

THE SECOND GRADE STUDENTS' ABILITY IN WRITING DESCRIPTIVE TEXT ABOUT AN AUTOMOTIVE OBJECT PICTURE AT SMKN 1 PARIAMAN

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to describe the second grade students' ability in writing a descriptive text about an automotive object picture at SMKN 1 Pariaman. The researcher used descriptive research method for this research. The population of this research was the second grade students at SMKN 1 Pariaman and the researcher used purposive and convenience sampling technique to select 23 students as the sample. The instrument for collecting the data in this research was a writing test in the form of writing a descriptive text. To make the test reliable the researcher used inter-rater method and the result of analysis showed that the test was reliable. It was supported by the fact that the coefficient correlation was 0.853 which is bigger than the value of the *r table* at df 21 and alpha .05 (0.413). Then the test was valid because it had covered the material that the students had learnt. Generally, the result of this research showed that the students' ability in writing a descriptive text about an automotive object picture was low.

Kata kunci : *Ability, Writing, Descriptive Text, Picture*

INTRODUCTION

English is an international language used by all countries; almost all people in the world use the English language for communication. English language skills are related to the progress of the country, so it is important to understand English language. English has four skills that are studied and mastered if we want to understand English well. They are listening, speaking, reading, and writing [1].

Writing is one of four skills that students learn. It is quite difficult among the four skills in learning English. In fact, some students think that writing is the most difficult skill in English. The students find it difficult to find the ideas when they write. Most of them write incorrect sentences. Some students also cannot finish their writing at the end of the time set because of a lack of ideas and vocabulary [1].

At SMKN 1 Pariaman, English subject is one of the vocational subjects, and the teachers teach

English by linking it to their major. For writing skills, the students learn about many kinds of text in the second grade. The texts that they learn are narrative text, descriptive text, procedure text, and exposition text.

Descriptive text is one type of the texts that tells about something, either person, object, place, or event. By writing a descriptive text, the students will think more critically and creatively in developing very specific ideas. Then, in this learning, students focus more on the object that is related to their major. But in this case, many of the students still have difficulties in writing descriptive text even though it is related to their major. The problems that the researcher found were students found it difficult to develop ideas because of the limited vocabulary that they had, students found it difficult to find the topic to be described, and the students didn't understand the generic structure of a descriptive text. They were

confused about when and how to use the structure of a descriptive text.

In addition, there are two studies that have been conducted by other researchers related to students' ability in writing a descriptive text. First, the study done by Soehela (2017) with the title "An Analysis of the Tenth Grade Students' Ability to Write Personal Descriptive Text Using Pictures at SMKN 1 Padang", found that the ability of the students was high. She found 23 students with high ability and 8 students with low ability [2]. Second, the study was done by Wahyuni (2014) entitled "An Analysis of the First Grade Students' Ability in Writing Descriptive Text Using Single Picture at SMAN 2 Sungai Limau". She found that the overall ability of the students in writing descriptive text using a single picture was moderate [3]. Based on the previous research above and the researcher's experience during practice teaching, it was found that the average students' ability was at the middle and lower levels in writing image-based text. Because no one has done research dealing with students' ability to write a descriptive text about an automotive object picture, the researcher was interested in doing a research on this topic.

METHOD

This research belongs to descriptive research. According to Refnita (2018: 17), descriptive research involves collecting data in order to test hypotheses or to answer questions concerning the current status of the subject of the study [4]. The number of population of this research was 319. The researcher used purposive and convenience sampling technique to select the sample of this research. The researcher chose XI TKRO 1 and XI TKRO 2 because the major was more associated with an automotive car object. Secondly, the researcher chose all of the students in the classroom because some students were in internships program outside of school. The instrument used to collect the data was writing test in which the students had to write a descriptive text based on a given picture. The test was valid in terms of content because it had covered the material that the students had learnt. The reliability index of the test was 0.853 which means that the test is reliable.

