

AN ANALYSIS OF THE THIRD YEAR STUDENTS 'ABILITY IN WRITING EXPOSITORY ESSAY AT BUNG HATTA UNIVRSITY

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ABSTRACT

This research attempted to describe the ability of the third year students at Bung Hatta University who registered in academic year 2010/2011. The design of this research was descriptive research. The total number of population was 112. They were distributed in three classes. The writer used cluster random sampling technique to choose sample. The number of samples was 30 students. The writer used writing test to get the data. The data was analyzed based on the result of writing test, the writer presented the raw score, calculated the students' score, mean, standard deviation (SD), and classified the students who got high, moderate, or low ability. The percentage of students who had moderate ability was 18 students (60%). In more specific, their ability in writing content was moderate. It was proved by the fact that 22 students (73.33%) had moderate ability. Their ability in organizing idea was moderate. It was proved by the fact that 19 students (63.33%) had moderate ability. Their ability in using vocabulary was moderate. It was proved by the fact that 17 students (56.67%) had moderate ability. Their ability in using grammar was moderate. As a matter of fact, 17 students (56.67%) had moderate ability, and their ability in applying mechanics was also moderate. It was proved by the fact that 17 students (56.67%) had moderate ability.

Key Words: Ability, Writing, Expository essay

Introduction

English is one of compulsory subject at junior high school, senior high school and a university English is international language is very important to connect with other people from other

country. According to Jin (2009:1), English as an international language is regarded as a very important means of communication.

There are many countries in the world that use English as their international

languages such as America, Brazil, and Argentina. According to Richard and Schmidt (2002:180) English is an international Language and the commonest in the world that use for international business, trade, travel and communication. English has become popular in many countries in the world since many years ago. Besides, in Indonesia English has been a part of subject education.

There are four language skills that should be mastered by English learners. They are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Among them, writing is one of important skills to be mastered by students. Writing is a language skill that used to communicate indirectly. There are some types in writing they are writing sentence, paragraph and essay. Essay is the basic unit of organization in writing that consists of more than paragraph. They are five kinds of essay .They are analytical report, persuasive essay, objective report, argumentative essay, and expository essay. According to Willis in Putri (2000) expository essay is a kind of that give explanation, clarification, information about issues, idea and opinion. This essay is important to be mastered by the English Department students. So, they should have good ability in writing expository essay.

Based on syllabus IV, writing an expository essay was taught to the third year students of English Department of Bung Hatta University. Writer though that the students who were studying in the fifth semester had a good ability in writing essay, especially in writing expository essay.

Based on the writer's informal interview with some of the third year students at Bung Hatta University Padang on Wednesday June 8th 2013, it was found that they got difficulties in writing expository essay. They said that they got problems in organizing ideas, using grammar, using vocabulary, and applying mechanics.

The writer focused this research at third year students at English Department of Bung Hatta University. The purpose of this research was to describe the third year students' ability to expository essay at Bung Hatta University. Specifically, to describe the third year students' ability at Bung Hatta University to write content, organizing ideas, using vocabulary, using the correct grammar, using appropriate word vocabulary, and applying the correct mechanics in writing indirect expository essay.

Methodology

This research used descriptive design which describes the ability of the students in writing expository essay. Gay (1987:189) states that descriptive study involves collecting data in order to answer questions concerning to the status of the subject of the study. Descriptive research is used to measure or describe the problem in the field in order to get fact or real information.

The population of this research was the third year students of Bung Hatta University have registered year 2010/2011. The total number of population was 112 students and they were distributed in three classes.

In this research, to select the sample, the researcher used cluster random sampling. This technique was used because the population is distributed in groups or classes. Random sampling was used because the members of population have the same characteristics or homogeneous. They had the same curriculum, syllabus, and learning materials.

To select the sample, the writer wrote all the names of each class on a small piece of paper and then puts them into a box. After shaking the box and she took one of the papers in the box with closed eyes. The class that the writer took class c as the

real test sample. And another as a try out test.

To get the data, the writer used the instrument. The instrument used to collect the data in this research was writing test. Here, the researcher asked the students to write indirect dialogue in 90 minutes. The writer gave three topics and asked the students to choose one of them. The topics were: The Benefit of Using Internet, The Global Warming Effect, and Nicotine as the most Dangerous Drug. The aspects that the writer gave score were: the content, the organizing ideas, appropriate words, grammar and the mechanics in writing expository essay.

