

**AN ANALYSIS OF THE SECOND YEAR STUDENTS' ABILITY TO WRITE  
A SHORT MESSAGE AT MTsN KURANJI 1 PADANG**

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**Abstract**

The purpose of this research was to analyze the second year students' ability to write a short message at MTsNKuranji Padang. In writing a short message, the students should know three components of short message: grammar, appropriate words, and mechanics. The population of this research was the second year students of MTsNKuranji Padang. The total number of sample was 32 (thirty two) students chosen by using cluster random sampling technique. The data were collected through writing test by asking the students to write a short message. The reliability of the test was moderate (.55). The result of this research showed that in general the writing ability of the second year students of MTsNKuranji Padang to write a short message was moderate. It was proved by finding that 62.5 % students had moderate ability. In detail, the students' ability to write the components of short message was moderate. It was proved by finding that 90.6 % students had moderate ability. Students' ability in using grammar was moderate ability. It was proved by finding that 84.4 % students had moderate ability. Students' ability in using appropriate words was moderate ability. It was proved by finding that 53.2 % students had moderate ability. Students' ability in using mechanics was moderate ability. It was proved by finding that 59.3 % students had moderate ability. Referring to the result of this research, the researcher gave suggestion to the teachers that English teachers should give more explanation about a short message and give more exercises to write a short message. Next, the students are expected to increase their attention to the grammar, mechanics and appropriate words of short message and do more practices in writing a short message.

**Key Word: Writing, Ability, Short Message**

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**Introduction**

English is an international language, which is used by millions of people all over the world. In Indonesia, English is a foreign language. We use it to understand our world

through listening and reading and to communicate our feeling, need, and desire through speaking and writing. Learning a foreign language is an integrated process that the learner should study the four basic

skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Writing is one of four basic skills, it is very important in teaching and learning English. Writing is one of the important skills to be mastered by the students. According to Oshima (1991:8) writing is a skill that people in all walks of life must perform almost daily. Short message is written messages from one person or department in an organization, it is used to inform someone about something or ask someone to do something. Messages are usually written in a hurry, and either left or sent, often by hand, to someone who is absent at the time but who will probably be arriving soon.

Based on the researcher's experience in teaching practice at MTsNKuranji Padang, many students still had problem in writing. Then, even though there were several students who were good at English speaking, they still had difficulties to express their ideas and argument in writing.

In general, the purpose of this research was to describe the second year students' ability to write a short message text. The specific purposes of this research were as follows:

1. To describe the second year students' ability in writing three components of

short message at MTsNKuranji Padang.

2. To describe the second year students' ability in using grammar to write a short message at MTsNKuranji Padang.
3. To describe the second year students' ability in using appropriate words (vocabulary) to write a short message at MTsNKuranji Padang.
4. To describe the second year students' ability in using mechanics (punctuation, spelling and capitalization) to write a short message at MTsNKuranji Padang.

### **Research Method**

This research was a descriptive research. According to Gay (1987:189), Descriptive research involves collecting data in order to answer questions concerning the current status of the subject of the study. Gay (1987:102) states that population is a group of interest to the researcher, the group to which she or he would like the result of the study to be generalized. The population of this research was the second year students of MTsNKuranji Padang. Total number of population members was 338 students. Sampling is the process of selecting a number of populations for a study in such a

way that the individuals represent the larger group from which they were selected (Gay, 1987: 101).

Reliability is the degree to which a test consistently measures whatever to be measured (Gay, 1987: 135). To find out the reliability of the test, the researcher used inter-rater technique. It means that there were two scorers. The first scorer was the researcher and the second scorer was an English teacher in MTsNKuranji Padang WimalisS.PdI. To find out the reliability of the writing test, the researcher used Pearson Product Moment formula (Arikunto, 2010:213).

$$r_{xy} = \frac{N \sum xy - (\sum x) (\sum y)}{\sqrt{\{N \sum x^2 - (\sum x)^2\} \{N \sum y^2 - (\sum y)^2\}}}$$

Then the researcher used the degree of coefficient correlation based on Arikunto's idea (2012: 89):

.81 – 1.00 = very high

.61 – .80 = high

.41 – .60 = moderate

.21 – .40 = low

.00 – .20 = very low

Based on the result of analysis data, it was found coefficient correlation of the test was .55. It was categorized as moderate correlation.

## Findings

### 1. Students' Ability to Write a Short Message

Based on criteria of scoring, the highest score was 18 and the lowest was 1. The result of data analysis showed that the highest score based on students answer sheet was 15 and lowest was 7. The researcher also found the mean of students' score to write a short message was 11.5 and standard deviation was 2.88. The result of data showed that 7 students (21.8 %) got high ability, 20 students (62.5%) got moderate ability and 5 students (15.7 %) got low ability.

### 2. Students' Ability to Write Three Components of Short Message

The highest score for this component was 3 and the lowest score for this component was 1. Having calculated mean and standard deviation, it was found that the mean was 2.56 and standard deviation was 0.6. The result of data analysis showed that 0 student (0 %) got high ability, 29 students (90.6 %) got moderate ability and 3 students (9.4%) got low ability.

