

**AN ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS WRITING ABILITY IN USING
TRANSITION SIGNAL IN DESCRIPTIVE PARAGRAPH AT
EIGHTH GRADE OF SMP ISLAM TERPADU DHU'afa
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Abstract: *The purpose of the research was to analyze the students' ability in writing a paragraph at the eighth grade of SMP Islam Terpadu Dhu'afa Merangin. Based on the background of the problem, the students' still difficult in using transition signal especially in writing descriptive paragraph. The design of the research was descriptive quantitative research. The sample of the research was the studentss at the eight grade of SMP Islam Terpadu Dhu'afa Merangin Academic Year 2021/2022. The sample consist of 21 students. The technique to taken the sample was total sampling. The technique to collected the data was used test. Then the data was analyze to find the mean score the students' writing ability in using transition signal of descriptive paragraph. Based on the result of the research, the data shown that the mean score of students was 70.24. it can be concluded that some students still confused in writing descriptive paragraph by using transition signal.*

Key words: *Writing ability, Transition Signal, Descriptive Paragraph*

INTRODUCTION

Writing is the most difficult one in learning English which needed to control the content, format, sentence structure, vocabulary, punctuation, spelling, etc. It means that ability in writing needed a special skill and process in organized language material by used learners' own words and ideas to be a good composition.

It is considered as the most difficult skill to develop which they often encounter. Writing is one of English skill that must be mastered by the students, and also an important language skill to be developed; the result of studying language can be seen in the student's writing ability. If the students are able to write well, it means they purpose

of studying language has a good result.

While in writing a paragraph, the students should know how to develop an idea or ideas in a paragraph. In developing the idea in a paragraph the student should be able to understand the used of transition signal, as the signal transition is part of writing, a paragraph no signal transition will not be able to developed and no clear purpose and goal for the reader. Transition signal is a conjunction that connects sentences or paragraphs from one another.

Based on the data from the English teacher, the KKM for English subject at the eighth grade of SMP Islam Terpadu Dhu'afa is 75. From 21 students, 17 students got difficulties in writing ability, generally the students were not able to write a sentence in English correctly.

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that there were some problems of students' writing ability of descriptive paragraph. Therefore the researchers have conducted a research to analyze that problem. The objective of the

research was to find out the students' writing ability in using transition signal of descriptive paragraph at the eighth grade of SMP Islam Terpadu Dhu'afa Merangin.

Based on review of some relevant researches, this research have different materials and samples of the research. So the result of the research was different from three previous researches. First, Yuliana (2012) was conducted a research with the title "An analysis of students' ability in writing Application letter at IPS class of SMA Negeri 2 Merangin. The result found that there were 5 students' or 16.7% got score under 60. Second, Marlina (2011) was conducted a research about "A study of the third year of English Department students' in writing comparison and contrast paragraph. The result of the research shown that the students' got difficulties to state main idea, organizing idea, language use and vocabulary. Third, Gusniwati (2012) was conducted the research with the title "An analysis of students' ability in writing chronological order essay at the sixth semester of English Study Progam of STKIP YPM. The result shown that

the average score was 53.9. It means that the students' writing ability was still low.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Related Theory

Concept of Writing

Writing is an activity conducted by every student when the process to learned in teaching every day. According to Tarigan (2013:7), writing is language that is used for indirect communication, not face to face with others. In addition, writing is an activity white require experience, time, opportunity, and skilled. If from is fourth of ability which have been mentioned not haven't hence activity write will not take place at ease, all that require process and knowledge of severally.

Nation (2013; 7) stated that writing is an activity that can usefully be prepared for by work in the other skills of listening, speaking and reading. According to Semi (2013:7), writing is a skill that doing through some step that must be act with instructing skill, art and steps so these all be effective.

Based on some definitions above, the researchers can be concluded that writing is an activity to presented and expressed an opinion, idea or ability in written form. It was found in many forms, for example: letters, cars, diaries, etc. It also helped the students to be created person in taught and learned activity. And always improve their knowledge.

Concept of Ability

According to Robin (2011: 5), ability is the quality of being able to do something, especially the physical, mental, financial, or legal power to accomplish something. According to dictionary, ability in language is persons' ability to use language standard looked form language system.

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that the ability is principally being able to do something, the quality or power the perform something. Ability is quality of thing. So, it able to do something physically or mentally, someone can be considerers ability in language arrangement, the capability in language is mean able to speaking, reading, listening and writing.

