

# AN ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' ABILITY IN WRITING DESCRIPTIVE TEXT BY USING "MIND MAP" AT THE SECOND GRADE OF SMP ISLAM TERPADU ADZKIA PADANG

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## Abstract

To master English as a foreign language, there are four skills that should be acquired by the students. They are Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Writing is a complex process that allow writer to explore thoughts and ideas, and make them visible and concrete. The purpose of this research is to describe the students' ability in writing descriptive text by using mind map at second grade of SMP Islam Terpadu Adzkie Padang. Descriptive text is a kind of writing that express the idea to describe something, people, or place. The total number of population of this research 51 students. The researcher took 50% of the population as the sample. It means that there were 25 students as the sample. The researcher used cluster random sampling technique in taking the sample. In collecting the data, the researcher used writing test. In this test, the students chose the topic they like most. Based on the result of try out test, the test was categorized as a reliable test. The result of data analysis it was showed that 4 students (16%) got high ability, 19 students (76%) got moderate ability and 2 students (8%) got low ability. The result of this research showed that in general the students' ability in writing descriptive text by using mind map at second grade of SMP IT Adzkie Padang was moderate. So that, it is suggested for the English teacher at SMP IT Adzkie Padang to give more explanation and exercise in writing descriptive text by using mind map.

**Key Words:** Ability, cluster random sampling, descriptive text, mind map.

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## Introduction

As an international language, in Indonesia English is a foreign language and it has been taught as one of the compulsory subjects from junior high school until university level. There are four language skills that students learn in learning English. They are Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. Writing is one of the important skills to be mastered by the students. Through writing, the learners can communicate and express their ideas about something,

and also by writing they can express their feeling.

According to Reid (2009), says that there are twelve kinds of text. They are descriptive, narrative, recount, news item, procedure, spoof, report, explanation, analytical, expository, anecdote, and argumentation. Descriptive text is a kind of writing that is used to describe about a person, object, appearance, scenery, or phenomenon. In this text, the author tries to make readers as like they see, feel, and experience what the story tell. Descriptive text has

components such as: the generic structures and language features, Novita (2012). The students should understand all of the generic structure of descriptive text, they are: identification, description, beside their knowledge about language features, vocabulary and spelling. Based on the interview with the teacher in SMP IT Adzkie Padang, the researcher found that some teachers use new media in teaching writing that is by using mind map. By using mind map in teaching junior high school will make the student understand the writing easily. According to Micheal (2005) says, mind map is one of alternative solution for our mind to make a learning process more effective. Mind maps are useful tools which allow you to create a scheme from fuzzy ideas, organize, and prioritize making visual connections. They may help the productivity in the creativity process giving an order to choose. The purpose of the research is to describe the second grade students ability of SMP IT Adzkie Padang to write descriptive text. Specifically, the purposes of this research are: generic structure (identification and description), the language features (using present tense, action verb, and adjective), using word choice (vocabulary) and also mechanics (spelling and punctuation).

The result of this research is expected to be a basic knowledge for further research of mind map in writing. The result of this research is expected as reference to the other researcher who wants to study more about descriptive writing text by using mind map.

The research is expected to give significance contribution for the English teacher and students. For English teacher, the information will give contribution and alternative considerations to the English teacher to achieve better improvement in teaching writing descriptive text. And for the students, after they know their ability, they can improve their writing skill in order to produce a descriptive text.

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## Research Method

In this research the researcher applied the descriptive design. According to Gay (1987: 189), descriptive research involves collecting data in order to test hypothesis or to answer question concerning the current status of the subject of the study. The writer used this descriptive research design to know the student's ability in writing descriptive text by using mind map. The population of this research was the second grade students' of SMP IT Adzkie Padang. The total numbers of population was 51 students they were distributed into two classes; VIII<sub>1</sub> and VIII<sub>2</sub>. Because the number of

population is too large, the writer would take a sample. In selecting the sample, the researcher used cluster random sampling technique. The instrumentation that was used in this research was writing test. The researcher asked the students to write a descriptive text by using mind map topic in two paragraphs.

The four topics are:

1. My Friend
2. My School
3. My Room
4. Choose your own topics

The researcher asks the students to write the report text in 90 minutes. The researcher did a try out before giving the real test.

The researcher uses the degree of coefficient correlation based on Arikunto's idea (2009:75)

0.81 – 1.00 : very high

0.61 – 0.80 : high

0.41 – 0.60 : enough

0.21 – 0.40 : low

0.0 – 0.20 : very low

After conducting the test, the researcher found that the degree of the coefficient correlation of the test was 0.91 (Appendix 2). It means that

reliability of the test was accepted 0.91 very high correlation, it can be said that the test was reliable.

### **Finding And Discussions**

#### ➤ Finding

##### 1. Writing Descriptive Text

Based on the criteria of scoring, the highest score was 100 and the lowest was 30. The result of data analysis showed that the highest score based on students' answer sheet was 87.5 and the lowest score was 53. The researcher got that mean was 77.88 and standard deviation was 8.99.

