

THE EFFECT OF USING COMIC STRIPS ON STUDENTS' WRITING ABILITY IN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

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Abstract

The objective of this research is to know whether there is an effect of using Comic Strips on the eighth grade students' writing ability at MTs Wahid Hasyim Balung in the 2017/2018 academic years. The design of this research is experimental research, the sample of this research is the class VIIIA as the Experimental group and VIIIB as the control group. The data collecting method is using essay test, and the result of data is analyzed by using SPSS 2.1 (t-test formula). The significance of Mann Whitney test $0,000 < 0,05$ level of significant. It means that the use of comic strips has significant effect on the students' writing ability on the eighth grade at MTs Wahid Hayim Balung in the 2017/2018 academic year.

Key Words : Comic Strips, Learning Media, Writing Ability

1. Introduction

Writing is the most difficult skill to learn, because writing is an active or productive skill so that students who are learning writing have to learn how to find ideas, and express them into writing. This statement is supported by Tangpermpoom (2008:1) who states that writing is considered as the most difficult skill for language learners because students need to have a certain amount of language learning background knowledge about the rhetorical organizations, appropriate language use or specific lexicon with which they want to communicate to their readers.

Teachers can use the media to teach writing in English class. In teaching and learning process, media is needed to attract students to learn. Learning media also serves to facilitate students to understand the lesson. As stated by Tileston (2003:1), teachers can bring the media for students into the classroom through visuals, sounds, smells, and tastes. Because the student's brain needs an outside stimulus to facilitate understanding the English lesson given by the teacher, the researcher considers to use comic strips as visual media and an appropriate strategy to develop the students skill in writing.

As mentioned by Afrilyasanti and Basthomi (2011:552), one of the media used in teaching that engage the students in using their multi modalities is comics. Comic strips is one of the media that makes students easy to retell the story and it can improve the students writing ability.

Comic strips also has an element of art and education that is suitable to be a media of learning English. Based on Wright and Sherman (1999:2), the creation of comic strips allow teachers to promote literacy, higher level thinking, and writing skills through the interdisciplinary approach of combining language and art.

This research focuses on teach is writing skill on narrative text. Comic strip is assumed to be suitable as media for teaching narrative because most stories in comics are fiction.

Writing is a capability that is not naturally possessed; it has to be learnt. According to Harmer (2004:3), people grow up speaking their first language and (sometimes their second language or third) as a matter, writing has to be taught. Therefore, people improve their

writing skills by learning, because the ability to write comes from learning, not naturally brought since they were born.

Learning writing in English also has advantages. According to Tangpermpoon (2008:3), there are several advantages in writing skills in learning English. First, students learn how to systematically write English compositions from using product-pattern techniques, such as narrative, description, and persuasion. They also learn to use the vocabulary and sentence structure for each type of rhetorical pattern appropriately. Product-based writing helps instructors improve language writing skills in learning, especially in grammatical structures.

Narrative is one of text genres. It is a fictional story that has the purpose of entertaining its readers. According to Collinsdictionary.com, a narrative is a story or a series of events. Narrative texts often appear on school materials in English class. Therefore, students are at least able to understand the example of narrative text very well so that later when students read the English story,

and immediately able to digest the story.

In this research students' writing ability is observed through three aspects, such as grammar, vocabulary, and spelling.

Comic is easy-to-understand picture stories and has an artistic value in it. According to Eisner (1985:13), comics have communicating devices, words, and images. Pictures that tell the story on the comic make it easier for the reader to understand the story.

Comic strips is one type of comic. Unlike comics that generally have a long story, comic strips have short stories and pictures of some panels only. Comic strips are a fun media for students in learning writing in English. Comic is called a fun medium because it is full of

interesting fictional images for students to read and easily understand the story. According to Retails (2008), the use of comics in education is an unexpectedly old story.

