

AN ANALYSIS OF THE FIRST GRADE STUDENTS' ABILITY TO WRITE NOTICE AT JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL 31 PADANG

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Abstract

The purpose of this research was to describe the first grade students' ability of Junior High School 31 Padang in writing notice. There are four components; content, language features, appropriate words, and mechanics that should be considered in writing notice. The population of this study was the first grade students of Junior High School 31 Padang. To select the sample the researcher used cluster random sampling technique, and the total number of sample was twenty eight (28) students. The result of this study showed that in general the first grade students's ability of Junior High School 31 Padang in writing notice was moderate. In detail, the students' ability in writing notice was moderate ability to write content, the students' ability in using language features was moderate, the students' ability in using appropriate words (vocabulary) was moderate, and the students' ability in applying mechanics also was moderate. the researcher gives suggestions to the English teacher to teach the students with more explanations and exercises to write notice. The researcher suggests the English teachers to pictures to help them to increase their attention about content, language features, vocabulary, and mechanics in writing notice. In addition, the teachers should pay attention to the sentence structure and vocabulary.

Key words: Notice, Content, Language Features, Mechanics

A. Introduction

Writing is a productive skill that is expected to develop the communicative competence besides speaking indirectly. Speaking and writing are active or productive skills. In schools, the academic achievements of students are measured through the proficiency of productive skills and the receptive skills.

In the implementation of curriculum 2013, teaching writing at Junior High School uses genre scientific approach. In these approach students should know different kinds of text. Each of them has characteristics such as the purposes, the form, social function, and language features. The first grade students of SMPN 31 Padang have studied short functional text such as shopping lists (a list that you make all of things you want to

buy when you go shopping), food labels (an information about the product), announcements (an important statement to inform something), greeting cards (a message), short messages as a written piece of information to another person, and notice/ cautions as a sign that gives information (Zaida, 2013). Based on curriculum 2013, notice was in point 3.9 in basic competence of lesson plan which is learned by the students in the second semester.

Writing skill is different from speaking (Broughton. *et al.*, 1980: 116). Writing is an essential form to communicate with others indirectly. Many students find the difficulties when they write notice. The most important problem is about the language features of notice, so they cannot be a good at writing skill. They cannot understand about the content in notice. Sometimes they also do not use spelling, punctuation, and capitalization (mechanic text) exactly in writing notice.

In studying of writing notice, the students should know how to express ideas by considering the language features. The characteristics of notice are: the purpose of an imperative that gives a command or an order, using “please” to be more polite, notice has two form, they are positive and negative, sometimes use “No + V.ing” to prohibit something. There were two media

that the teachers used to teach notice. They were video and pictures. In using video, the teachers teach notice by showing generally without separating negative and positive form. On the other hand, in using picture, teachers showed the example of notice based on the function one by one like to prohibit, to inform, and to warn.

In assessing writing ability, there are five components in writing (Haris: 2001), namely: content, form, grammar, style, and mechanics. First, content is the substance of writing, the ideas expressed. Second, form is the organization of content. Third, grammar is the employment of grammatical forms and syntactic patterns. Fourth, style is the choice of structures and lexical items to give a particular tone or flavor to the writing. Last, mechanics are the use of the graphic conventions of the language.

The researcher limited the study about content, language features, appropriate words, and mechanic in writing notice at the first grade students in Junior High School 31 Padang.

B. Research Method

The design of this research was descriptive research. According to Gay (1987: 189), descriptive research involves collecting data in order to answer the questions concerning the current status of

the subject of the study. This study was to describe the ability of first grade students at Junior High School 31 Padang in writing notice. According to Sukmadinata (2007: 54), descriptive research means a research is purpose to describe the phenomenons exist, that happen now or happened in the past.

The population of this research was the first grade students of Junior High School 31 Padang. The population was 251 students. the researcher took class VIII.7 as sample, the number of students was 31, but just 28 students came to the class. It was about 11.2 % from the population because the total number of the population was large. According to Gay (1987: 102), in descriptive research, sample should be at least 10% of the population. It means that more than 10% is better. In this research, the researcher used cluster random sampling technique to select the sample. Cluster random sampling technique means sampling technique in which group (not individual) is randomly selected. Gay *et al* (2009: 129) state that cluster random sampling may be the only feasible method of selecting a sample when the researcher is unable to obtain a list of all members of the population. All of students in the first grade of Junior High School 31 Padang have studied with the same

curriculum, syllabus, materials, time allocation, but from different teachers.

