

AN ANALYSIS OF THE STUDENTS' ABILITY IN WRITING PERSONAL LETTER AT THE ELEVENTH GRADE IN SMK N 5 PADANG

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to analyze the students' ability in writing a personal letter at the eleventh grade in SMK N 5 Padang. This research design was a descriptive. The population of this research was the second-grade students at SMK N 5 Padang. The researcher used convenience sampling technique, and the sample was class 11 TPM which consist of 34 students. The instrument for collecting the data in this research was a writing test. To make the test reliable, the researcher used the inter-rater method. The results of data analysis showed that correlation coefficient the test was 0.80, it means the test was reliable. Then the test is valid in terms of content because the material about personal letter has been covered in the curriculum and syllabus that has been learned by the students. The result showed that there were 19 (55.88%) students who had high ability. Based on the result of data analysis, it can be concluded that students' ability in writing personal letter was high.

Keywords: *Ability, Writing, Personal Letter*

INTRODUCTION

English is the fastest-growing language in the modern world, and it serves as a language of commerce by connecting the East and West, as well as the North and the South (Rao, 2019). English is also the language most commonly used in a wide range of sectors, including economics, business, science, technology, social studies, education and culture. The wide spread of English requires us to learn it in the education field.^[1]

Writing is one of the four skills that students must develop when learning English. Writing is vital to a student's success in school. However, many students have difficulty mastering writing skills. Writing skills are not just about writing words into meaningless sentences or paragraphs. According to Hasanah (2022), writing can help people with their grammar, including learning how to use noun phrases, adjectives, articles and appropriate tenses. Students who are proficient at writing can also create works with correct punctuation, capitalization and spelling of words. As a result, if students want to understand English, they must learn to improve their writing skills.^[2]

One of the basic competencies taught in the second semester of class XI is writing personal letters. Writing activities aim to improve students' ability to express ideas using appropriate language in writing so that students can write Personal Letters correctly. According to Setiowati et al (2018), personal letters are letters whose contents are concerning private things sent between people who have a personal relationship such as family members, neighbors, villagers, playmates, friends class or school, coworkers in an organization, and love relationships between men with women. Personal letters have the following characteristics: easy to distinguish from other letters.^[3] The type of language that is familiar and relaxed is characteristics that are easiest to find in a Personal Letter. Teacher can write personal letters in English make students interested in learning because writing requires a lot of things to do academically accepted. Currently, not all students are able to express their ideas in writing.

Based on previous research conducted by Arnelia & Syahrul (2021), they found five aspects of students' problems in writing personal letters, namely writing content, grammar, organization, vocabulary, Lastly, mechanical issues.^[4]

Class XI students at SMKN 5 Padang practically experience the same problem, this is supported by the researcher's teaching experience for three months. Researcher found several problems in writing personal letters, the majority of students considered writing to be quite challenging in terms of content, grammar, organization, vocabulary and mechanics of personal letter.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested to conduct a study entitled "An Analysis Of The Students's Ability In Writing Personal Letter At The Eleventh Grade In SMK N 5 Padang".

METHOD

This research used the descriptive method. According to Refnita (2018: 17), descriptive research involves collecting data to test hypotheses or to answer question concerning the current status of the subject of the study.[1] The population of this research was the eleventh grade students at SMK N 5 Padang.

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The total population was 355 students, and they were distributed into eleven majors. Every major is divided into 1 or more classes, depending on the number of students in each major. the researcher used a convenience sampling technique and the researcher got class XI TPM (Mechanical Engineering) as a sample because this was the only class the teacher was willing and permitted to be the sample. The instrument of this research is a writing test. The test is used to collect data about students' ability to write personal letters. researcher asked students to take the test within 40 minutes. researcher give students the freedom to choose the topic for writing personal letter. students' letters are evaluated in terms of content, grammatical organization, vocabulary and mechanics. . The test is valid if it fixes with the material that has been given to the students and it is based on the syllabus and teaching material. Therefore, the researcher constructed the test based on syllabus and teaching material.

To find the reliability of this test, the researcher used inter-rater technique. This technique is used to eliminate subjectivity to give scores. It means that there were two scorers. The first scorer was the researcher and the second scorer was Anisa Okiana. The researcher chose her to be the second scorer because she had good skills in writing subject. As a matter of fact, she got A in her writing subjects. To find out correlation index of two sets of scorers, the researcher used Pearson Product Moment. After

researcher analyzed the score, it showed that the test was reliable. It was supported by the fact that the coefficient correlation was 0.63 which was categorized as high correlation.

