

## Improving the students' writing skill using weblog

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### Abstract

*This study used weblog to improve the students' writing skill and took the second-grade students at junior high school Sentosa Bhakti Baturaja. Then, to take the data, the reserchers used the pre-experimental design. The objective was to find out whether there was any significantly effective to improve students in writing skill by the use weblog to the eighth-grade student of SMP Sentosa Bhakti Baturaja. This study took VIII.B that consisted of 18 students as the sample by applying cluster random sampling. The data was collected by using test. The test was in from of writing test. The data obtained through test and analysis was done by using statistical analysis (paired sample t-test). The result it was found the mean score of pretests was 50 and the mean score of posttests was 73,55. Based on the data analysis the researcher concluded there was significantly effective to use weblog to improve students writing skill descriptive text at SMP Sentosa Bhakti Baturaja before and after treatment. Since, the sig. (2-tailed) =0.000 less than significant level ( $\alpha=0.05$ ), the writers concludes that the alternative hypothesis ( $H_a$ ) is accepted, and the null hypothesis ( $H_o$ ) is rejected. It means that there is significant effect in using a weblog to improve students writing skill at SMP Sentosa Bhakti Baturaja.*

**Keywords:** writing skill; weblog; descriptive text

### INTRODUCTION

Brown (2007) stated that the teaching process is guiding, and learning facilitated, enabling the learner to learn, setting the conditions for learning. In teaching English there are four skills which are introduced for the students such as reading, listening, speaking, and writing. Writing is the skills that also will be discussed in the school. According to Dalman (2015) writing is the process activity in the form of dispatching the messages (information) in writing to other readers using black and white languages as a media device.

Tan (2011) says that the process of writing is a difficult activity in perceptive argument and linguistics synthesis in a language. In writing students need well knowledge and hard thinking when they space words, sentences, and paragraphs with a good grammar. Junior high school students are expected to achieve 70 scores for the competence of sentence should reflect the entire of paragraph and express the main idea. The first is content. Content refers to the essence of writing, the experience of main idea. Second is vocabulary skill.

Vocabulary refers to the words or selection those are suitable with the content. It can be classified by seeing the words choice or diction to convey ideals to the reader. Third is grammar skill. Grammar refers to the use the syntactical pattern and the correct grammatical forms. It is identified from the construction of well-formed sentence. Fourth, it is organization skill. It is referred to the ideas that stick together so that ideals run smoothly within the paragraph. The last is mechanics. Mechanics of writing are critical parts of learning to write. Graham and Perin (2007) mention that writing activity skill is a forecaster of academic success and necessity for inclusion in general and the global economy.

Language teaching, that we call technology is old phenomenon and it also used from old until now on. Dudeney & Hockly (2007) inform that the use of technology can make easier to do everything, someone can also use that whenever they are, and it is very famous to use as teaching learning process as a media. For the other examples are someone can make a graphic and video. Blog also is a kind of web page that is unique media to compose and operate in some online journal. It can be said a very hard to do it. In this point, the students have to focus in writing process and also check all aspect in writing elements, that why in this study the researchers want to attempt Weblog exchanges to improve students' writing skill, the researchers choose this title because they want to pay attention and know that what is the Weblog benefit can change students' process writing skill.

Meanwhile, Mynard (2007) informs that this weblog is a type of usually events online that has been collected to be very benefit for the online that can improve students' English learning. Richardson (2009) also said that the beginning readers can create a big combination that they can make, and they can share the result weblog in next learning process.

Then, writing is also the ability in English that have been powered by many students and it is a point that means of recording speech. Statement by Wyrick (2011) writing is a active skill process and it is a master act in expressing the comment and ideas, and writing process also may help the students to make a study better. The researchers conclude that the process in writing is a produce of language by using words or sentence on a paper. Graham & Perin (2007) state that writing skill is a predictor of academic success and basic requirement for participation in general and the universal economy.

According to As 'ad (2010) weblog is a compound from log and web, and now on it is called a popular name with a blog or blogging. The name of blog defines as the writing activities in the internet solicitation which that the proceeds some results of writing, and it can be used by everybody. it is also an application media that can be corrected in the form of grammatical errors. Someone can give some comments by using this application. The instructors can also apply this application to serve feedback to the audiences (students), so

they can increase their ability in writing Weblog and also can give any information the students in improving their writing skill better than before they use it. Inform by Galien & Bowcher (2010) say that application of weblog is a media that used in writing for communication, tool used for writing communication, interplay, and benefit in multiple languages.

By learning these explanations above, it can be concluded that the matter in learning progress by use this application weblog is to increase students in writing skill. The use of this application weblog is an improving student in writing skill and can help the students in systematic thinking and be focused with the material. Another reason is weblog strategy make the students collaborate with each other to make sure they are active in the whole learning process activity and to be active in the learning processes ensured the students' ideas delivered. From the background above, the researchers were interested in doing research entitled "Improving Students' writing skill by Using Weblog. So, there are so many kinds of media for teaching writing. Then, the researchers focused for the study to improve students in writing skill by the use weblog especially for descriptive text to the eighth-grade student of SMP Sentosa Bhakti Baturaja.

