

# IMPROVING STUDENTS' WRITING SKILL IN DESCRIPTIVE TEXT BY USING MIND MAPPING TECHNIQUE AT SMP SWASTA PENCAWAN MEDAN

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## ABSTRACT

The ability to write is one component of language that is very important in human life. A person's ability to write can express ideas and thoughts to achieve goals and benefits. This study aims to determine the ability of students of class VIII A Medan Pencawan Private Middle School to write descriptive text by using mind mapping techniques. The research subjects consisted of 28 students. This study was conducted by applying two tests. The results of research in the Pre-Test that did not use mind mapping techniques showed that the average value of students ie 34.11 did not meet the KKM. Because students' interest in writing descriptive texts is still low and only a few are enthusiastic. And after the mind mapping technique was applied there was an increase in the learning process of writing descriptive texts. This is indicated by the increasing interest of students and their enthusiasm and the average results on the second test or Post-Test increased to 84.68. Thus, it can be concluded that mind mapping techniques can improve students' writing abilities in descriptive text.

Keywords : *Writing skills, Descriptive text, Mind Mapping Techniques*

## Introduction

English is one of the subjects that must be studied in the 2013 curriculum. The number of hours of English subjects at the junior high school level is 4 hours in a week. Allocation of time in English lessons is expected that students are able to achieve 4 skills in English namely reading, listening, writing, speaking. All four language skills are very important to mastered.

Language is one of the communication tools used by humans to interact with each other. The function of language as a communication tool can be through oral and written language Nurgiyantoro (2010: 423). Writing is an activity expressing someone's thoughts, ideas, and feelings as outlined in written language. The purpose of writing itself is to pour out what is in our minds. Writing learning is very beneficial for students so that students can freely express what they think. In writing, there are various types of writing, including: (1) description (2) narrative (3) exposition (4) argumentation. Writing is one of the most difficult language skills and students have not been able to write well even a simple paragraph due to the lack of students' interest in writing students face many problems. In this research, the writer will focus on descriptive texts.

Descriptive text is a text that describes something like humans, animals, objects, and places. the goal is to provide clear information about the object to be described to the reader. Tarigan (1994) Descriptions are writings that can describe a story with the aim to invite the reader to understand feel and enjoy the objects being discussed such as moods, people's activities and so on. So the reader feels as if he directly feels what is being expressed in the text. To solve problems in writing skills, researchers are trying to apply a new teaching technique called mind mapping technique. It is a technique which was originally used to take notes or summarize with involves images, symbols, words, lines, and colors made on a piece of paper notebooks or paperboard, depending on the function for individuals or the public. Buzan in his book "Buku Pintar Mind Mapp", this technique is a creative, effective way to record and literally map thoughts (Tony Buzan: 2009; 4). Using this technique will attract students' attention in writing because mind mapping is a creative and effective writing technique that can literally map thoughts. To make it very easy it only requires a piece of paper, and colored pencils.

Based on the background above, the writers feels interested in applying mind map techniques in class lessons in an effort to improve the ability of students to write descriptive types of text in junior high school.

Based on the background of the study above, the problems of the study can be formulated as follows :

1. Is it interesting for students to write about English subjects?
2. How do students respond to the mind mapping technique that will be applied?

Based on the research statement, this study aims in :

1. Explain what is meant by writing and understanding of descriptive text and its use in English subjects?
2. Explain and make mind mapping techniques as attractive as possible so they can attract students' attention.

## **Review Literature**

According to Pranoto (2004: 9) writing means pouring thoughts into written form or telling something to others through writing. Writing can also be interpreted as an expression or expression of feelings as described in written form. In other words, through the writing process we can communicate indirectly.

Mc. Crimmon, writing is an activity to explore thoughts and feelings about a subject, and determine the subject to be written, and determine the writing technique so that people who read the writing can easily understand it.

Keraf (1982: 93), the meaning of description is a discourse used to convey a thing or object of conversation so that readers like to see the object directly as stated by Porter and Hernacki (2003: 153)

## **Result and Discussion**

In this chapter includes the Research Findings and Discussion. In this study, researchers applied two tests. From the Pre-Test results many students or almost all of them failed and had not yet reached the KKM. After that the second test is done and has applied the Mind Mapping Technique. After the technique was applied the students were enthusiastic and the students' grades certainly increased from the Pre-Test average score of 34.11 to 84.68. Students acknowledge that using mind mapping techniques is easier to understand.

**Table. The Students' Score on Writing test**

No	Name	Score	
		Before using Technique Mind Mapping ( Pre-Test)	After Using Technique Mind Mapping (Post-Test)
1.	Feby Arvi Ayuni	45	90
2.	Ira Eloina Surbakti	35	80
3.	Noni Khairunisa	75	90
4.	Nur Anisa	70	90
5.	Yuta Adelina	60	100
6.	Darwil Hulu	35	90
7.	Rilawati Krisdayanti Putri	25	75
8.	Niko P.S	22	70
9.	Rahma Nazayani	12	90
10.	Ezra Pranata Ginting	10	90
11.	Larisa	22	90
12.	Sebda Ita Rina Br Ginting	30	70
13.	Rival Sandoni Gulo	10	80
14.	Aron	32	85
15.	Gideon	30	90
16.	Tasya Azizah	60	90
17.	Sebastian	25	85
18.	Dewi Lestari	25	70
19.	Samuel	25	80
20.	Ihsan Albani	15	75
21.	Kharina	35	80
22.	Baron Aruna	25	76
23.	Erin Natali Ananta Tarigan	30	90
24.	Muhammad Badai	20	90

25.	Jumangga T.b	30	90
26.	Nur aprilia Rosa Siregar	22	90
27.	Kezia Kaban	70	90
28.	Yuni Kardin Hulu	60	85

The results of the above scores indicate that students of class VII A SMP PENCAWAN MEDAN have experienced an increase as well as evidenced by questionnaires that have been answered by students that students are able to write descriptive texts using mind mapping techniques.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the results of data analysis obtained from Class VIII A SMP PENCAWAN MEDAN students, it can be concluded that the use of mind mapping techniques can improve students' abilities in writing descriptive text. This is indicated by the average results in the Pre-Test that is 34.11 and the average results in the Post-Test increased to 84.68 Students claiming to be more enthusiastic and more interested in writing using mind mapping techniques.

After conducting research in Class VIII A PENCAWAN MEDAN, researchers have a suggestion that the teacher can apply mind mapping techniques in learning descriptive text. So that students' writing skills become better. Researchers hope this research can be used as a reference or material for other researchers.

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