Comic is a media that is easier to use because the comic is a visual media that is simple and easy to understand by students. According to Recine (2013:5), comics content is easier to manage and use, because comics content is not necessarily reliant on technology. Comics make a story better understood by students because they have artistic value, because comics combine the power of drawing and writing, which is strung together in an image plot making information more easily absorbed.



In this research the researcher uses lecture method. Because this research is not about strategy but differentiate only using media, so teaching like in ordinary learning process but using different medium that is comic strips, which is useful to facilitate student to study in prsoes of learning

In the junior high school level students have the basic skills in writing. Media is needed to teach writing to make students easier to write a text. According to Arlin and Roth (1978:203), comic is considered an interesting and motivating medium for its readers, because the picture of the comic can stimulate the students to be active during follow the English learning process. Comic strips can also be used by beginner level in learning English. It is suitable to use as media in writing class because writing makes students more imaginative to write and create the story.

Method

This kind of research is an experimental research. Because it aims to investigate the effect of using comic strips on writing ability of the

students at MTs Wahid Hasyim Balung in the academic year of 2017/2018. According to Arikunto (2014:9), experiment is a way to find a causal relationship between two factors deliberately caused by the researcher with eliminating other disturbing factors.

This research is quantitative research design, so it uses quantitative approach. This research uses quasi experimental design with non-randomized control group pre-test post-test. According to Ary, Jacobs, and Sorensen (2010:316), quasi-experimental designs are similar to randomized experimental designs in that they involve manipulation of an independent variable but differ in that subjects are not randomly assigned to treatment groups.

There are two things to affect the results of research, they are the quality of research instrument and quality of data collection (Sugiyono, 2017:193). In this research the researcher uses writing test as data collection method. Data is collected from students writing test result in the form of essay test. The data

collected is the test score of students obtained from pretest and post test.

The data should be analyzed to know whether data consistent, valid and reliable. After having the result of student's post-test, the researcher analyze the score based on grammar, vocabulary and spelling. The result of post-test of experimental and control group will be analyzed by using t-test in SPSS 21.0.

The probability value is consulted to 0.05 level of significant. Before we analyzed, we have to know the requirement to accept or reject the hypothesis. The requirement as follow:

- a. If probabilities value > 0.05 level of significant, it means that the null hypothesis (H_0) is accepted and the hypothesis alternative (H_a) is rejected.
- b. If probabilities value < 0.05 level of significant, it means that the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected and the hypothesis alternative (H_a) is accepted.

Result and Discussion

This study used the Mann-Whitney formula to calculate differences and significance. This formula is used because the result of data is not normal. Based on previous explanations to know whether or not MannWhitney test results are significant, probability values are consulted to 0.05 significance level. If the significance is more than ($>$) 0.05 significance level, that means the null hypothesis (H_0) is accepted. Then if the significance value is less than ($<$)0.05 level of significance, it means that the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected and the alternative hypothesis (H_a) is accepted.

Table 1. Result of t-test of the Experimental and Control Group in the Post-test.

Test Statistics ^a		Score
Mann-Whitney U		67,500
Wilcoxon W		392,500
Z		-4,830
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)		,000

a. Grouping Variable: Group

The result of Mann-Whitney by using SPSS above, significance is 0,00.It means that the significance is

less than ($<$) 0.05. Then the null hypothesis is rejected means 'there is significant effect of means between experimental and control group had implemented the treatment'. Based on Rokhyani and Utari (2014), comic strips are an effective medium for teaching because it provides an easy way for teachers to deliver material. Comic strips are able to make students understand faster even in this study only have a short time to teach. Because in this study only had 2 meetings in the experimental class and 2 meetings in the control class. Comic strip has a short sentence that tells the story, it is very helpful for students to arrange the text in writing stories.

Conclusion

The mean score of the experimental group given in the treatment using comic strip media was 82.06 while the control group score was 75.29. the result of the average score shows the experimental group better than the control group. Therefore, it can be concluded that comic strips media can be an alternative in learning understanding of student writing ability.

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