

IMPROVING STUDENTS' WRITING ABILITY BY USING PICTURE SERIE AS MEDIA

Eli nofriati
Nofriatieli38@gmail.com
Universitas Almuslim

Absract

This research was done to answer the research problem; how picture series as media is used to improve the students' writing ability. The research was designed in classroom action research which conducted in two cycles by following the procedure of action research consisting of four steps; planning, implementing, observing and reflecting. Each cycle was carried out in three meeting. The subject of the research was the third semester students in unit A of English Department of Almuslim University. The research instruments used in this research were test, observation checklist and questionnaire. The obtained data were presented and analyzed in qualitative and quantitative data. The result of this research showed that picture could improve the students' ability in learning writing. It could be proved by some research finding found by the researcher. The first result found from the test given to the students. The students' average score of the test in cycle 1 was 59.64 and it increased to 74.94 in cycle 2. The second result was obtained from the observation of the researcher's performance and students' activities. The percentage of the researcher's performance in the first cycle was 75.3% or in level good. While, in the second cycle it increased to 88.3% or in level very good. Next, the percentages of the students' activities was 57.3% or in level enough in the first cycle and it increased to be 79.3% or in level good in the second cycle. The other finding got from the result of questionnaire. It showed that the students gave positive responses toward the using picture series as media in learning writing. It could be seen by the result of the questionnaire was 4.62 or in category strongly agree. It means that the students' response was very good.

Key Words: writing, picture series

INTRODUCTION

Writing is one important part of English language skills. According to (Depdikbud, 2004:6), English subject aimed at developing communication competence in oral and written form. It means that the students have to learn the four language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing).

To make the students success in learning English especially in learning writing, it depends on the media that used by the lecturer in the classroom. In teaching learning process, media is the important part to make the students more active. There are many media which can be used in teaching writing. One of them is using picture series. By using picture series as media, it can help the students in expressing their ideas or thought into written form. The students can write the topic based on the media given to be good writing or paragraph. Therefore, the lecturer should use the

interesting media in teaching learning especially in teaching writing. Considering the explanation above, the researcher would like to conduct the action research at Almuslim University in order to know the using of picture series as media could improve the students' ability in learning writing.

The real condition of teaching and learning process at the English Department at Almuslim University was still not expected of the curriculum. Based on the preliminary study done by the researcher, it was found that the students have problems in learning writing. They have difficulty in finding the ideas when they start to write. They also have difficulty in expressing their ideas and thought to be a good sentence or paragraph. These caused by the students' lack of vocabulary mastery.

Another problem caused by the media used by the lecturer in teaching writing was not effective. The lecturer just gave the exercises

and analyzed the exercises given. This condition made the students was unmotivated and bored in learning process. Considering the problems faced by the students and lecturer, the researcher tried to find a solution to solve the problems. In this case, the researcher tried to use the picture series as media in teaching writing. This media can help the students in developing and finding ideas before they start writing. Through picture series media the students brainstorm the ideas easily and it makes the students easy to develop their writing by combining the ideas they found into good paragraphs. So picture series is an interesting media in teaching writing. It is a good way to practice and to improve the students' ability in writing.

METHOD

1. Setting and subject of the Research

The researcher used classroom action research as research design. It aimed to solve the lecturer's and the students' problems in improving their ability in teaching and learning writing. The research was conducted at English Department of Almuslim University. The subject of the research was the third semester students, class A which consisted of 34 students. The research did the research by following the procedure of classroom action research proposed by Kemmis and Taggart (1998) consisting four steps; planning, implementing, observing and reflecting. The research was held in two cycles which done in three meetings for each cycle. In collecting the data, the researcher used the research instruments such as test, observation sheets, questionnaire and field note. The data obtained were presented and analyzed both qualitative and quantitative. Qualitative data were presented in words, explaining the process of implementing the technique, while quantitative data were analyzed using analytic scoring for writing assessment

2. Success indicator

The criteria of success were set up as a guide to assess whether the implementation of the action is successful or fail. In other words, it is used to see whether the next cycle is needed or not. To assess the students' ability in writing by using picture series, the success indicators of the research were designed below:

1. The percentage of the researcher's performance in using picture series as media

in teaching writing should reach the criteria very good or 80%.

2. The percentage of the students' activity in learning writing by using pictures series as media should meet the criteria good or 75%.
3. The average score of the students' writing test should achieve the criteria good or reach score 70.
4. The mean score of the students' responses toward the using picture series as media in learning writing should get the criteria 'agree' or in level 3.01-4.00.

RESULT

1. Findings

The research was carried out from september, 15st, 2015 until september, 30th, 2015. After conducting the research, the researcher found some research findings; they are: the result of the researcher's performance and the students' activities during the teaching and learning process in using pictures series as media in writing class. Next, the result of the students' ability in writing test. Another finding was the result of the students' responses toward the using pictuer series as media in learning writing. All research findings were described clearly as follows:

2. The Result of Teaching and Learning Process of Cycle 1 and Cycle 2

This part deals two results; the researcher's performance and the students' activities. Based on the result of observation done during the teaching and learning process in cycle 1, the researcher found that the percentage of the researcher's performance in using picture series as media in teaching writing was 75.3% or in level good. While, in the second cycle the percentage of the researcher's performance increased to 88.3% or in level very good.

Furthermore, another result was found from the observation of the students' participation in learning writing by using picture series as media. The researcher found that the percentage of the students' activities in the first cycle was 57.3% or in level satisfactory. Meanwhile, the percentage of the students' activities in the second cycle was 79.3% or in level good. It means that the students' participation in learning activities had increased in the cycle 2.

