

The Effect of Clustering Technique and Motivation Toward Students' Skill in Writing a Recount Paragraph at Grade X of SMAN 1 Batang Anai

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Abstract

This research is aimed to know whether the use of clustering technique and motivation can give significant effect toward students' skill in writing a recount paragraph at the tenth grade of SMAN 1 Batang Anai. The research was an experimental research with 2x2 factorial design. The instruments of the research were writing test and motivation questionnaire. The data were analyzed by using t-test and two ways anova. The result shows that (1) clustering technique gave significant effect toward students' writing skill in recount paragraph as it was compared to conventional technique that was usually used by the teacher in teaching writing. It was proved by the result of the test which showed that t_{observed} was 2.45 higher than t_{table} which was 1.70, (2) high motivated students who were taught by using clustering technique had better writing skill than those who were taught by using conventional technique, (3) low motivated students who were taught by using clustering technique had better writing skill than those who were taught by using conventional technique, and (4) there was no interaction between both techniques and students' motivation toward students' writing skill in writing recount paragraph where F_{observed} was 0.150 which was less than F_{table} (4.02.). Based on the result above, it is suggested to English teachers at SMA level to apply this clustering technique as an alternative technique in teaching writing in English.

Keywords: *clustering technique, motivation, writing recount paragraph, recount text.*

A. INTRODUCTION

Writing is one of the four crucial skills that has to be mastered by students since it determines the students' success in learning. Students need this skill to make them able to transfer their ideas in written form and to familiarize themselves with several writing tasks. However, many students still find difficulties in writing English texts and paragraphs as Competency Based Curriculum demands them to master. This fact can be observed on the students low scores in their daily test, mid-term and final exam.

One of the potential factors that causes the problem is dealing with the teaching technique used by the teachers. Some teachers do not apply technique

that really encourages and facilitates the students to write well. In fact, teachers tend to use the conventional technique which is mostly teacher-centered rather than student-centered activity. As a result, teachers do not actively involve the students much in the whole writing process. Moreover, teachers rarely asked the students to work cooperatively in writing class. Although sometimes teachers asked students to work in pairs or groups, they mostly assigned their students to work without considering the students' involvement and responsibility individually. The fact shows that only high motivated students were involved in the writing class, meanwhile the low motivated students just left their counterpart to finish the writing assignments given by the teachers.

Actually, it is a good idea to make the students accustomed to doing their writing tasks in pairs or groups so that they can help and work together to accomplish their tasks and find the solution of the problems they faced during the process of accomplishing their tasks. By doing so, the writing class will be enjoyable, interesting and inspirative for the students. Another factor that potentially influences the students' achievement in writing is that few teachers do not concern much on students' psychological factors found in the classroom, such as individual differences. The factor itself deals with students' motivation in writing English, especially in writing a recount paragraph. Some of them were classified into high motivated students while the others were categorized into low motivated ones.

In fact, teaching technique plays an important role in accommodating the students to have better achievement in writing English. Writing does not only involve mechanical way, but also the content of what the writer wants to convey to the readers.

Writing assessment is one of the crucial aspects in the writing process. One form of the assessments is in form of writing a recount paragraph. In the Competency Based Curriculum used in schools, the basic competence the students are demanded is that they should be able to write a discourse monolog and functional text at the end of the lesson. They are also asked to write a text which is suitable with kinds of text or genre they have studied. A recount paragraph is the beginning product of writing that the students produce.

A good writing test should also have its validity, reliability and practicality as well. These four requirements can be used in assigning the students to write. The test has a one paragraph long and can be scored on an analytic scoring.

Actually, there are some phenomena found in English instruction, in this case is writing class, at Senior High School 1 B. Anai. The first phenomenon is that students are not accustomed to writing in pairs. Teachers often assign them to write individually. So, the low motivated students can not discuss with the high motivated ones in completing their writing tasks. Consequently, their writing skill is not improved. Another phenomenon is teachers sometimes do not prepare the students with the text construction which requires them to retell their own experience in a written form. In fact, mastering the construction or generic structure of a text is the basic knowledge to write a text or a paragraph. The students need to understand how a recount paragraph works. The next phenomenon is teachers do not facilitate the students on how to generate ideas to start writing. Brainstorming ideas is the first stage of writing the students should do. The other phenomenon is that teachers do not use an appropriate technique in teaching the students to write. They usually ask them to discuss the topic to be written freely or give it as a homework. The situation makes the students bored during teaching and learning process. Last but not least phenomenon is the students' motivation in learning English is still low. They do not show that they are motivated during English lesson. As a result, only few students finish and submit their writing tasks.

