

IMPROVING THE VIII F STUDENTS' SKILL IN WRITING DESCRIPTIVE
TEXT BY USING THE POWER OF TWO STRATEGY AT SMPN 1
JAMBESARI DARUSSHOLAH IN 2015/2016 ACADEMIC YEAR

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Abstract: Writing is one of important skills in learning English. But in doing writing there is long process needed to construct sentences and generating ideas that make students feel difficult. Beside the students have problems in grammatical, vocabulary, organization, and mechanic. To face this common problem there must be some ways and solution to improve the student's writing ability through the available method. Therefore it is important to do the research entitled "Improving the VIII F students' skill in writing descriptive text by using The Power of Two strategy"

In this research, the problem is "How can the use of The Power of Two strategy improve the VIII F students' descriptive writing ability at SMPN 1 Jambesari Darussholah in 2015/2016 academic year?". The aim of this research is to find out how the use of The Power of Two strategy can improve the VIII F students' descriptive writing ability at SMPN 1 Jambesari Darussholah in 2015/2016 academic year.

The study research is Classroom Action Research (CAR). The research covered four stages of activities, they are planning of the action, implementing of the action, observing of the action, and reflecting of the action. The subject of the research is VIII F class because their writing score still low which consist of 26 students and to obtain the research data instrument used test and observation. The aspects of scoring writing test are grammar, vocabulary, organization, and mechanic. The data was analyzed using this formula: $\bar{X} = \frac{\sum x}{n}$

The result of the data analysis showed that the students' average score in cycle one is 78. The result of the students' average score in cycle two is 83. Beside 69.17% were active students in the class in cycle one and 88.45% were active students in the class in cycle two.

Based on the result it can be concluded that the use of The Power of Two strategy is able to improve the students' writing ability in writing a descriptive text at SMPN 1 Jambesari Darussholah in 2015/2016 academic year.

Keywords: The Power of Two strategy, writing ability

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MENINGKATKAN KETERAMPILAN MENULIS SISWA KELAS VIII F
DALAM MENULIS TEKS DESKRIPTIF DENGAN MENGGUNAKAN
STRATEGI THE POWER OF TWO DI SMPN 1 JAMBESARI
DARUSSHOLAH PADA TAHUN AKADEMIK 2015/2016

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Abstrak: Menulis adalah salah satu keterampilan penting dalam belajar bahasa Inggris. Namun dalam melakukan penulisan ada proses panjang yang diperlukan untuk membangun kalimat dan menghasilkan ide-ide yang membuat siswa merasa sulit. Selain itu siswa juga memiliki masalah didalam tata bahasa, kosa kata, organisasi, dan mekanik penulisan. Untuk menghadapi masalah umum ini harus ada beberapa cara dan solusi untuk meningkatkan kemampuan menulis siswa melalui metode yang tersedia. Oleh karena itu, penting untuk melakukan penelitian yang berjudul "Meningkatkan keterampilan siswa kelas VIII F dalam menulis teks deskriptif dengan menggunakan The Power of Two strategi"

Masalah dalam penelitian ini adalah "Bagaimana bisa menggunakan strategi The Power of Two meningkatkan kemampuan menulis deskriptif siswa kelas VIII F di SMPN 1 Jambesari Darussholah pada tahun akademik 2015/2016?". Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui bagaimana penggunaan strategi The Power of Two dapat meningkatkan kemampuan menulis deskriptif siswa kelas VIII F di SMPN 1 Jambesari Darussholah pada tahun akademik 2015/2016.

Studi penelitian ini adalah Penelitian Tindakan Kelas (PTK). Penelitian ini meliputi empat tahap kegiatan, yaitu perencanaan tindakan, pelaksanaan tindakan, pengamatan tindakan, dan refleksi tindakan. Subyek penelitian adalah kelas VIII F karena skor mereka masih rendah yang terdiri dari 26 siswa dan untuk memperoleh instrumen data menggunakan uji penelitian dan observasi. Aspek tes menulis yang digunakan adalah tata bahasa, kosa kata, organisasi, dan mekanik penulisan. Data dianalisis menggunakan rumus ini: $\bar{X} = \frac{\sum x}{n}$

Hasil analisis data menunjukkan bahwa skor rata-rata siswa dalam satu siklus adalah 78. hasil dari skor rata-rata siswa pada siklus dua adalah 83. Selain 69,17% adalah siswa aktif di kelas dalam siklus pertama dan 88,45% aktif siswa di kelas dalam siklus kedua. Berdasarkan hasil tersebut dapat disimpulkan bahwa penggunaan strategi The Power of Two mampu meningkatkan kemampuan menulis siswa dalam menulis teks deskriptif di SMPN 1 Jambesari Darussholah pada tahun akademik 2015/2016.

Kata kunci: Menulis kemampuan, The Power of Two

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INTRODUCTION

English is a tool for communication either verbal or written in daily used. Communication is to understand and express information, thought and feeling to develop science, technology, and culture. The ability to communicate within the meaning of the whole is the ability of discourse, namely the ability to understand and/or produce spoken text and/or write realized in the four language skills, namely listening, speaking, reading and writing. The fourth skill is used to respond to or create a discourse in public life. Therefore, subjects in English are directed to develop these skills so that graduates are able to communicate and discourse in English at a certain level of literacy.