The Concept of Paragraph

Paragraph is a form of written that consist of some sentences. Every sentences has correlation, in a paragraph usually tells about a topic. The topic supported by some sentences and close by concluding sentences. Every good paragraph must coherence and unity, its make written well.

According to Semi (2013:12):

“Paragraph is a group of sentences that refers to a topic. It introduces the topic and controls the information given in the other sentences. The other sentences add details to the topic and are called the supporting sentences.”

In other hand, Bram (2007:12) stated that paragraph is as a group of sentences which contain relevant information about one main idea or central idea. From the statements above paragraph is a group of sentences that has topic and main idea. The first sentences can called topic sentence. And the other called supporting sentences.

From the statement above it can concluded that paragraph is a corps of sentences that unite and consist of one topic. The main idea in a paragraph usually in a beginning of paragraph,

but also can in the middle or last of paragraph.

Semi (2013:12) stated that there are two characteristics of paragraph; (1) sordid in the text about five words, and (2) all sentences refer to a topic or a theme. In addition Semi (2013:12) said that the purpose and the function of paragraph are to make easy reader in understand and comprehend and to differentiate part of description.

A good paragraph is a paragraph that has unity, coherence and sufficiency of development. Unity means in a paragraph only have one main idea is discussed. Coherence means in a paragraph must tied all of sentences in that paragraph and supporting the main idea and the movement from one sentences to next sentence must be logical and smooth, and in sufficiency development its means that a good paragraph must clearly in gives explanation and in a paragraph must consist of many sentences.

In addition Bram (2013:13) stated that, to achieve the coherence, the writer needs to use transition, transition signal are words such as first, second, next, finally, therefore and however, or phrase such as I

conclusion, on the other hand and as the result.

Topic Sentence

The topic sentence may be the first, middle or last sentence in a paragraph. Example of topic sentence is in the first sentence.

Supporting Sentence

Supporting sentence develop the topic sentence. That is, they explain the topic sentence by giving reasons.

In other word, supporting sentences have function to support the topic sentence by giving reason, facts, statistic, quotation and so on which can support and explain the topic sentence.

Concluding Sentence

A concluding sentence serves three purposes:

1. It signals the end of paragraph. (Use an end-of-paragraph signal as “in conclusion”, “in summary”, “Finally” etc.)
2. It summarizes the main points of the paragraph.
3. It gives a final comment on your topic and leaves the reader with the important ideas to think about.

From the statement above the researchers conclude that every good

paragraph must have unity, that only have one main idea.

Descriptive paragraph

Rini (2008:24) says that descriptive paragraph is one type of paragraph that it is very clear depiction of a thing that is discussed in paragraphs. Describe or information provided can be observed by the five senses, a sequence of events logically and order a few things based on priority, be it quality and quantity.

Descriptive paragraph usually formed by a certain angle so that the paragraph was impressed describe an object from a particular angle or direction, moving toward the other. Most important is the author attempts to give an explanation to something that the reader can imagine about the things defined by the author after interpret descriptive paragraph. So, by just reading, readers should be able to visualize an object described in paragraph even though he had never seen at all the objects directly.

It is clear that descriptive paragraph is a paragraph that tries to give an overview to the readers so that they seemed to feel, hear, taste, smell objects or matters discussed in paragraphs. Various expressions of

feelings such as happiness, melancholy, can also be described by paragraph. So, through a descriptive paragraph, readers should be able to visualize something or to understand what is discussed in the descriptive paragraph.

According to Rini (2008:25), there are two characteristics of descriptive paragraph:

Order of place / spacial order

Spacial layout such order stated; there, beside, near, above, behind, on, at, in.

In order of place or spacial order, an object is described starting from a certain point of view, move to the corner that will be described. Object can follow the following depiction:

- a. From far to near (or vice versa)
- b. From left to right (or vice versa)
- c. From high to low (or vice versa)
- d. From the outside to the inside (or vice versa)
- e. From the general to the particular (or vice versa)

Sequence expression / order of time

Sequence order is used as a marker of a sequence of events that take place logically. Markers that could be used are:

- a. To begin with

- b. First of all
- c. Then
- d. After
- e. Words
- f. Before
- g. When
- h. At the same time

The concept of transition signal: process of descriptive paragraph

Definition of transition signals in writing paragraph

According to Oshima and Hogue (1983:3)'' some transition signals lead your reader forward and imply the building of an idea or thought, while others make your reader compare ideas or drawn conclusions from the preceding thoughts''.