Motivation is one of psychological aspects that needs to be considered in teaching writing a recount paragraph which focused on student-centered activities. Some experts differentiate motivation into various categories. The types of students' motivation indicate their successfulness in learning a language. Motivation will encourage students in reaching the goal of studying English. (Berhenke, 2011) says that when an individual is highly motivated, he or she does something with a certain goal and puts a lot of efforts on it. These efforts are associated with a desire or willingness to reach the goal toward the activity the individual intends to do. A low motivated student will not show some efforts in reaching the goals in studying.

Teacher needs to apply appropriate teaching techniques in teaching the students to write. In fact, teacher tended to use conventional technique which was dominated by the teacher in the process of teaching writing. The conventional technique used here is free writing technique. The technique frees the students to simply write ideas without being influenced by others. According to Seow in Richards and Renandya (2002, 316), in rapid free writing, individual students freely and quickly write down single words and phrases about a topic within a limited time. This technique is associated with writing several topics in a recount paragraph produced by the students. The technique does not allow students to explore much and does not facilitate two types of learners.

Having considered the problems above, teachers need to apply certain teaching writing technique that can help the students to gain better writing skill and accommodate two types of students to involve much and to be successful in writing class. The researcher is interested in applying Clustering Technique for writing instruction. Clustering technique is one of pre writing technique that is used to develop ideas of the learners by writing down the words or phrases by using circles or bubbles. The ideas are inherited by asking wh questions about who involved in the topic, when it occurred, where it happened, what happened, and how the student felt about the topic. Theoretically, clustering technique is a good technique to teach writing for several reasons.

Firstly, clustering technique works on the three stages of writing process, namely pre writing, whilst writing and post writing. It helps students develop and improve fluency with thinking and it functions as a guide line in delivering idea. It also functions as a tool in organizing idea. The last one, it is used as a reflection tool to look back to the text the students write later. It means the technique is useful to lead and guide the students before, during and after writing process integratively and comprehensively. This is in line with what Bellanca (2007, 201) emphasizes that graphic organizer, one of its form is clustering, is the technique which can be applied in the first phase, the second phase, and the third phase.

Secondly, clustering technique acts as a guiding tool for students to start writing. This is suitable with what Seow in Richards and Renandya (2002, 316) claims that clustering is a simple yet powerful technique. By applying this cluster, students' idea will not jump or go far from the topic. The cluster the students make

will set and guide it to become a writing product. As a result, the paragraph they make is structurally well-organized.

Finally, clustering technique works well to two types of learners whether they belong to high motivated students or low motivated ones. Since the students work in pairs, the high motivated students encourage their counterpart in finishing the cluster they make. Meanwhile, the low motivated ones are hoped to be motivated by their friends.

The purpose of this research is to find out whether the use of clustering technique and students' motivation can give significant effect toward students' skill in writing a recount paragraph.

B. METHOD OF THE RESEARCH

This research was conducted by using a quasi experimental research design which is a form of quantitative research. (Creswell 2009) proposes that the suitable research design for this kind of research is quasi experimental design in the post test only control group design. The design that was also used in this research was two factorial design in which Creswell (2009) states that factorial design represents a modification between group designs in which it is studied two or more independent variables.

The population of this research was all the five classes of ten grade students of SMAN 1 B. Anai enrolled in the academic year of 2013/2014. They consisted of 153 students. The normality and homogeneity tests were conducted to the population to ensure whether the population of this research was normal and homogeneous. The researcher, then, chose two classes by using cluster sampling. Gay et al (2009:129) state that in cluster sampling, intact groups, not individuals, are randomly selected. Class X_1 was taken as an experimental class and class X_2 as a control class. Meanwhile, class X_3 was taken for trying out the instruments. The trying out was aimed at testing the validity, reliability, normality and homogeneity of the instruments. This research was conducted for 8 meetings starting from May 5 until June 7, 2014.

