result indicated that there were 2 students (7.41%) had high ability, 23 students (85.18%) had moderate ability and 2 students (7.41) had low ability.

### **The Students' Ability in Using Mechanics of Descriptive Text**

In this research the writer described students' ability in using mechanics of descriptive text. To find out students' ability in using mechanics of descriptive text, the writer counted students' scores. Based on the criteria of scoring, the highest score was 20 and the lowest score 2. the result of the test indicated that the highest score was 19 and the lowest score was 4.5. Then, the writer calculated mean and standard deviation, she found that mean was 12.65 and standard deviation was 3.98. The result indicated that there were 7 students (25.92%) had high ability, 15 students (55.55%) had moderate ability, 5 students (18.52) had low ability.

### **Discussions**

In this part, the writer presents discussions about the result of students' ability in writing descriptive text. From the data analysis, it was found that students' ability in writing a descriptive text was moderate.

### **The Students' Ability in Writing a Descriptive Text**

From the data analysis, it was found that students' ability in writing a descriptive text was moderate. The data of findings indicated that some students had problem in writing components of descriptive text. The component analyzed in this research are students ability in writing identification and description, using language features, using vocabulary, and using mechanics. The result of the test showed that some of students had moderate ability in writing identification, and description, using language features, and mechanics.

### **The Students' Ability in Writing identification and description of Descriptive Text**

Based on the findings, students ability in writing identification and description of descriptive text was moderate. It was indicated that there were 18 students (66.67%) had moderate ability. It meant that some students had mistake in writing identification and description of descriptive text. From the students' answer sheet, the writer found that students had difficulties in writing identification and description of descriptive text because they could not describe place well.

For example:

Students writing : Mifanis the location in Padang Panjang.

The complete one : Mifan is one of the famous recreation places that is located in Padang Panjang.

Students writing : Harau Vally city is the country so, West Sumatra.

The correct one : Harau Valley is a specific villages in Payakumbuh West Sumatra.

Students writing : Great wall it is located in Bukittinggiplase go to very tall.

The correct one : The Great wall is located in Bukittinggi. It is very long and tall.

### **Students' Ability in Using Language Features of Descriptive Text**

Based on the findings, it was found that students ability in writing language features of descriptive text was moderate. Based on the finding there were 19 students (70.37%) had moderate ability. The result of the research showed that some students had problem in using language features. The students did not know how to use language features well (using simple present tense, and adjective). Specifically, students did not understand in using to be (am, is and are).

For example:

Student writing : The weather are hot .

The correct one : The weather is hot

Student writing : Many touris visited there.

The correct one : Many tourists visit there.

Students writing : And color is sand very sweet, weather is hot.

The correct one : The sand colour is very sweet and the weather is hot.

Students writing : Place it is very romantic.

The correct one : The place is very romantic.

### **Students' Ability in Using Vocabulary of Descriptive Text**

Based on the findings, it was found that students ability in using vocabulary of descriptive text was moderate. This finding indicated that there were 23 students (85.18%) had moderate ability. From the result of the test, it was indicated that students had difficulties in using vocabulary in writing descriptive text. Based on the result of data analysis, the students had mistake in choosing vocabulary because they did not have enough vocabulary.

For example:

Students writing : Many tourist visited there.

Better change : Many tourists visit there, because the beach is very clean.

Students writing : Harau Vally city is the country so, West Sumatra.

The correct one : Harrau Valley is a village in West Sumatra.

Student writing : Caroline Beach  
many people souvenir.

The correct one : Many people  
buy souvenir in Caroline Beach.

### **Students' Ability in Using Mechanics of Descriptive Text**

Based on the findings, it was found that students' ability in using mechanics was moderate. It show that there were 15 students (55.55%) had moderate ability. Students had mistake in using mechanics in writing descriptive text, such as using punctuation, spelling and capitalization because they did not appropriately use point, coma and capitalization.

For example:

Students writing : the scanary is  
beautiful.

The correct one : The scenery is  
beautiful

Student writing : Bukittinggi is  
a city of about 90 thousands people.

Correct one : Bukittinggi is  
a city which have population about 90  
thousands people.

Students writing : HARAU  
VALLY CITY is THE country So, West  
SumATRA.

The correct one : Harau Valley  
is a village in West Sumatra.

Student writing : many people  
visted there from city and out country.

The correct one : Many people  
from around Bukittinggi and out country  
city visit Bukittinggi.

### **Conclusions**

Based on the findings and discussions in the previous chapter, the second grade students ability in writing a descriptive text at SMP Pertiwi I Padang.

The writer draws several conclusions as follow;

1. In general, the ability of the second grade students at SMP Pertiwi I Padang in writing identification and description of descriptive text was moderate. It was indicated by the fact that 18 students (66.67%) had moderate ability.
2. The ability of the second grade students at SMP Pertiwi I Padang in using language features of descriptive text was moderate. It was indicated by the fact that 19 students (70.37%) had moderate ability.
3. The ability of the second grade students at SMP Pertiwi I Padang in using vocabulary of descriptive text was moderate. It was indicated by the fact that 23 students (85.18%) had moderate ability.
4. The ability of the second grade students at SMP Pertiwi I Padang in using mechanics of descriptive was moderate. It was indicated by the

fact that 15 students (55.55%) had moderate ability.

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