Before giving the test, the writer did try out of the test to the students out of the sample. The functions of try out were to see whether the time allocation is enough or not, and to see whether the students understand the instruction or not. Besides, it was also used to find out the reliability of test.

A good test should be valid and reliable. To see the validity of the test, the researcher used content validity. Brown (2004:22) states that one of the types of validity is content validity. It means that the test is valid if it fixes with the materials that have been given to the students. This test was constructed based on syllabus and teaching materials. To find out the

reliability of the test, the writer used inter-rater method. It means that there were two scorers (scorer 1 and scorer 2). This method was also used to minimize the subjectivity in scoring.

In analyzing data, the writer used the procedures: (i) Present the raw from score two scorers (ii) Count the average score of two scorers by using the formula:

$$\frac{\text{Score 1} + \text{Score 2}}{2}$$

(iii) Calculate the Mean (M) and Standard Deviation (SD)

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

$$SD = \sqrt{\frac{\sum x^2}{N} - \left[\frac{\sum x}{N}\right]^2}$$

(iv) Classify the students' ability into high, moderate, and low ability using the following categories:

$>M + 1SD = \text{High ability}$

$M - 1SD \quad M + 1SD = \text{Moderate ability}$

$<M - 1SD = \text{Low ability}$

(v) Calculate the number and percentage of the students who get high, moderate, and low ability. The researcher used this formula:

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

Where:

P = percentage of the students' score

R = the sum of the students who get high, moderate, and low ability

T = the sum of the students

Findings and Discussions

Finding:

1. Students' Ability in Writing Expository Essay

Based on the criteria of scoring, the highest possible score was 100 and the lowest possible score was 47. The result of data analysis showed that the students' ability in writing expository essay was moderate. It was proved by fact that 6 students (20%) got high ability, 18 students (60%) got moderate ability and 6 students (20%) got low ability (see Appendix 10). To make sure, see Table below:

Score range	category	Number of Students	Percentage
>82.57	High	6	20%
75.29-82.57	Moderate	18	60%
<75.29	Low	6	20%
Total		30	100%

2. Students' Ability in Writing Content of Expository Essay

Based on the criteria of scoring, the maximum score was 30 and the minimum possible score was 17. 30. The result of data

analysis showed that the students' ability in writing indirect dialogue was moderate. It was proved by fact that 2 students (66.67%) got high ability, 24 students (80%) got moderate ability and 4 students (13.33%) got low ability (see Appendix 14). To make sure, see Table below:

Score Range	Category	Number of Students	Percentage
>25.06	High	2	6.67%
22.40-25.06	Moderate	24	80%
<22.40	Low	4	13.33%
Total	Total	30	100%

3. Students' Ability in Organizing Ideas in Writing Expository Essay

Based on the criteria of scoring, the highest possible score was 30 and the lowest possible score for this component was 17. The writer found that the ability of the students in organizing ideas was moderate. In more detail, he found that 3 students (10%) got high ability, 22 students (73.33%) got moderate ability and 5 students (16.67%) got low ability (see Appendix 18). The result can be seen in Table below:

Score range	Category	Number of Students	Percentage
>24.23	High	3	10%
21.51-24.23	Moderate	22	22%
<21.51	Low	5	5%
Total		30	100%

4. 4. Students' Ability in Using Vocabulary in Writing Expository Essay

Based on the criteria of scoring, the highest possible score was 20 and the lowest possible score for this component was 3. The writer found that the ability of the students in using vocabulary was moderate. In more specific, 5 students (16.67%) got high ability, 19 students (63.33%) got moderate ability and 5 students (20%) got low ability (see appendix 22). The result can be seen in Table 4.4 below:

Score Range	Category	Number of Students	Percentage
>18.77	High	5	16.67 %
14.19-18.77	Moderate	19	63.33 %
<14.19	Low	6	20 %
Total		30	100%

5. Students' Ability in Using Grammar in Writing Expository Essay

Based on the criteria of scoring, the highest possible score for this component was 20 and the lowest possible score was 23. The result of data showed that the students' ability in using grammar was moderate. It was proved by the fact that 8 students (26.67%) got high ability, 17 students (56.67%) got moderate ability and 5 students (16.67%) got low ability (see Appendix 26). The result can be seen in Table below:

Range score	Category	Number of Students	Percentage
>13.96	High	8	26.67%
11.50-13.96	Moderate	17	56.67%
<11.50	Low	5	16.67%
		30	100%

6. Students' Ability in Applying Mechanics

Based on criteria of scoring the high possible score was 5 and the lowest possible score was 2. The writer found that the ability of the students in applying mechanics was moderate. In more specific 3 students (10%) got high ability, 17

students (15.67%) got moderate ability and 10 students (33.33%) got low ability.