To collect the data, the researcher asked the students to write a descriptive text about an automotive object picture that had been provided. Then, the researcher gave 60 minutes for students to do the writing test. After that, the researcher collected all of the students' answers, made copies of students'

answers, and gave them to the second scorer. Finally, the researcher and the second scorer gave the score based on the scoring criteria. In analyzing the data, the researcher used the following steps: First, the researcher counted the student's score; second, the researcher converted the students' scores to answer each research question; third, the researcher counted the number of students who had high ability and low ability, and finally, the researcher counted the percentage of the students who had high ability and low ability in writing descriptive text about an automotive object picture.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The results of this research showed that generally the students had low ability in writing a descriptive text. It was supported by the data analysis that 8 (34.78%) students had high ability and 15 (65.22%) students had low ability in writing a descriptive text about an automotive object picture. In detail, 11 (47.83%) students had high ability and 12 (52.17%) students had low ability to organize a descriptive text, 8 (34.78%) students had high ability and 15 (65.22%) students had low ability to express the content in writing a descriptive text about an automotive object picture, 11 (47.83%) students had high ability and 12 (52.17%) students had low ability to apply grammar in writing a descriptive text about an automotive object picture, 17 (73.91%) students had high ability and 6 (26.09%) students had low ability to use vocabulary in writing a descriptive text about an automotive object picture, and 4 (17.39%) students had high ability and 19 (82.61%) students had low ability to apply mechanics in writing a descriptive text about an automotive object picture. These findings are summarized in the Table 1 below:

No	Aspect	The Number of Students		Ability
		Number	Percentage	
1	The students' ability in writing descriptive text about an automotive object picture	8	34.78%	High
		15	65.22%	Low

2	The students' ability to organize a descriptive text about an automotive object picture	11	47.83%	High
		12	52.17%	Low
3	The students' ability to express content in writing a descriptive text about an automotive object picture	8	34.78%	High
		15	65.22%	Low
4	The students' ability to apply grammar in writing a descriptive text about an automotive object picture	11	47.83%	High
		12	52.17%	Low
5	The students' ability to use vocabulary in writing a descriptive text about an automotive object picture	17	73.91%	High
		6	26.09%	Low
6	The students' ability to apply mechanics in writing a descriptive text about an automotive object picture	4	17.39%	High
		19	82.61%	Low

1. The Second Grade Students' Ability in Writing Descriptive Text about an Automotive Object Picture at SMKN 1 Pariaman

The results of data analysis show that 8 (34.78%) students had high ability and 15 (65.22%) students had low ability in writing a descriptive text about an automotive object

picture. It is not in line with the study conducted by Soehela (2017) with the title "An Analysis of the Tenth Grade Students' Ability to Write Personal Descriptive Text Using Pictures at SMKN 1 Padang". Based on her research, it was found that 23 students had high ability to write personal descriptive text using pictures. Meanwhile, 8 students had low ability to write personal descriptive text using pictures [2].

The factor that possibly caused the students in automotive classes at SMKN 1 Pariaman had low ability in writing descriptive text is that some of the students at vocational high school preferred practical and applied work preparation. For example, students were more interested when the teacher gave lessons while doing games. Then, another factor is many of students during the learning process often played with their handphones and did not pay attention to the teacher. This was found when the researcher was following a teaching practice program at SMKN 1 Pariaman. Then, in general, students' basic English skills were low, so it made it difficult for them to take part in advanced learning. The last, some of students had just returned from an internship program and some other students who did not go on an internship did not study any subjects other than the Pancasila profile. So, most of students have forgotten the material. These factors might make the students' ability in writing a descriptive text is low.

2. The Second Grade Students' Ability to Organize a Descriptive Text about an Automotive Object Picture at SMKN 1 Pariaman

Based on data analysis, the researcher found that the second grade students at SMKN 1 Pariaman had low ability to organize a descriptive text about an automotive object. It was found that 11 (47.83%) students had high ability to organize descriptive text about an automotive object picture. Meanwhile, 12 (52.17%) students had low ability to organize descriptive text about an automotive object picture. It is in line with the study conducted by Soehela (2017) showing that the tenth grade students at SMKN 1 Padang had low ability to organize a descriptive text. It was found that 12 students had high ability, and 19 students had low ability to organize a descriptive text [2]. So, these studies found similar findings.

