

# AN ANALYSIS OF THE TENTH GRADE STUDENTS' ABILITY TO WRITE DESCRIPTIVE TEXT BASED ON PICTURE

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## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to find out the tenth grade students' ability in writing a descriptive text based on picture at SM2N 2 Sawahlunto. The researcher used descriptive research method for this research. The population of this research was the tenth grade students at SMAN 2 Sawahlunto and the researcher used cluster random sampling technique to select 32 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 0.86 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 based on picture was low.

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

## INTRODUCTION

English is an international language that students must learn, because it has an important role in the improvement of technology and literature. It is acceptable around of the world. Recently, English, as the first foreign language in Indonesia, has been taught from elementary school to college. Indonesian students as a part of society absolutely need it. They need it as means of future communication in both spoken and written.

There are four language skills of English. They are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Writing is one of four basic skills that is important to be improved. Writing skills are complex and sometimes difficult to teach, because it requires not only the mastery grammatical and rhetorical device but also conceptual and judgment elements.

In general, high school students in Indonesia still have problem in writing in English. This is supported by finding of Putriani's [4], study entitled "*Improving the Students' Writing Ability by Using Picture Series at Grade VIII in SMP Pembangunan Piyungan*". the result shows that writing is not an easy skill to be studied by most students in Indonesia.

The students cannot produce a good writing because of some reasons. First, they do not know the right generic structure of text. Sometimes they lost the story line so that their writing becomes incoherent. Second, they still have lack of knowledge on grammar. They do not know the grammar rules well so that they often make mistakes and finally make wrong sentences. Thirdly, they often find it difficult to get idea to begin a story. They do not know what thing they have to write. Lastly, they are sometimes confused about the appropriate words to be used in writing the text.

Writing is a complicated skill that needs processes and many aspects to be considered. Brown [2] states that written products are the result of thinking, drafting, and revising that require specialized skills on how to generate ideas, how to organize them coherently, how to use discourse markers and rhetorical conventions coherently into a written text, how to revise a text for clearer meaning and how to edit a text for appropriate grammar and how to produce a final product.

There are three studies related to the research. The first study was conducted by Putriani [4]. The title is “improving students’ writing ability by using picture series at grade VII in SMP pembangunan”. The results show that picture series as teaching media is attained well in improving students’ English writing ability of the tenth grade students of SMAN 2 SAWAHLUNTO.

The second study was conducted by Mayasari [3]. The title is "Using Picture Series to Improve The Writing Ability of The Eight Grade Students at SMP Negeri 2 Wonosari". The finding of the research showed that the use of picture series was able to improve the students’writing ability, and in more specific, picture series could help the students to generate and organize their ideas.

The third study was conducted by Amalia [1] The title is “The Use of Pictures Media in Teaching Descriptive Text to Improve the First Grade Studets’ Writing Ability at SMP Al Badri Gumuksari”. The finding of the research showed that the use of picture media could improve the students’ writing descriptive text ability. It can be seen that picture was useful to help the students to express and develop their ideas in writing.

## METHOD

This research belongs to descriptive research. According to Refnita [5], 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 178. The researcher used cluster random sampling technique to select the sample of this research. The selected class was researcher XI. Secondly, the researcher chose all of the students in the classroom. 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 0.86 which means that the test is reliable.

To collect the data, the researcher asked the students to write a descriptive text based on 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 based on 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 7 (21.87%) students had high ability and 25 (78.13%) students had low ability in writing a descriptive text based on picture. In detail, These findings are summarized in the Table 1 below:

**Table 1: Research Findings**

No	Aspect	The Number of Students		Ability
		Number	Percentage	
1	The students’ ability to Organize a descriptive text based on picture	3	9.37%	High
		29	90.63%	Low
2	The students’ ability to express content in Writing a descriptive text based on picture	9	28.125%	High
		23	67.1875%	Low
3	The students’ ability to apply grammar in Writing a descriptive text based on picture	10	31.255%	High
		22	68.75%	Low
4	The students’ ability to use vocabulary in writing a descriptive text about an automotive object picture	28	87.5%	High
		4	12.5%	Low
5	The students’ ability to apply mechanics in writing a descriptive text about an automotive object picture	10	31.25%	High
		22	68.75%	Low

## CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Based on the findings and discussions, it can be concluded that, the results of data analysis show that 7 (21.87%) students had high ability and 25 (78.13%) students had low ability in writing a descriptive text based on picture. The Tenth Grade Students' Ability to Organize a Descriptive Text based on Picture at SMAN 2 Sawahlunto The results of data analysis show that 3 (9.37%) students had high ability and 29 (90.63%) students had low ability in writing a descriptive text based on picture.

The Tenth Grade Students' Ability to Express the Content in Writing a Descriptive text based on Picture at SMAN 2 Sawahlunto was low. The results of data analysis show that 9 (28.125%) students had high ability and 23 (71.875%) students had low ability in writing a descriptive text based on picture.

The Tenth Grade Students' Ability to Apply Grammar in Writing a Descriptive Text based on Picture at SMAN 2 Sawahlunto was low. The results of data analysis show that 10 (31.25%) students had high ability and 22 (68.75%) students had low ability in writing a descriptive text based on picture.

The Tenth Grade Students' Ability to Use Vocabulary in Writing a Descriptive Text based on Picture at SMAN 2 Sawahlunto was high. The results of data analysis show that 28 (87.5%) students had high ability and 4 (12.5%) students had low ability in writing a descriptive text based on picture was low. The Tenth Grade Students' Ability to Apply Mechanics in Writing a Descriptive Text based on Picture at SMAN 2 Sawahlunto was low. The results of data analysis show that 10 (31.25%) students had high ability and 22 (68.75%) students had low ability in writing a descriptive text based on picture. Based on the conclusion, the researcher suggests English teachers to improve how they teach in learning process and give more exercise 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. 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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