The data of the research were collected from the writing test and motivation questionnaire. The post test was given to both classes at meeting 9 or at the end of the research.

The data taken from the students' score in writing test were analyzed by using statistical analysis in order to find out the average score of both experimental class and control class. The formula of Liliefors testing proposed by Irianto (2004:274) was also used to test the normality of the data. Meanwhile, the formula of F test (Riduan 2012:156) was used for homogeneity testing of the sample classes. The hypotheses were tested statistically. Hypotheses 1, 2, and 3 were tested by using t-test as proposed by Gay (2000). Meanwhile, hypothesis 4 was tested by using two ways ANOVA through SPSS version 20 (Ary, 1985) and (Irianto, 2004).

In order to find out whether the students were categorized into high motivated students and low motivated ones, researcher referred to the theory as proposed by Arikunto (2012, 227) by taking 27% of upper class of questionnaire score for high motivated students and 27% of questionnaire score for low motivated ones. From 32 students who were arranged from the highest score to the lowest one of motivation questionnaire, the researcher took 9 students from upper class to be high motivated students, whereas 9 students from the lower class to be low motivated ones.

The most common instrument used in assessing students' motivation is a motivation questionnaire. The questionnaire is the instrument used to know the students' motivation towards English language learning whether they can be categorized as high motivated students or low motivated ones. The questionnaire requires the test takers to select the responses that best describe their motivation towards writing a recount paragraph as guided by Rensis Likert (Likert Scales). The indicators and sub indicators of the questionnaire are based on Ur (1991) who mentions positive task orientation, ego involvement, need for achievement, high aspiration, goal orientation, perseverance, and tolerance of ambiguity to distinguish the students into high motivated students and low motivated ones. Therefore, the researcher constructed the questionnaire items based on the indicators and sub indicators mentioned above.

The questionnaire was validated based on the construct validity. It is to know whether the questionnaire is valid with the theory of motivation or not. Moreover, the items of the questionnaire were validated by one of the psychology lecturers who has a capability and experience to do so. By doing so, it is hoped that the expert validity of the questionnaire is fulfilled. The researcher also used the

formula of product moment (Irianto, 2004, 137) to measure the validity of the questionnaire.

Before the questionnaire was distributed to the students, it had also been tried out to the other class of population to check its validity.

The reliability of the questionnaire was analyzed by applying Alpha Formula (Arikunto, 2012).

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. RESULT

Based on the statistical analysis of the hypotheses testing, there are some findings of the research:

- 1. Students who are taught by using clustering technique have better writing skill in writing a recount paragraph than those who are taught by using conventional technique.**

Table 1. The Summary of Students’ Motivation of Experimental and Control Class

Statistics	Motivation of Experimental Class	Motivation of Control Class
Sum	3440	3366
Mean	107.50	105.19
Min	85	90
Max	127	117

From table 1 above, it can be seen that the minimum score of students’ motivation of experimental class was 85 and it was 90 in control class. Meanwhile, the maximum score of students’ motivation of experimental class was 127 and it was 117 in control class. It would then cause the mean score of motivation of experimental class (107.50) was higher than that in control class (105.19). The difference was 2.31.

Table 2. The Summary of Students’ Writing Test of Experimental and Control Class

Statistics	Writing	Writing
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tics	Experimental	Control
Sum	2365.5	2041
Mean	73.92	63.78
Min	52.5	45
Max	92.5	90

Table 2 shows that the maximum score of students' writing test in experimental class was 92.5 and the minimum score was 52.5. The mean score was 73.92.

In control class, the maximum score of students' writing test was 90 and the minimum score was 45. The mean score was 63.78.

Table 3. The Statistical Analysis of Hypothesis 1

Hypotheses	t-calculated	t-table	Note
Hypothesis 1	2.45	1.70	H ₁ : accepted

From the result of the first hypothesis, it can be seen that the value of t-calculated (2.45) was higher than the value of t-table (1.70). It means that the alternative hypothesis was accepted or the students who are taught by using clustering technique have better writing skill in writing a recount paragraph than those who are taught by using conventional technique.