3. The Second Grade Students' Ability to Express the Content in Writing a Descriptive Text about an Automotive Object Picture at SMKN 1 Pariaman

Based on data analysis, the researcher found that the second grade students at SMKN 1 Pariaman had low ability to express the content in writing descriptive text about an automotive object picture. It was found that 8 (34.78%) students had high ability, but 15 (65.22%) students had low ability. This study is in contrast with another study which was conducted by Aliffiya (2022) entitled "An Analysis of Students' Ability in Writing a Descriptive Text after Watching a Video at Class X Engineering Major in SMKN 1 Painan". Based on her result, it was found that 20 students had high ability to express content in writing a descriptive text, but 12 students

had low ability to express content in writing a descriptive text [5]. The study by Aliffiya was conducted at Engineering class and the minimum mastery level at SMKN 1 Painan is 60. Meanwhile, the study being reported was conducted at automotive class and the minimum mastery level at SMKN 1 Pariaman is 70. These two factors may lead to different findings.

4. The Second Grade Students' Ability to Apply Grammar in Writing a Descriptive Text about an Automotive Object Picture at SMKN 1 Pariaman

Based on the result of data analysis, the second grade students at SMKN 1 Pariaman had low ability to apply grammar in writing a descriptive text about an automotive object picture. It was proved by the data that 11 (47.83%) students had high ability and 12 (52.17%) students had low ability to apply grammar in writing a descriptive text about an automotive object picture. Most of students had a problem in using verbs, to be, or article in a sentence. This result is in contrast with the result of another study that was conducted by Aliffiya (2022) entitled "An Analysis of Students' Ability in Writing a Descriptive Text after Watching a Video at Class X Engineering Major in SMKN 1 Painan". She found that 28 students had high ability, but 4 students had low ability to apply grammar in writing a descriptive text [5]. So, these studies found different findings. Meanwhile, this study is in line with two studies done by Refnita. She found that even university students had less competence in basic grammar [6], [7].

5. The Second Grade Students' Ability to Use Vocabulary in Writing a Descriptive Text about an Automotive Object Picture at SMKN 1 Pariaman

Based on the data analysis, the researcher found that the second grade students at SMKN 1 Pariaman had high ability to use vocabulary in writing a descriptive text about an automotive object. It was proved by the data that 17 (73.91%) students had high ability and 6 (26.09%) students had low ability in using vocabulary in writing descriptive text about an automotive object picture. Most of them wrote many words correctly. It is in line with study which was conducted by Apriliansyah (2016) which showed that the tenth grade students at SMKN 6 Surakarta had high ability in using vocabulary in writing a descriptive text. It was proved by the data that 55 students had high ability and 8 students had low ability in using vocabulary in writing a descriptive text [8]. These studies found similar findings.

6. The Second Grade Students' Ability to Apply Mechanics in Writing a Descriptive Text about an Automotive Object Picture at SMKN 1 Pariaman

The next finding of this research was that the second grade students' ability to apply mechanics in writing descriptive text about an automotive object picture at SMKN 1 Pariaman was low. It is indicated by the fact that 4 (17.39%) students had high ability and 19 (82.61%) students had low ability to apply mechanics in writing descriptive text about an automotive object picture at SMKN 1 Pariaman. It is not in line with study that was conducted by Ristyningrum et al. (2022) showing that the tenth grade students at SMKN 1 Pacitan had high ability to apply mechanics in writing a narrative text. She found that 11 students had high ability and 9 students had low ability to apply mechanics in writing a narrative text [9]. So, these studies revealed different findings.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Based on the findings and discussions, it can be concluded that the ability of the second grade students at SMKN 1 Pariaman in writing descriptive text about an automotive object picture was low. Based on the conclusion, the researcher suggests English teachers to give more exercises in writing a descriptive text. Then, the teacher should explain more about how to organize a descriptive text, express the content, apply correct grammar, and apply mechanics in writing a descriptive text. The students should study more about descriptive texts. The students are expected to pay attention when the teacher explains the material. The students should do more exercises to organize a descriptive text, express the content, apply grammar, and apply mechanics. Then, the students are expected to increase their literacy and practice learning basic English. The future researchers are suggested to do research more about descriptive text and find out the factors why students' ability in writing descriptive text is low.

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