Among the four language skills, writing skills is included in productive skills. In this product, the writing skills of students become a target at the end of the learning process. According to Sokolik(2003) in Linse (2005:98), writing is a combination of process and product. The process refers to the act of gathering ideas and working with them until they are presented in a manner that is polished and comprehensible to readers. Raimes (1983: 3) states that writing means the effort to express ideas and the constant use of eye, hand, and brain is a unique way to reinforce learning. So the writer will use all of his imagination or thought and try to pour it down into written form by using the use of all aspects to use to write such as hand, eye, and also his brain to build up a new or some ideas.

Writing ability is an activity in teaching learning process to produce language in written form. Writing is one of four skills in English that is learnt by elementary school student up to university level. Student can write any opinion or ideas based on their willingness. Some students often feel difficult to speak in English, so they can use written language to express their thought. Written language can also help students to share their ideas with others.

In teaching students in the classroom, technique in teaching should be taken into account. Therefore, teachers should be able to improve the learning process which gives a chance to the students to be more active, both physically and mentally. One of the teaching strategies that can improve students' ability in writing is The Power of Two. According to Silberman (2014: 173) this activity is used to improve learning and confirm the benefit of synergies that two heads is

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better than one. There will be a correlation to the cooperative learning that engage the students to work in team, as stated by Slavin (2005: 5), the use of cooperative learning is to improve students achievement and can develop inter-group relation, acceptance of classmate who were weak in academic field, and increase self-respect. Through learning activities such as discussion and exchange of ideas, students get more portions to be directly involved in the learning process and learn on how to take responsibility in the teaching and learning process. So, The Power of Two is the way of making an active learning in teaching and learning process in the classroom.

Based on the result of interview that was conducted on March 21st 2016 and April 6th 2016, the English teacher of eight grade students of SMPN 1 Jambesari Darussholah stated that students still had difficulties in learning English especially in writing. This was due to the lack of vocabularies, low mastery of grammar, and low interest in learning writing. Among the six classes that he teaches, one class (VIII F) had the most obvious problem in writing. The students of this class had the lowest motivation in learning. The teacher stated that the students often look unenthusiastic. Usually only a few of the students gave response to the teacher's questions. Most of the students did not pay attention to the teacher's explanation. In addition, students rarely asked question. As the result, on the last test conducted by the English teacher, this class had the lowest average score. The average score of this class is 74 while the researcher decides 80 as the standard minimum requirement. Considering those facts, the teacher proposed this class to be the research participant.

Meanwhile, in daily practice of teaching English, the teacher spends more time in teaching speaking skill than other language skills including writing. As he claimed, the emphasis of teaching English in junior high school is developing oral communication skill. The writing assignments from the teacher to the students were usually in the form of the text dialogues and the students were rarely assigned to write a text types like narrative, descriptive, report, or recount.

Therefore, classroom action research entitled "Improving the VIII F students' skill in writing descriptive text by using The Power of Two strategy at SMPN 1 Jambesari Darussholah in 2015/2016 academic year" is conducted to

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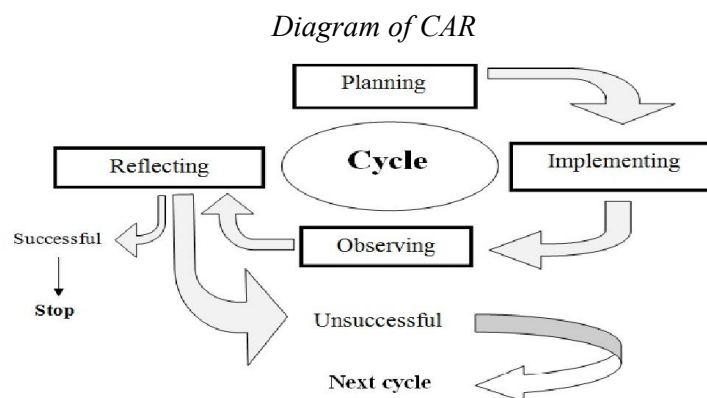
develop student's writing ability of class VIII F at this school to solve problem mentioned above. This classroom action research is hoped to be able to give a significant improvement to the students' writing ability.

METHOD

This research was conducted at SMPN 1 Jambesari Darussolah. The research was conducted in May 2016. The participants of this research were the eighth grade students of SMPN 1 Jambesari Darussolah. The writer used class VIII F as the participants of the research that consist of 26 students.

The research design is Classroom Action Research (CAR). Elfanani (2013:5) states that Classroom Action Research is the practical research that is intended to improve learning in the classroom. This study is one of the efforts of teachers, professors or practitioners in the form of various activities done to correct or improve the quality of learning in class. The purpose of Classroom Action Research is to increase and improve the practice of learning, increase the relevance of education, and improve the quality of education.