Djuhari (2008:139) says that 'Avoid the forwarding of jumping up and down because will make reader confuse in identifying which happened time medley ahead which is back.

According to Djuhari (2008:112) transition signal in each paragraph supporting to pass friction this topic of from paragraph which is one to other paragraph. It means that on each supporting paragraph transition signal is in need to support sub-topic shifts from one paragraph to another paragraph.

From the explanation above, the researchers can conclude that transition Signal is connecting words or phrases in writing paragraph

Type of Transition Signal

According Oshima and Hogue (1983:42), transition signal can be categorized into four groups by grammatical function. In the chart below, the four groups are:

Sentence Connectors

The phrases in this group usually appear at the beginning of sentences. They may also appear in the middle (normally following the subject) or at the end of sentences. They are always separated from the rest of the sentence by commas.

Conjunctive Adverbs

Conjunctive adverbs (except too) may also appear at the beginning in the middle or at the end of sentences, and are separated by commas.

Clause Connectors

a. Coordinating conjunction

It used with a comma to join two independent clauses to form a compound sentence.

b. Subordinating conjunctions

These word (and many others including because, when, and so that)

introduce a dependent clause, which is joined to an independent clause to form a complex sentence.

c. Other

The transition signals in this group include adjectives such as additional, prepositions such as in spite of, and nouns such as example.

Based on explanations above, it can conclude that transition signal generally used four grammatical functions there are sentence connectors, coordinating conjunction, subordinating conjunction, and amixed group called other.

METHODOLOGY OF STUDY

The design of the research is descriptive quantitative research. It is a non-experimental type of research whereby the variables are measured using numerical terms. This research use method, numbers, and range from data collection which involved; value in firm of figures, tables, diagrams and to collected information about one cased which is tendency condition. It describes a phenomenon occurs in teaching and learning process.

In addition, descriptive research aims to accurately and systematically

describe a population, situation or phenomenon, this design can use a wide variety of research methods to investigate one or more variables, and a quantitative research method that attempts to collect quantifiable information for statistical analysis of the sample.

According to Arikunto (in Yuliana, 2011:14) descriptive research is research that aims to collect information about one case which is tendency condition according to the fact when the research is doing.

Beside that, the researchers would be used the quantitative method. Arikunto (2006:12) says "Quantitative studies the name implies, many claimed to used numbers, ranging from data collection, interpretation of this data, as well as the appearance of the result". Sugiono (2008:49) explains "this quantitative method was also called the positivistic were there was value in firm of figures, tables, diagrams and so forth".

Based on explanations, it would be included that descriptive quantitative research is the method used numbers, ranging from data

collection and also called the positivistic there is value in firm of figures, tables, diagrams and to collected information about one case which is tendency condition.

Population and Sample

The population of this research was Eighth grade at SMP Islam Terpadu Dhu'afa Merangin Academic year 2021/2022. There is one class at the eighth grade which consists of 21 students. The researcher used total sampling technique, it means that all students as sample.

Technique of Collecting the Data

This research used test to collect the data. According to Arikunto (2010:193), test is series of question or exercise used to measure skill knowledge, intelligence, ability, and have belongs by individual or group.

In addition, according to Sudijono (2007:66), test is appliance or procedure utilized in order to measurement and assessment, what is in form of giving duty or assignment so that can be result from a value symbolizing behavior or achievement.

Research Instrument

The researcher used test and document to collecting data. It is used for the key informant. According to Arikunto (2010:193), test is a set of questions or exercise and the others instruments that used to measure skill, intelligence, ability or aptitude that had by individual or group. The purpose of using test in this research is to get the score and find out the students ability in writing descriptive paragraph.

In this test, the researcher noticed the structure of language, content, and grammatically used the neatness and clarity of the paragraph. Then the researchers collect the data from the student result in writing by scoring rubric for grammatically.

The instruments of this research are the test and documentation. The test would be given to the students' writing test to know the level the students writing ability. Document used to complete the data research. From the result of those data, the researcher could conclude the result of this research.

Technique of Analyzing the Data

The researchers used the descriptive quantitative in analyzing

the data. The researchers describe about writing ability in using transition signal of descriptive paragraph. Researcher used following formula as Sudijono (2011: 43)

$$P = \frac{f}{n} \times 100 \%$$

In which:

P = percentage

F = frequency of the respondent

N = total number of respondent

The average of the students' scores was calculated by used formula according to Sudijono (2011: 80)

$$M = \frac{\sum fx}{N}$$

In which:

M = The mean

$\sum fx$ = The number of multiplication result between midpoint from each interval, with the frequency

N = The number of students

The formula above, the researcher used to classify the students who got score 0-74= (%), students got score 75-100= (%).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the result of research. The research subject was

students at the eight grade of SMP Islam Terpadu Dhu'afa Merangin. The students were consisting of 21 students.

