

ABSTRACT

Fatmala, Lailatul. 2016. *Improving the Seventh Grade Students' Ability in Writing Skill Through Theme-Based Approach at SMP Negeri 2 Bangorejo in the 2015/2016 Academic Year*. Thesis. English Education Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Muhammadiyah University of Jember. Advisors : (1) Dr. Moh. Hatip, M.Pd (2) Anita Fatimatul L., M.Pd.

Key Word : Writing Ability, Theme-Based Approach.

Writing is process of referring to the act of gathering ideas and working with them until they are presented in a manner that is polished and comprehensible to readers. Many students are able to speak English well, but they are not always able to write it well without systematic training. It is difficult for students because it requires thinking which is always complicated and hard. Therefore, it is important to conduct a research entitled "Improving the Seventh grade students' skill through Theme-Based Approach". In this research, the problem is "How can the use of Theme-Based Approach improve the seventh grade students' writing skill at SMP Negeri 2 Bangorejo in the 2015/2016 academic year?", and the objective of this research referring to the research problem is "To improve the seventh grade students' writing skill through Theme-Based Approach at SMP Negeri 2 Bangorejo in the 2015/2016 academic year". Based on the research problem and the relevant theory, the action hypothesis of this research is described as follows: The use of Theme-Based Approach can improve the seventh grade students' writing skill by giving some activities that can make the students active and work at much higher level than is possible on their own at SMP Negeri 2 Bangorejo in the 2015/2016 academic year.

This research was done in two cycles in CAR (Classroom Action Research). The data was taken from observation and test. The research was conducted for the seventh grade student of junior high school at SMP Negeri 2 Bangorejo in the 2015-2016 academic year. In order to calculate the writing score, Alpha Formula was used. The data was analyzed using formula $E = n/N \times 100\%$.

Theme-Based Approach improved the students' writing skill both the score and the active participation by giving theme or topic in the teaching and learning process. The theme or topic runs through everything that happens in the classroom and acts as a connecting thread for pupils and teacher. The theme is selected based on the students' needs and interest. It allows students to develop their ideas in writing. It is proven from the percentage of students who got score ≥ 70 . It improved from 63.8% in the first cycle to 77.7% in the second cycle. In other hand, the percentage of the students' active participation in cycle one improved from 52.7% in the first meeting to 66.6% in the second meeting. And the percentage of the students' active participation in cycle two improved from 72.3% in the first meeting to 83.3% in the second meeting.