There are four stages in a cycle; they are (1) the planning of the action, (2) the implementing of the action, (3) classroom observation, and (4) reflecting of the action. The design of the classroom action research is illustrated as the following diagram. If the first cycle doesn't achieve the criteria of success, the second cycle will be conducted.



(Adopted from Elfanany, 2013:56)

The instrument of this research was "writing test". The writer gave a try out test before being taught through The Power of Two strategy in the classroom in

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order to know their ability in writing a descriptive text. The test was writing test in form of descriptive text. The material was tested related to School based Curriculum 2006 which is suitable for their level.

After applying the Power of Two strategy in the classroom, the writer gave a test in the last meeting of the cycle. The aim is to know whether the students' ability in writing a descriptive paragraph through The Power of Two strategy was good or not. The students' writing result were rated by four aspects, they were grammar, vocabulary, organization, and mechanic.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This research was conducted in the eighth grade students at SMPN 1 Jambesari Darussholah in 2015/2016 academic year which consists of 26 students. The research was conducted on May 2016.

The actions in cycle 1 was conducted in three meetings which consist of two meetings were used for teaching and learning in the classroom while the third meeting was used for test. Based on the calculation, the average score of the students' score is 78. This result cannot be interpreted as a good result or good achievement because the minimum score requirement or the average score that the students need to achieve is 80. Based on the writing test result in Cycle 1, it can be concluded that the score requirement of the average score of the student in writing ability was not achieved yet. It was because The Power of Two strategy was a new method and they did not learn maximum in pair. Indeed, writing needs a lot of practice so they can accustom to write accurately in term of grammar, vocabulary, organization, and mechanic. The action in Cycle 2 needed improvement by giving more practice challenging topic to the students. The formula used to calculate the result of the test of the students' average score that was taken from Furqon (2013:42). The formula is as follow:

$$\bar{X} = \frac{\sum x}{n}$$

Where:

\bar{X} = average score

$\sum x$ = total of student score

n = number of student

(Adapted from Furqon, 2013:42)

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The action in cycle 2 was done by solving the problem that had been done in the cycle 1. Based on the result that is got from the test in cycle two, the students' average score is 83 that mean it had already achieved the criterion of success of the research. Thus the research can be stopped in cycle 2.

Checklist Result in Cycle 1

No.	Meeting	Percentage (%)	
		Active	Passive
1.	Meeting 1	65.28%	34.61%
2.	Meeting 2	73.07%	26.92%
3.	Average	69.17%	30.76%

Checklist Result in Cycle 2

No.	Meeting	Percentage (%)	
		Active	Passive
1.	Meeting 1	84.61%	15.38%
2.	Meeting 2	92.30%	7.69%
3.	Average	88.45%	11.53%

From the table above, it is clear that there are significance differences between the students' active participant in cycle 1 and cycle 2. The students' activeness in the classroom in the first meeting in the first cycle was good, only some of them that still silent and did not directly involved in learning process. When the teacher asked them to answer some questions and involved them to be more active in solving the problem in doing the exercise, the result was known in the second meeting that the amount of the students that were not active decreased.

The average active participant of the students was increased from 69.17% in the cycle one to 88.17% in cycle two. Beside, the average passive participant of the students was decreased from 30.76% in cycle one to 11.53% in cycle two. Relating to the students' average score in cycle 2 that is 83 which had already achieved the target score or the criterion of success of the research, it was because the students' average score influence by the students' involvement in the

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classroom. The students' activeness has a role in teaching and learning process so the result of the test or the students' score will be increased.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Based on the result of research and discussion, it can be concluded that the use of The Power of Two strategy can improve the eighth grade students' writing ability in writing a descriptive paragraph at SMPN 1 Jambesari Darussholah in 2015/2016 academic year. Besides, they also know how to make good sentences in descriptive paragraph very well. They can study with more interest and it would not make them get bored because by applying this kind of strategy it involved the entire student to take in part to discuss something in their team in teaching and learning process. By having a team or a pair work, the student will support and motivate each other and they can share their ideas also solve the problem that was found during the practice or learning process in the classroom. Each members of teams will ensure that their friend understand the material given through peer tutoring. So, each of the students can master the material well, in this case descriptive writing.

Realizing that there was better improvement of using The Power of Two strategy, it seems that it brings a change to the progress of teaching and learning process in the classroom. Therefore, the researcher proposes some suggestions are as follows:

1. It is encouraged to the English teacher to use The Power of Two strategy as the learning strategy to help the students to be able to share and discuss about their knowledge and experiences or ideas with their pair work and to facilitate the students in learning how to write a descriptive paragraph well. Therefore they will be success in writing a descriptive text in good paragraph.
2. The students are suggested to use The Power of Two strategy in learning process in the classroom in order that they are able to share ideas and experiences with their pair work to solve their writing problem more easily especially in writing a descriptive paragraph.

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3. This research applies Classroom Action Research in conducting The Power of Two strategy, and it can improve the students' writing ability.

Other researchers are suggested to:

- Conduct The Power of Two strategy by using another research design
- Conduct The Power of Two strategy to improve speaking, listening, or reading skills.

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