So, it was consisted into two parts, such as result and discussion. In result part, the researcher presents the data about the students' writing ability of using transition signal in descriptive paragraph and in discussion part; the researchers discusses the finding referring the research question that already mentioned in the previous chapter. This research was used the students' score as the data.

Classification of test students complete and not complete of students' writing ability of using transition signal in descriptive paragraph:

Score Interval	Frequency	Percentage
75 – 100	10	47.62
0 – 74	11	52.38
Total	21	100 %

Based on the results of this research that had been conducted, among 21 students, it is found that 16 students got > 75. There were 10 students got 75-100 (47.62 %), 11 students got 0-74 (52.38 %). And based on the table only 10 students

who completed and 11 students who not complete.

From 21 students of the eighth grade SMP Islam Terpadu Dhu'afa Merangin, it can seen that were got mean of students' score writing ability of using transition signal in descriptive paragraph was 70.24. In this mid test, there was not something to create the students' writing ability of using transition signal. It was mid test for them. Based on the percentage any some students still confused how to writing a paragraph in the form of descriptive paragraph, and did not write the paragraph with carefully.

After analyzing the data from the mean of the students' writing ability of using transition signal in descriptive paragraph in mid the score which mean is 70.24. So, there is enhancement from the both result. Some students still confused how to write a paragraph in the form descriptive paragraph of using transition signal. Besides that in test that are 10 students that score 75-100 (47.62%) and 11 students that score 0-74 (52.38%). Furthermore, it can be concluded in this test that 10 students got value of national

standard for KKM or completed and 11 students got not value of national standard for KKM or not completed.

Based on the result of the research above can be compare with the relevant research by Marlina (in Verra, 2011: 2) entitled "a study of the third year of English department students' ability in writing comparison and contrast paragraph at STKIP YPM Bangko academic year 2011/2012" she said in her thesis the problem were the students feel difficult to stating the main idea, furthermore, the problem may deal with the way organizing ideas, language use and vocabulary, and the result for her thesis it can be concluded that the students' ability was still low.

The thesis by Marlina was strength, based on expert opinion by Haswin (in Marlina, 2011: 2), the students are not able to write event one English paragraph, when the students starts to write they feel very difficult to write paragraph, the researcher agreed that writing was difficult lesson to be learn for the students, based on the researcher research in analysis of the students writing ability of using ability in

descriptive paragraph at eighth grade in SMP Islam Terpadu Dhu'afa Merangin Academic year 2021/2022 was not good.

Based on result above can be concluded that writing was difficult lesson to be learn, can be seen from the students score, the mean of test is 70.24. So, it creates the great grade from their studied about writing ability. Actually, as learner we must repeat about the writing ability because in this case we need the deep understanding of writing test, and the students' ability in writing paragraph of using transition signal was still low.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusions

Based on the finding and discussing in the previous chapter, researchers concluded that students' writing ability in using transition signal in descriptive paragraph at eighth grade in SMP Islam Terpadu Dhu'afa Merangin Academic year 2021/2022 in mid test not completed. It showed by the data that total students who got 0-74 were bigger than others.

Based on the result test, the students' writing ability in using transition signal of descriptive paragraph at eighth grade in SMP Islam Terpadu Dhu'afa Merangin Academic year 2021/2022 was completed. It showed by the data that total students who got 0-74 were bigger than others. It can be concluded after analyzing the data from the mean score of the students' writing ability in using transition signal of descriptive paragraph in test was not completed with mean score was 70.24. So, there is enhancement from both results. It can be concluded that students ability in writing descriptive paragraph by using transition signal is low.

Suggestion

Based on the conclusion above, researchers wants to give some suggestions as below:

a. For teacher

Because of this test ever gave to the students', so the teacher must defend strategy when teach the writing, in order to they feel fun to learn about writing.

b. For students

The students must enjoy in writing paragraph because all activity in study English the

firstly is writing.

c. For SMP Islam Terpadu Dhu'afa Merangin

Students need some books to improve their writing ability. So, it can make students get more information about writing ability.

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