- 2. High motivated students who are taught by using clustering technique have better writing skill than those who are taught by using conventional technique.**

Table 4. The Summary of High Motivation of Experimental and Control Class

S	High Motivation of Experimental Class	High Motivation of Control Class
Sum	1099	1004
Mean	122.11	111.56

M in	114	108
M ax	127	117

Table 4 displays that the score of high motivated students in experimental class had the interval 114 – 127 and the mean score was 122.11. Meanwhile, in control class, high motivated students had the interval 108 – 117, mean score was 111.56.

Table 5. The Summary of Writing Test of High Motivation of Experimental and Control Class

S tatisti cs	High Experimental	High Control
S um	713.00	588.00
M ean	79.22	65.33
M in	65.00	50.00
M ax	92.5	90.00

Based on the data description above, it can be seen that the mean score of students’ writing test of high motivated students in experimental class was 79.22. The interval was 65,00 – 92,50. Meanwhile, the mean score of high motivated students’ writing test in control class was 65.33, the minimum score was 50.00 and the maximum score was 90.00.

Table 6. The Statistical Analysis of Hypothesis 2

Hypothes	t- calculated	t - table	Not e
Hypothesis 2	1.97	1.83	H ₁ : accepted

The result of hypothesis 2 testing indicates that the value of t-calculated (1.97) was higher than the value of t-table (1.83). It means that high motivated students

who are taught by using clustering technique have better writing skill than those who are taught by using conventional technique.

3. **Low motivated students who are taught by using clustering technique have better writing skill than those who are taught by using conventional technique.**

Table 7. The Summary of Low Motivation of Experimental and Control Class

S tatisti cs	Low Motivation of Experimen tal Class	Low Motivation of Control Class
S um	845.00	883
M ean	93.89	98.11
M in	85	90
M ax	102	107

Table 7 above shows that the score of low motivated students in experimental class had the interval 85 – 102, the mean score was 93.89. In control class, the low motivated students had the interval 90 – 107 and the mean score was 98.11.

Table 8. The Summary of Writing Test of Low Motivated Students of Experimental and Control Class

S tatisti cs	Writing Score of Low Experimental Class	Writing Score of Low Control Class
S um	666.50	560.00
M ean	74.06	62.22
M in	62.5	45.00
M	87.50	87.5

ax		
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Based on the data description above, it can be seen that the writing score of low motivated students of experimental class was 74.06. The minimum score was 62,50 and the maximum score was 87,50. Meanwhile, the mean score of low motivated students' writing test in control class was 62.22 with the interval 45.00 – 87.50.

In the meantime, the statistical analysis of hypothesis 3 is shown in table 9 below.

Table 9. The Statistical Analysis of Hypothesis 3

Hypotheses	t-calculated	t-table	Note
Hypothesis 3	2.08	1.83	H ₁ : accepted

The finding shows the calculation of data analysis which indicates that the value of t-test (2.08) was higher than t-table (1.83). It means that low motivated students who are taught by using clustering technique have better writing skill than those who are taught by using conventional technique.

- There is no interaction between teaching techniques (clustering and conventional) and students' learning motivation toward students' writing skill.**

Table 9. The Statistical analysis of Hypothesis 4

Hypothesis	F-calculated	F-table	Note
Hypothesis 4	0.150	4.02	H ₀ : accepted

Based on the data analysis by using two ways ANOVA, it was found that the value of F-observed (0.150) was lower than the value of F-table (4.02). it

means that there was no interaction between the two techniques and motivation toward students' writing skill.

2. DISCUSSION

1. Students who are taught by using clustering technique have better writing skill in writing a recount paragraph than those who are taught by using conventional technique.

As a matter of fact, clustering technique encourages and prepares the students to have mental readiness before coming to the whilst writing activities through brainstorming and digging ideas to be written. They activate their schemata which is related to writing materials.

This is supported by Langan (2001) who says that clustering is a technique which gathers ideas that is a kind of free association about one concept deals with any interrelated information. Clustering is the technique which can increase students' skill in writing since it digs information from the spider web or the cluster made, which finally arranged into a well-organized paragraph.

Moreover, Nichol (2012) finds out that clustering is an effective technique in language learning which is preferred by the students because it is interesting, fun, and encourages their creativity with its cluster in creating new vocabulary and forming new sentence pattern.