### **3. Students' Ability to Use Grammar**

The highest score for this component was 5 and the lowest score for this component was 1, she also found the mean was 3.06 and standard deviation was 1.06. After that, the researcher found that 3 students (9.4 %) got high ability, 27 students (84.4%) got moderate ability and 2 students (6.2%) got low ability.

### **4. Students' Ability to Use Appropriate Words**

The highest score for this component was 5 and the lowest score for this component was 1, she also found the mean was 3.15 and standard deviation was 0.8. After that, the researcher found that 9 students (28.1 %) got high ability, 17 students (53.2 %) got moderate ability and 6 students (18.7 %) got low ability students.

### **5. Students' Ability to Use Mechanics**

The results showed that the highest score was 5 and the lowest score was 1.5. Then, the researcher calculated Mean and Standard Deviation. The result of Mean was 3.34 and Standard Deviation was 0.79. The result showed that 12 students (16%) had high ability, 54 students (72%) had moderate ability, and 9 students (12%) had low ability.

## **Discussions**

As already discussed before, the based on the result of the research, in general, the students' ability to write a short message was moderate (62.5 %). It means that the students' ability in writing a short message was good, but they still had several mistakes in grammar, mechanics, and appropriate words. It was indicated by the fact that the second year students had some mistakes in each aspect of writing a short message, such as: use grammar, use appropriate words, and use mechanics.

### **1. Students' Ability to Write a Short Message**

The ability of second year students to write a short message was moderate. It was indicated by the number of students (62.5%) had moderate ability.

For example:

Student's writing:

Dear Ahmad

I am so sorry I can't bring your mathematic book today. I don't feel so good. Thanks

Alvin

In writing a short message, the students wrote subject "I" with be "am" without space. Some students still had mistakes to use grammar, appropriate word and mechanics.

## **2. Students' Ability to Write Three Components of Short Message**

The ability of second year students to write three components of short message was moderate. It was indicated by the number of students (90.6 %)who had moderate ability.

For example:

Student's writing:

Iam so sorry I can't bring  
your mathematic book today.  
I don't feel so good.

The correct one:

Dear Yana

Iam so sorry I can't bring  
your mathematic book today.  
I don't feel so good.

Alvin

In writing three components of short message, they wrote content only. They should write them completely.

## **3. Students' Ability to Use Grammar**

The ability of second year students to use grammar was moderate. It was indicated by the number of students (84.4 %)who had moderate ability.

For example:

Student's writing:

Dear Yana

Do you can accompany me  
go to a library? I want read  
book math. Thanks

Rina

The correct one:

Dear Yana

Can you accompany me to go  
to library? I want to read  
math book.

Rina

In using grammar, the students used modal and auxiliary because they combined each other. The students should choose one of them.

## **4. Students' Ability to Use Appropriate Words**

The ability of second year students to use appropriate words was moderate. It was

indicated by the number of students (53.2 %) who had moderate ability. Based on the students' answer sheet, the students had mistakes in using appropriate words.

For example:

Student's writing:

Dear Keyza

Can you accompany me to go to the canteen?I wish buy orange juice and fried rice.

Rara

The correct one:

Dear Keyza

Can you accompany me to go to the canteen?I want buy orange juice and fried rice.

Rara

In using appropriate words, the students wrote "wish" for ordering something but they should use "want". The word "wish" is not used for activities but hope. The word "want" is used for activities.

## 5. Students' Ability to Use Mechanics

The ability of second year students to use mechanics was moderate. It was indicated by the number of students (59.3 %) who had moderate ability. Based on the

data many students made mistakes in spelling, punctuation and capitalization.

For example:

Student's writing:

Dear iRfan

Iam so sorry I can't accompany you to go to library,

hasBi

The correct one:

Dear Irfan

I am so sorry I can't accompany you to go to library.

Hasbi

In using mechanics, some students still used capital letter in middle of the person name. The students used comma at the end of the sentence. In fact, they should use period.

## Conclusions

Based on the result of data analysis, the researcher concludes that the ability of second year students of MTsNKuranji Padang in writing a short message was moderate. It was supported by the result of

data analysis that general 20 students (62.5 %) got moderate ability.

1. The ability of the second year students of MTsNKuranji Padang to write three components of short message was moderate. It was supported by the fact that 0 student (0 %) got high ability, 29students (90.6%) got moderate ability, and 3 students (9.4%) got low ability.
2. The ability of the second year students of MTsNKuranji Padang to use grammar was moderate. It was supported by the fact that 3 students (9.4 %) got high ability, 27 students (84.4%) got moderate ability, and 3 students (6.2%) got low ability.
3. The ability of the second year students of MTsNKuranji Padang to use appropriate words was moderate. It was supported by the fact that 9 students (28.1 %) got high ability, 17 students (53.2 %) got moderate ability, and 6 students (18.7 %) got low ability.

4. The ability of the second year students of MTsNKuranji Padang to use mechanics was moderate. It was supported by the fact that 8 students (25 %) got high ability, 19 students (59.3 %) got moderate ability, and 5 students (15.7 %) got low ability.

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