The instrument of this research was writing test. The researcher asked the students to write the notice in negative and positive form based on appropriate pictures. The researcher gave the students 45 minutes to do the test. The aspect that the writer found from the students' ability in writing content, the the language features of notice, appropriate words (vocabulary), and mechanics in writing notice.

C. Findings and Discussion

➤ Findings

The data consisted of the results of the writing test to write notice to 28 students (class VIII.7) as the sample of this research. The highest score was 92.5 and the lowest was 25. It means the first grade students' ability to write notice at Junior High School 31 Padang was moderate. It was indicated by the evidence that 67.86%.

In detail, based on scoring scale for controlled writing the ability of the first grade students in junior high school 31 Padang in writing notice that write content was moderate. The researcher described the ability of students to use language features in writing notice. The maximum possible score for one question was 1 and the minimum possible score was 0. The

result of the test showed that the highest score was 20 and the lowest score was 7. The result of data showed that 21 students (75%) got moderate ability. It can be classified that the ability of the first grade students in junior high school 31 Padang in writing notice to use language features was moderate.

The students ability in using appropriate words (vocabulary) was moderate indicated by the fact 67.89%, its about 19 students got moderate ability. The last components in writing notice is applying mechanics. The students ability in applying mechanics to write notice was moderate ability by the percentage 60.71%.

➤ **Discussions**

In general, the students' ability to write notice was moderate. It means that the students' ability in writing notice still has several mistakes about content, language features, appropriate words (vocabulary), and using mechanics. Therefore, there are four criteria that the researcher analyzed in writing notice; the first grade students' ability to write content in notice, using language features in writing notice, using appropriate words in writing notice, and the last applying mechanics in writing notice.

The first grade students ability to write content was moderate. It was

indicated by percentage 67.85% had moderate. In this case content are made by the students were wrong. Another mistake that the researcher was found the students' ability to use language features was moderate. It was indicated 75%. The students had problem in writing the simple present tense.

In using appropriate words, the students' ability was moderate that is indicated by 67.86%. Based on the students' answer sheet, the students have mistakes in using appropriate word. In applying mechanics, the students' ability was moderate ability. The percentage ability was 60.71%. Based on analyzed the data analysis, students did not attention pay to writing spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.

D. Conclusions And Suggestions

➤ **Conclusions**

As already discussed previously, the first grade students' ability in writing notice at Junior High School 31 Padang was moderate. It was supported by the result of the data analysis that in general 19 students (67.86%) got moderate ability.

1. The ability of the first grade students of Junior High School 31 Padang to write content was moderate. This conclusion was indicated by the fact that there were 3 students (10.71%)

- got high ability, 19 students (67.86%) got moderate ability, and 6 students (21.43%) got low ability.
2. The ability of the first grade students of Junior High School 31 Padang in using language features was moderate. This conclusion was indicated by the fact that there were 1 student (3.57%) got high ability, 21 students (75%) got moderate ability, and 6 students (21.43%) got low ability.
 3. The ability of the first grade students of Junior High School 31 Padang in using appropriate words (vocabulary) was moderate. This conclusion was indicated by the fact that there were 4 students (14.28%) got high ability, 19 students got moderate ability (67.86%), and 5 students (17.86%) got low ability.
 4. The ability of the first grade students of Junior High School 31 Padang in applying mechanics was moderate. This conclusion was indicated by the fact that there were 6 students (21.43%) got high ability, 17 students (60.71%) got moderate ability, and 5 students (17.86%) got low ability.

➤ **Suggestions**

Based on the conclusion above, the researcher gives several suggestions as follows:

1. The students' ability in writing notice was moderate generally, therefore, based on it the researcher suggests to the English teacher to teach the students with more explanations and exercises to write notice. For examples, ask the students where they usually find notice, what the social function, mention or write them on white board. Show pictures to them that contains notice with spelling, punctuation, and capitalization to make them familiar about it. In the other words, the teachers should pay attention to the sentence structure and vocabulary.
2. The students are expected to realize that notice has functions in our environment such as for discipline and for the arrangement.
3. The researcher suggests to the next researcher to do the research on notice with different aspects like factors that make students' face difficulties in understanding or writing notice.

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