## **METHOD**

According to Ary et.al (2010), general plan for carrying out a research with an active independent variable is called experimental design. In conducting this study, the researchers applied experimental design to know the influence of using Weblog to teach writing. The researchers used pre-experimental research to find out what was happen to the subject of the research after applying the media as the treatment. Then, the population is the whole of the eighth-grade students of SMP Sentosa Bhakti Baturaja in academic year 2020/2021. And the sample is part of population that is chosen as the representative. A sample is a small proportion of the population that is selected for observation and analysis (Best & Kahn, 2006). In taking sample in this study, the researchers used cluster random sampling technique through lottery. In conducting this technique, the researchers wrote name of the classes in a small piece of paper and rolled them. Then, the researchers put them into glass with a hole and shock it. After that, the researchers chose one role paper randomly to decide the class. Finally, the researchers got class VII.B. that consist of 18 students.

Cohen et al (2005) explain that validity is an important key to effective research. Test is an instrument or systematic procedure for measuring a sample of behavior content validity refers to the question is whether the score from the instrument show that the test content relates to what the test is intended to measure.

In collecting data, the researchers used test. They are pre-test and post-test. There were two raters in scoring writing test. Rater one (R1) was an English Teacher of SMP Sentosa Bhakti Baturaja. Her name is Yuli Martini, S.Pd. She has experience in teaching English at SMP Sentosa Bhakti Baturaja. She is graduated from Baturaja and one of the writers was as rater two (R2).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The objective of this study was to find out whether using weblog to improve writing skill in descriptive text for the eighth grader students of SMP Sentosa Bhakti Baturaja or not and how students' writing achievement before and after using weblog.

Before giving the treatment, the researchers gave a pretest to measure students' ability. Pretest was a test which gotten to measure basic ability although they would not get the treatment at all. The Pre-test was conducted on October, 13<sup>th</sup> 2020.

Table 1. Distribution of Students' Score in Pre-test

No	Score Range	Category	Frequency (y)	Percentage (%)
1	80-100	Very Good	0	0%
2	70-79	Good	0	0%
3	60-69	Sufficient	1	5,55%
4	50-59	Poor	13	72,22%
5	≤ 49	Very Poor	4	22,2%

From the table above, there was no students (0%) got very good score. There was no students (0%) got good score. There was 1 student (5,55%) got sufficient score. There were 13 students (72,22%) got poor score. There were 4 students (22,2%) got very poor.

After giving the treatment, the researchers gave a post-test to measure students' ability. The Post Test was conducted on October, 17<sup>th</sup> 2020.

Table 2. Distribution of Students' Score in Post test

No	Score Range	Category	Frequency (y)	Percentage (%)
1	80-100	Very Good	5	27,77%

2	70-79	Good	6	40%
3	60-69	Sufficient	6	40%
4.	50-59	Poor	0	0 %
5.	≤ 49	Very Poor	0	0%

From the table above, there were 5 students (27,77%) got very good score. There were 6 students (40%) got good score. There were 6 students (40%) got fair score. There was no students (0%) got poor score.

To find out the significance difference in student's writing skill before and after the treatment. The researchers calculated the result of pre-test and post-test in experiment class by using Paired Sample t-test in SPSS. It was counted by entering students score of pre-test and post-test and then processed it by using Paired Sample t-test formula.

## DISCUSSION

Based on the finding shown before the researchers giving the treatment in sample class, the ability of students in writing descriptive text SMP Sentosa Bhakti Baturaja was low. Most of the students were rather incorrect grammatically when they want to write a text. The students do not have many vocabularies when they want to write a text. From the calculation in experimental group during the researchers taught the subject by Weblog, the researchers could help the students in writing the students' ideas with correct grammatically or good structure. The researchers could help the students in writing the students ideas with new vocabularies. Then, the students got better skill and achievement. So, using Weblog was significantly effective in teaching descriptive text at SMP Sentosa Bhakti Baturaja.

In addition, by using Weblog in teaching writing descriptive text helped both teacher and students in gaining the goal of English learning. Even though teaching writing was a complex one because it demands the researchers to explore the thoughts ideas and make both are visible concrete (Agusferani, 2013: 3). To combine and/or compose the ideas or information needed in writing was not easy for the students. The teacher needed to explain clearly how to get and compose the ideas well. The steps of writing must be implemented well in order they knew how to write from the easiest thing. Through the Weblog, the teacher taught how to plan, draft, review, and edit the final product of writing descriptive text referring to the structure of it. To stimulate the students in writing, the teacher also creates fun learning in the classroom. Forming the students into some groups by using cooperative learning was chosen in order the students

learnt much from the other students. Besides that, the collaboration of cooperative learning and the using Weblog gave the positive effects to the students in comprehending, appreciating, analyzing, and sharing the information to the others. Based on the explanation, the researchers concluded that there was significantly effective to teaching writing skill by using of weblog especially in writing.

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CONCEPT: Community Concern for English Pedagogy and Teaching  
Vol. 7, No. 1, June, 2021

Learners' Writing. *Journal of Language Teaching and Research*, Vol, 5, No.4,  
pp.856 – 864. Doi: 10.4304/jltr.5.4.854-856