<b>Quality</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>The Percentage of the Students' Ability</b>
<b>High</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>Moderate</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>76%</b>
<b>Low</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>

##### 2. Writing Identification

The possible highest score for this component was 25 and the possible lowest score for this component was 10.

The result of data analysis showed that the highest score of students' ability in writing identification of descriptive text was 24.5 and the lowest score was 11.5. Having calculated mean and standard deviation, it was found that the mean was 20.16 and standard deviation was 3.15.

<b>Quality</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>The Percentage of the Students' Ability</b>
<b>High</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Moderate</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>76%</b>
<b>Low</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>16 %</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>

##### 3. Writing Description

The possible highest score for this component was 25 and the possible lowest score for this component was 10. The result of the data analysis demonstrated that the highest score of students' ability in writing description of descriptive text was 24 and the lowest score was 11.5. Having calculated mean and standard deviation, it was found that the mean was 19.24 and standard deviation was 3.20.

<b>Quality</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>The Percentage of the Students' Ability</b>
<b>High</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>Moderate</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>64%</b>
<b>Low</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>20 %</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### 4. Using Language Features

The possible highest score for this component was 25 and the possible lowest score for this component was 10. The result of the data analysis demonstrated that the highest score of students' ability in using language features descriptive text was 22.5 and the lowest score was 11.5. Having calculated mean and standard deviation, it was found that the mean was 17.96 and standard deviation was 2.74.

<b>Quality</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>The Percentage of the Students' Ability</b>
<b>High</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12 %</b>
<b>Moderate</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>68%</b>
<b>Low</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>20 %</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### 5. Using Vocabulary

The possible highest score for this component was 15 and the possible lowest score for this component was 0. The result of the data analysis demonstrated that the highest score of students' ability in using language features descriptive text was 14 and the lowest score was 10. Having calculated mean and standard deviation, it was found that the mean was 12.64 and standard deviation was 1.13.

<b>Quality</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>The Percentage of the Students' Ability</b>
<b>High</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>16 %</b>
<b>Moderate</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>60%</b>
<b>Low</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>24 %</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### 6. Using Mechanics

The possible highest score for this component was 10 and the possible lowest score for this component was 0. The result of the data analysis demonstrated that the highest score of students' ability in using mechanics descriptive text was 10 and the lowest score was 5. Having calculated mean and standard deviation, it was found that the

mean was 8.02 and standard deviation was 1.20

Quality	Number of Students	The Percentage of the Students' Ability
High	4	16%
Moderate	18	72%
Low	3	12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>

➤ Discussions

The components that analysed in this study; their ability in writing description, writing identification, using language features, using vocabulary and using mechanics. The result of data analysis showed most of students had moderate ability; 76% for writing identification, 64% for writing description, 68% for using language features, 60% for using vocabulary, 72% for using mechanics. It is because of the students do not understand enough about how to write description, identification, use language features, use vocabulary and use mechanics of descriptive text, because of that, in practice they made many mistake.

Component Of Writing	Categories of Quality	Number of Students	Percentage of Students Ability
<b>Identification</b>	High	2	8%
	Moderate	19	76%
	Low	4	16 %
<b>Total</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Description</b>	High	4	16%
	Moderate	16	64%
	Low	5	20 %
<b>Total</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Language Features</b>	High	3	12 %
	Moderate	17	68%
	Low	5	20 %
<b>Total</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Vocabulary</b>	High	4	16 %
	Moderate	15	60%
	Low	6	24 %
<b>Total</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Mechanics</b>	High	4	16%
	Moderate	19	72%
	Low	3	12%
<b>Total</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>100 %</b>

From the findings and discussions, it can be concluded that the ability of the second grade students of SMP IT Adzkia Padang in writing descriptive text was moderate in general. It is supported by the fact that 18 students (72%) got moderate ability.

1. The ability of the second grade students of SMP IT Adzkia Padang in writing identification of descriptive text by using mind map was moderate. It is supported by the fact that there were 2 students (8%) got high ability, 19 students (76%) got moderate ability and 4 students (16%) got low ability.
2. The ability of the second grade students of SMP IT Adzkia Padang in writing description of descriptive text by using mind map was moderate. It is supported by the fact that there were 4 students (16%) got high ability, 16 students (64%) got moderate ability and 5 students (20%) got low ability.
3. The ability of the second grade students of SMP IT Adzkia Padang in writing language features of descriptive text by

using mind map was moderate. It is supported by the fact that there were 3 students (12%) got high ability, 17 students (68%) got moderate ability and 5 students (20%) got low ability.

4. The ability of the second grade students of SMP IT Adzkia Padang in using vocabulary of descriptive text by using mind map was moderate. It is supported by the fact that there were 4 students (16%) got high ability, 15 students (60%) got moderate ability and 6 students (24%) got low ability.
5. The ability of the second grade students of SMP IT Adzkia Padang in using mechanics of descriptive text by using mind map was moderate. It is supported by the fact that there were 4 students (16%) got high ability, 18 students (72%) got moderate ability and 3 students (12%) got low ability.

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