In this research, the researcher used a test to collect data. The data in this study were collected with the following procedures: first, the researcher shared the test paper with the students; second, the researcher explained the instructions that the students have to follow; third, the researcher asked the students to write personal letter; fourth, he researcher gave the students 40 minutes to do the test; fifth, the researcher collected the students' writing test; finally, the researcher (first scorer) and the second scorer checked the students' writing and gave score based on the rubric. In analyzing the data, the researcher used this following procedures: first, the researcher presented the score of the sample; second, the researcher calculated average students' score from first scorer and second scorer; third, researcher converted the students' scores; fourth, the researcher classified the students' ability based on the minimum mastery (KKM) of SMKN 5 Padang; fifth, the researcher counted the number of students who had high and low ability; sixth, the researcher calculated the percentage of the students who had high ability and low ability and finally, the researcher describes the result of the data analysis.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The results of this research showed that the students had high ability to write personal letter. It was supported by the data analysis 20 students (58.82%) had high ability, 14 students (41.18%) had low ability in writing a personal letter. In detail, the result of the data showed that 20 students (58.82%) had high ability, 14 students(41.18%) had low ability to write content in writing of personal letter; the result of the data showed that 15 students (44.12%) had high ability, 19 students (55.88%) had low ability to applying grammar in writing of personal letter; the result of the data showed that 13 students (38.24%) had high ability, 21 students (61.76%) had low ability to applying organization in writing of personal letter; the result of the data showed that 28 students (82.35%) had high ability, 6 students (17.65%) had low ability to applying vocabulary in writing of personal letter; the result of the data showed that 20 students (58.82%) had high ability, 14 students

(41.18%) had low ability to applying mechanics in writing of personal letter.

Tabel 1. Research Findings

No.	Aspect	The Number of Students		Ability
		Number	Percentage	
1.	The Students' Ability in Writing Personal Letter	20	58.82%	High
		14	41.18%	Low
2.	The Students' Ability in Writing the Contents	20	58.82%	High
		14	41.18%	Low
3.	The Students' Ability in Writing the Grammar	15	44.12%	High
		19	55.88%	Low
4.	The Students' Ability to Use the Appropriate Organization	13	38.24%	High
		21	61.76%	Low
5.	The Students' Ability to Applying the Vocabulary	28	82.35%	High
		6	17.65%	Low
6.	The Students' Ability to Apply the Mechanics	20	58.82%	High
		14	41.18%	Low

1. The Students' Ability in Writing Personal Letter At The Eleventh Grade in SMK N 5 Padang

Based on the findings, the researcher found that eleventh grade students at SMK N 5 Padang had high abilities in writing personal letters. This finding is in line with the results of research conducted by Yuniar et al (2023) which showed that class XI TE 3 of SMK Negeri 4 Semarang had good abilities in writing personal letter.

2. The Students' Ability to Write the Content a Personal Letter

Another finding of this research was that students' ability to apply content in writing personal letters was high. This finding is line with the results of research conducted by Sarmadi et al. (2022) which showed that class XI students of SMAN 1 Badar had good abilities in applying content to personal letter.

3. The Students' Ability to Write the Grammar a Personal Letter

Another finding of this research was that students' ability in apply grammar in writing personal letter was low. This finding is not line with the results of research conducted by Irmayani et al (2022) which showed that class XI students at SMK N Abdurrahman Wahid had high abilities in applying grammar in writing personal letters. This means that there are still many students SMK N 5 Padang who don't understand how to develop grammar.

4. The Students' Ability to Write the Organization a Personal Letter

Finding of this research was that students' ability to apply organization in writing personal letters was low, 21 students with a percentage of (61.76%). This finding is not line with the results of research conducted by Oktayesa (2021) which shows that class XI students at Subulussalam Islamic Boarding School had good abilities to apply organization in writing a personal letter. This means that there are still many students SMK N 5 Padang who don't understand how to develop organization.

5. The Students' Ability to Writer the Vocabulary a Personal Letter

The finding of this research was that students' ability to apply vocabulary in writing personal letters was high, This finding is in line with the results of research conducted by Angelina (2020), that the ability of eleventh graders in writing vocabulary personal letters with think pair share model at SMK N 3 Payakumbuh is high.

6. The Students' Ability to Writer the Mechanics a Personal Letter

The last finding of this research was that students' ability to apply mechanics in writing

personal letters was high. This finding is in line with the results of research conducted by Wulandari (2021) which showed that class XI students SMK Abdurrahman Banjar Madu. Had good skills in applying Mechanics to personal letter.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Based on the results of the research, it can be concluded that the data analysis it can be concluded that the students' ability in writing personal letter at the eleventh grade in SMK N 5 Padang at SMK N 5 Padang to write a personal letter are high was high. Based on the conclusion, the researcher suggests teachers are advised to find out and use more effective writing teaching techniques and provide more practice with short functional texts, especially writing personal letters. for students must improve their ability to write personal letters by practicing more and paying attention when the teacher explains material about personal letters. For Future the researcher hopes that future researchers will be advised to conduct research on personal letters with more creative learning methods as well as research on difficult problems experienced by students in improving content, organizing grammar, vocabulary and mechanisms in writing personal letters.

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