In line with this, Harmer (2000) states that clustering is a visual organizer which will help the students to organize ideas into a well written work. It is a useful device for teachers especially English teachers in teaching their students on how to write.

Last but not least, Mifflin (2013) also claims that clustering is a technique that is applicable in three phases of writing process. It is not only beneficial in pre-writing phase, but also in whilst-writing and post-writing activity.

2. High motivated students who are taught by using clustering technique have better writing skill than those who are taught by using conventional technique.

High motivated students do all the tasks given by the teacher. The ones who are more skillful, have more knowledge, and more motivated will find any

possible solution of the problems they found in the process of learning, including writing.

Pintrich and Schunk (2002) mention that the highly motivated students are always energized to finish the tasks given. They are sustained and motivated to do their best in handling the tasks.

It is supported by William and Burden (1997) who state that the students who take part in finishing the tasks given will use their interest and arousal to finish their work. The ones who can do and take action to conduct it must be high motivated ones. So, no wonder they can finish their work earlier and proceed to another task.

3. Low motivated students who are taught by using clustering technique have better writing skill than those who are taught by using conventional technique.

Both group of students, high motivated and low motivated students, worked cooperatively in clustering technique. They discussed the questions in pairs, drew their cluster, and peer corrected their written work.

Consequently, low motivated students were directly and indirectly helped and encouraged by their partner, the high motivated ones. Students are motivated to learn when they bring some needs to the classroom as the need to to learn something in order to complete a particular task or activity and the need to feel involved and to interact with others. Gradually, their motivation to learn and their writing skill can be better.

This is in line with Tahaine and Daana (2013) claimed in their research that surely the degree of success in acquiring second or foreign language is to a large extent determined by learners' individual differences, such as attitudes and motivation.

Generally speaking, motivation plays an important role in learning English, including writing, and lack of motivation can cause procrastination because motivation is the driving force makes people act. In other words, presence of motivation can increase learning behaviour.

4. There is no interaction between teaching techniques (clustering and conventional) and students' learning motivation toward writing skill.

This finding indicates that motivation is not a variable that influences the students' writing skill. In other words, alternative hypothesis (H1) is rejected. So, it can be said that clustering technique can be used in teaching the students to write, especially a recount paragraph, without considering students' motivation. It also means that students' motivation is not one of the variables which can influence the result of students' writing skill. The ordinal graph shows that students who are taught by using clustering technique have higher mean score of writing test compared to the ones who are taught by conventional technique. The mean score of high motivated and low motivated students in both classes are also higher than those in control class.

Moreover, the difference mean score is shown by ordinal graph whose two lines do not cut one another. It means that the mean score of experimental and control class is not significantly different in terms of students' motivation.

Sharrock (2008) found that there was an interaction between clustering technique and the result of students' writing, however the research done by Tahaineh and Daana (2013) found no interaction between motivation and the result of students' writing test. The researcher also proved the similar interaction among those variables.

D. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of data analysis and the research findings, some conclusions can be drawn. (1) Students who are taught by using clustering technique have better writing skill of a recount paragraph than those who are taught by conventional technique. (2) High motivated students who are taught by clustering technique have better writing skill than those who are taught by using conventional technique. (3) Low motivated students who are taught by using clustering technique have better writing skill than those who are taught by conventional technique. (4) There is no interaction between both teaching techniques, clustering and conventional technique, and students' learning motivation toward students' writing skill.

E. SUGGESTION

1. Since the research has proved that clustering technique gives better result toward students' writing skill, it is suggested to other English teachers at SMAN 1 Batang Anai to apply this technique as one of alternative techniques in teaching English especially in the writing field.
2. Students' achievement in learning is influenced by several psychological factors. One of the factors is students' motivation towards language learning itself. In this case, the teacher is suggested to give more practice to low motivated students in order to improve their achievement, especially their writing skill.
3. Since the limitation of the population and sample used, it is hoped that next researchers can develop larger population and sample in order to gain more accurate and exact data.
4. To the next researchers, it is suggested to work and conduct the researches which involve other psychological factors as moderator variables, such as IQ, socio-economic, gender, interest, attitude, and others instead of motivation to get more empirical data.

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