

Teaching Writing Narrative Text by Using Autobiography Technique

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Abstract

This paper aims to give explanation about teaching writing narrative text by using autobiography technique. Autobiography technique is one of interesting technique in teaching writing narrative text. In this technique, students write about their own life story. The steps of teaching writing are pre-teaching activities, whilst-teaching activities and post-teaching activities. In pre-teaching activities, the teacher greets and checks students' attendance and gives some questions to know students' knowledge about the topic. In whilst-teaching activities, the teacher gives an example and explains about narrative text and autobiography, then asks students to write their own life story into a narrative text by using some guidances. In post-teaching activities, the teacher leads the students to conclude the lesson and gives home work.

Keywords: Teaching writing, narrative text, autobiography.

A. INTRODUCTION

Writing is an important skill in our life, it's not only crucial in education, but it's also essential in society. Writing skill is very important because it is one of language skill that students need to learn. The purpose of teaching English material in the school is to give knowledge about English so students can share or express their ideas and feelings in English.

Writing skill should progress continuously because writing is a complex skill. To be a good writer we

need to practice seriously and always write to improve our writing skill. Unfortunately, students usually think that writing activity is so boring. Students will write if the teacher commands them to do exercise and home work. It happened because students usually have problem in grammar, vocabulary, the material and the technique, so teacher should be able to find and choose the interesting technique in order to make students active in the teaching learning process.

Based on the demand of curriculum 2013, there are twelve types or kinds of the text that should be taught at Senior High School. They are narrative, descriptive, procedure, report, hortatory, exposition, news item, anecdote, spoof, analytical, explanation, and review. Narrative is a kind of text which interested to be taught. The purpose of this text is to amuse or entertain the reader. The generic structure are orientation, complication, and resolution.

There are some techniques that teacher can use in teaching writing narrative text such as by autobiography, jigsaw, well, probable passage strategy, process-genre based approach. Based on the techniques above the writer chooses autobiography technique because this technique very helps students in writing narrative text and students can tell their story freely.

1. Concepts of Writing

According to Oshima and Hogue (2007, p.15), writing is an action that has some steps; it is a progress creative act. We already have idea on our mind and we know how to express it while we are writing, after that when we have finished writing, we read all what we have written and make changes and correction continuously until we are satisfied.

Tarigan (2008,p.22) said that writing is drawing symbols of graphic that show

a language which can be understood by someone else. Then, Oshima and Hogue (1991, p.3) remind us that, “ writing is a process, not a product, it is always possible to review and revise, review and revise again” .

In addition, Semi (2003, p. 14) states that writing is sharing our ideas and feelings into written symbol. Students will try to think and develop their imagination when they are writing.

Based on experts' view on the concepts of writing as already discussed above, a simple conclusion can be drawn that writing is the process of act to share idea, and feeling into a written form. However it is not simple process.

2. The Purpose of Writing

Based on Oshima and Hogue (1991, p.3), here explained some purposes of three kinds of writing. First, the purpose of literary writing is usually to amuse reader. Second, journalist writing sometimes seeks to share information or to convince. Third, the purpose of academic writing usually to explain and persuade or ensure the reader.

Besides that, Semi (2003, 14) explains that the common purposes of writing are:

1. To give instruction. It means to give someone procedure how to do something. For example, how to use

an engine, how to use medicine or how to set flower,

2. To explain something. It gives description or explanation about something that should be known by everybody. For example, explanation about the advantages of jogging for our heart and explain about the importance of education,
3. To tell an event or a story. It gives information of an event that happened in a place and one time, for example tell the story of the struggle of Imam Bonjol to face colonist or tell of traffic accidents in West Sumatera,
4. To summarize. It intends to make resume but it is not changing the idea, for example summarize a book, passage and essay,
5. To convince. The written text is try to persuade someone else to agree. For example, a son writes a letter and try to make sure his parents to give him some money to buy something.

From all purposes of writing above, some writers sometimes combine two or more the purpose of writing in one written form. For example, first the writer explains about nutrition and vitamins in vegetables, then she or he convinces the reader of the advantages of vegetables, and then she or he persuades

reader to consume vegetables. Occasionally the writer separates it one by one.

According to the experts' idea about the purpose of writing above, we can conclude that writing has many aims: writing intents to tell, to inform and share something to the reader; writing can help students to be creative.

3. The Writing Process

The writing process is the activity from the start to finish that result in a product. Oshima and Hogue (1991, p.3) state that a writing process has three main stages. They are prewriting, planning, and writing and revising drafts.

1. Prewriting is the stage where helps the writer to generate or collect ideas for paragraph or essay. There are two steps on prewriting : choosing and narrowing a topic, and brainstorming. On brainstorming step, the writer will through some techniques such as : listing, free writing, and clustering. The writer creates the topic and write all of words or phrases on her or his mind in the listing technique. Then, she/he writes freely/unlimited about the topic because she/he is looking for a specific focus on free writing. On clustering she/he can generate or collect ideas.

2. In the planning (outlining) stage, the writer makes an outline from the previous stage. This stage has three steps: brainstorming by listing, grouping, writing the topic sentence and simple outlining. An outline is a plan for paragraph or passage.
3. In writing and revising drafts stage, the writer through four steps like writing the first rough draft, revising content and organization, proofreading the second draft and writing the final copy.

4. Techniques of teaching writing

Suyatno (2004, p.81), there are some media and techniques of teaching writing, such as writing by using picture, direct object, compare the direct object, compare two written texts, starting written text, summarize, outline, autobiography, make argumentative text into table, make table/diagram/graphic/maps into narrative text, journal, news, advertisement, diary, an announcement, a list, jigsaw, dictation, telegram, letter, and conversation.