The result can be seen in Table below:

The range score	Category	Number of Students	Percentage
>4.35	High	3	10 %
2.29-4.35	Moderate	17	56.67 %
<2.29	Low	10	33.33 %
Total		30	100%

Discussions

1. Students' Ability in Writing Content

of Expository Essay

The writer found that the students' ability in writing content of expository essay was moderate. It meant that the students still some mistakes in writing citation. For example:

Students' writing:

Internet can help people to get something

According to Dennis (2013) internet many benefit for user.

The correct one:

According to Dennis (2013), internet is a social net working that has many benefits in the different field such as business, education, government etc.

2. Students' Ability in Organizing Ideas in Writing Expository Essay

Another finding of this research was that the students' ability in organizing ideas was moderate. The students writing it incomplete for example:

Students' writing:

There are many benefits of internet. Firstly, internet can connect with other from other country (without background)

The right one:

Internet is a social networking. It has developed in modern countries such as America, Japan, and England. There are many benefits by using internet. Firstly, internet can connect with other People from other country.

3. Students' Ability to Use Appropriate Vocabulary in Writing Expository Essay

The next finding of this research was that the students' ability in using vocabulary in writing indirect dialogue was moderate. It meant that they still difficult to choose the appropriate vocabulary to develop their sentences. The examples of students' writing:

Students' writing:

With internet we can connect with other

The right one:

We can connect with other people by using internet

4. Students' Ability in Using Grammar in Writing Expository Essay

The finding of this research was that the students' ability to use the correct grammar in writing expository essay was moderate. It means that many students still did not understand about the use of correct mechanics in writing expository essay. The examples of students' writing:

Students' writing:

Internet a social networking that have many function for the people

The right one:

Internet is a social networking that has many function for the people

5. Students 'Ability in Applying Mechanics

In applying mechanics, the students was moderate. Based on the data, the students still made some mistakes

For example:

Student's writing: Now these, most people can be heart attack caused by nicotine and drugs. Because it has a powerful insecticide

The right one:

Nowadays, most people can get heart attack caused by nicotine and drugs, because it has powerful insecticide.

Conclusion

Based on the result of data analysis, the writer concluded the conclusions: The ability of the third year students at Bung Hatta University in writing expository essay was moderate. It is supported by the fact that there were 24 students (80%) got moderate ability in writing content of expository essay, 22 students (22%) got moderate ability in organizing ideas the , 19 students (63.33%) got moderate ability in using appropriate word(vocabulary), and 17 students (56.67%) got moderate ability in using the correct grammar, and 17 (56.67) got moderate ability in applying mechanics in writing expository essay.

Acknowledgements

This thesis could not be completed without a great deal of helping from many people. The deep regards and gratitude are expressed to her advisors, Dra. Fatimah Tanjung, M.Hum as the first advisor and Dr. H. Welya Roza, M.Pd as the second advisor. The writer would like to thanks for their guidance, suggestions, criticisms, and advices for the improvement of this thesis. Then, the researcher would like to reveal a very deeply thank for all of their kindness.

Sincere thanks are also dedicated to the Dean of FKIP Bung Hatta University, Dr. Marsis, M.Pd, the Vice Dean, Drs. Khairuddin, MSi, the chairwoman of the English Department Dra. Ernati, M.Pd, the secretary of English Department, Dra. Lisa Tavriyanti, M.Pd, and also the writer thanks for all English Department lecturers who have helped her during the studying in this faculty.

Finally, the writer' sincere gratitude is addressed to her beloved parents and her family that support the researcher in her daily whole life, for their continuous supports, love, prayers, and cares to her and then all known friends for the support, advice and understanding.

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