3. The Result of the Students' Achievement in Writing Test of Cycle 1 and Cycle 2

Beside of the observation result in teaching learning process, the researcher also found the other results in this research. Here, the researcher obtained the data about the students' achievement in writing. It was measured from the test given to the students at the last meeting of each cycle. In the first cycle, the researcher got the students' mean score of the writing test was 59.64 in level fair. In contrast, in the cycle 2, their mean score was improved to be 74.94 in level good. It means there was a significant improvement of the students' achievement in learning writing by using picture series.

4. The Result of the Students' Responses Toward the using picture series as media in Learning Writing

The students' response was a consideration to state that the use of picture series as media in learning writing was successful or not. The result of the students' response was obtained from questionnaire given to the students at the last meeting in cycle 2. The questionnaire was measured in five items; (1) studying happily in writing class, (2) easy to comprehend the lesson, (3) respected and brave to give opinion, (4) interested to the activities, (5) working in group.

Based on the data analyzed, the researcher found that the mean score in studying happily in writing class was 4.82 or in strongly agree criterion, easy to comprehend the lesson was 4.52 or in strongly agree criterion, respected and brave to give opinion was 4.25 or in strongly agree criterion, interested to the activities was 4.79 or in strongly agree criterion and working in group was 4.75 or in strongly agree criterion.

Based on the result above, the researcher concluded that the students gave positive responses toward the using picture series as media in learning writing. It was proved by the overall mean score of five items measured above, it was 4.62. It means that the students' responses toward the use of picture series as media in learning writing reached the success indicator of 3.00-4.00 on the agree criterion.

5. Discussion

Considering the results found and described above, the researcher found some improvements. The first improvement could be

seen by the great increase of the students' writing test in the second cycle. It showed that the students' achievement in cycle 2 was 74.94. It means that this result reached the success indicator and the use of picture series could improve the students' ability in learning writing.

The second improvement showed by the results of the observation done during the teaching and learning process. The researcher's performance in cycle 2 was success. The researcher could use the media well and could manage the class and the time effectively. It was proved by the result of the researcher's performance in the second cycle was 88.6% or in level very good. It means that the result reached the criteria of success. Beside, the result of the students' activities also showed the improvement in the second cycle. It could be seen by the percentage of the students' activities was 79.3% or in level good. This could be claim that the students' learning process was improved and increased and it achieved the success indicator.

The last improvement could be seen from the result of the students' responses toward the use of picture series as media in learning writing. The result showed that the mean score of questionnaire result was 4.62 or in strongly agree criterion. It means that the students gave good and positive responses. They also studied happily and actively during the learning process.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

1. Conclusion

Based on the results presented in chapter before, the researcher can draw some conclusions as follows:

1. The use of picture series as media in writing class had increased the researcher's performance and the students' activities. Based on the result of the observation done by the observer and the researcher during the teaching and learning process, it showed that the percentage score of the researcher's performance in the first cycle was 75.3% belong to the criteria "good". Furthermore, the percentage score of the researcher's performance in the second cycle was 88.6% belong to the criteria "excellent". It means that the teaching process was success. Furthermore, the use of picture series as media in teaching writing also increased the students' activities. The result showed that

the percentage score of the students' activities in the cycle 1 was 57.3% or in level "fair". Meanwhile, the percentage score of the students' activities in the cycle 2 was 79.3% or in level "good". It means that using picture series in writing class could make the students learn writing easily.

2. The teaching and learning process in writing by using picture series as media was successful and it improved the students' writing ability. The evidence could be seen based on the result of the students' test. The result showed the mean score of the students' achievement in cycle 1 was 59.64. Meanwhile, in the cycle 2, the mean score of the students' achievement was improved become 74.94. It means that the use of picture series as media could improve the students' ability in learning writing.
3. The last result was found concerning the students' responses toward the use of picture series as media in learning writing. The result was taken from the questionnaire. It showed that the students gave good or positive responses toward the use of picture series as media in learning writing. It was proved by showing the average score of the students' responses was 4.62 in the strongly agree-criterion. It can be claimed that the use of picture series as media in teaching writing could make the students studying actively and more enthusiastic.

2. Suggestion

Considering to the result finding that had been presented, the researcher can draw some suggestions for the lecturer, the students and also the other researchers. The suggestions are described as follows:

1. The researcher's suggestion for lecturer:

The researcher suggests to the other lecturers who are teaching writing should use the appropriate and interesting media in the classroom such as picture series. Because this media can help the students in developing their ideas so they can create good writing.

2. The researcher's suggestion for students:

The researcher suggests the students should increase their activities more actively and enrich their vocabulary such as by using picture series as media, so they can improve their ability in learning writing and their activities more enjoyable.

3. The researcher's suggestion for the other researchers:

The researcher also suggests to the other researchers who want to conduct the research at the same field should find and use the interesting media when conducting the research. Here, the researcher can suggest using picture series as a teaching media in the classroom in the other language skills such as in speaking skill because this media is not only suitable used in writing skill but also in speaking.

REFERENCES

- Brown, H. Douglas. 2001. *Teaching by Principles: An Interaction Approach to Language Pedagogy*. Second Edition. USA: Prentice Hall- Regents
- Hampton. 2001. *The Act of Writing: A Media Theory Approach*. USA
- Harmer, Jeremy. 2008. *The Practice of English Language Teaching*. Fourth Edition. London: Longman
- Hoque, Ann. 2006. *Writing Academic English*. Fourth Edition. Pearson: Longman
- Kemmis, S and Mc. Taggart, R. 1998. *The Action Research Planner*. Second Edition. Geelong, Victoria: Deakin University Press