Furthermore, he adds that in writing narrative text, techniques that can be used are writing by using autobiography, jigsaw and dictation.

5. Concepts of Narrative Text

There are some definitions of narrative text, Oshima & Hogue (2007, p.24), said that "Narration is story writing". We tell about events that have happened if we write a narrative paragraph. However, we use time order to arrange our sentences into a particular structure. Anderson in Permana & Zuhri (2013) reminds us that narrative text is a piece of text which tells a story and the purpose is to entertain and inform the reader or listener.

In addition, Shafiqah in Harland (20013, p.13) said that narrative text is types of text that intends to retell the story that happened in the past. The aims of narrative text is to amuse or entertain the readers about the story.

In conclusion, narrative text is the kind of text that intends to tell or retell the readers some events or story that happened in the past, and also to amuse or entertain the readers.

6. Generic Structure and Language Feature of Narrative Text

Soeprapto & Darwis (2006, p.49) and Wardiman & Jahur in Harland (2013, p.15) said that orientation, complication, and resolution are the generic structure of narrative text. All of them will be discussed below.

1. Orientation

It sets the scene and introduces the participants (characters) of the story,

the time and place of the story happened (Who, what, when and where).

2. Complication

A crisis or problem arises. A series of events in which the main character try to solve the problem.

3. Resolution

The crisis is resolved, it's the end of the story. The story probably become happy or sad ending.

Soeprapto and Darwis (2006, p.49) add the language features of narrative text. There are many action verbs, verbal and mental processes, use direct and indirect speeches, it usually uses Past Tense, linking words are used, related with time, there are sometimes use some dialogue and the tense can change, descriptive language is used to create listener's or reader's imagination. Furthermore Shafiqah in Harland (20013, p.13) also says that narrative text has six linguistic features. They are : it uses active verbs, past tense, conjunction, the first person (I or We) or third person (he, she, or they), spesific nouns, adjective and adverbs.

7. Concepts of Autobiography

Keraf (2007, p.141) says that autobiography is a story that tells the writer's story or experience. The purpose is to share interesting event or story in

her/his life and her/his private experience.

Mungo (1999, p.1) also states that autobiography is a big story which only the writer can tell the event in her/his life into a story. She/He writes a story about her/himself.

Gusdorf in Karpiak (2000, p.34) said: "The author of an autobiography gives himself the job of narrating his own history". Events that have happened in her/his personal life will be shown in a written text.

According to explanation above, we can conclude that autobiography is a written text that reflect or narrating about the writer's interresting experience or story into a big story.

8. Autobiography Technique in Teaching Writing Narrative Text

Suyatno (2004, p.89) states some steps to apply autobiography technique in teaching writing narrative text, such as, (1) teacher give a short explanation about autobiography, (2) students take a piece of paper, (3) students write about themselves based on their own perseption, (4) teacher reflect the teaching-learning material. The purpose of this technique is to give students a chance for write or tell about themselves. They are free to write anything about themselves into written text.

According to Mungo (1999, p.1) there are some guidance that teachers give to students to write their own life story into narrative text. They are:

1. Who are you ?
2. Where do you come from ?
3. Where did you born ?
4. Are you happy in your childerhood ?
5. Where do you school ?
6. How about your future ?
7. How about your love story ?
8. What about children ?
9. Who is your bestfriend ?
10. What is your job ?
11. Is it right that life start from 40, 50, 60 years old ?
12. What happend in the world ?
13. How about your feeling after getting old ?

B. PROCEDURE OF TEACHING WRITING NARRATIVE TEXT BY USING AUTOBIOGRAPHY TECHNIQUE

1) Pre-Teaching Activities

In the pre teaching activities, the teacher should do several actions. They are as follows:

- a. *Teacher opens the class by greeting the students necessary.*
Its purpose to give the student good impression.

- b. *Teacher gives three different kinds of text and asks the students some questions. That purpose to brainstorm the students and remind the topic. Also memorizing things, event, and action which ever occurred or heard before.*

2) Whilst-Teaching Activities

a. Exploration

The teacher asks more questions about the topic. For example :

- 1) Do you know about narrative text ?
- 2) What is the purpose of narrative text?
- 3) What examples of narrative text that you ever read ?
- 4) What is definition of autobiography?

b. Elaboration

The teacher explains about definition and the purpose of narrative text, the generic structure of narrative text, the language features and definition of autobiography by using example.

c. Confirmation

In this activity, *the teacher asks students to write or do exercise to check their understanding. The teacher asks students to write or reflect their own life story into narrative text. The story is written by answering these questions :*

- 1). Who are you ?
- 2). Where do you come from ?
- 3). Where did you born ?

- 4). Where do you school ?
- 5). How about your love ?
- 6). Who is your bestfriend ?

After that, the teacher collects all of students' narrative text and measures how far the students have understood about writing narrative text by using autobiography technique. The teacher also gives appreciation on students' achievement

3) Post-Teaching Activities

This phase is to conclude the lesson and giving home work. The teacher leads students to conclude the teaching material by giving questions.

C. Conclusion

Based on the previous discussion, we can conclude that students have some problems in writing, such as: they have lack of vocabulary, they are difficult to use appropriate grammar, they do not understand about the topic, and they are not motivated in writing, so that they usually think that writing is an activity that will make them bored. For example in writing narrative text, if they do not comprehend the text, they could not write or share anything. Therefore, the teacher should overcome these problems. The teacher may use one of interesting techniques in teaching writing narrative text. For example, teaching writing narrative text by using autobiography technique, it is one of

interesting technique in teaching writing narrative text. Through this technique students write their own life story, they can choose the interesting event that happened in their life, and then narrate it into a written form. In implementing this technique, teacher gives some guidance to make students write the narrative text easily.

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