TEACHING WRITING A DESCRIPTIVE TEXT THROUGH MY STORY MAKER MEDIA IN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

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Abstrak

Makalah ini memaparkan kemampuan menulis siswa dengan menggunakan website *My StoryMaker* pada siswa sekolah menengah pertama. Pengajaran menulis teks pada siswa menengah pertama merupakan suatu pembelajaran yang sulit dalam menciptakan ide dan kurangnya motivasi serta kreativitas untuk meningkatkan kemampuan menulis. Dalam makalah ini penulis mengajarkan menulis menggunakan website. *My StoryMaker* merupakan salah satu website yang dapat memotivasi,menginspirasi dalam pengajaran menulis teks. Website ini menyediakan gambar- gambar yang menarik, yang bisa dipilih siswa sesuai topik yang dipelajari. Website ini cocok digunakan dalam menulis deskriptif teks untuk siswa menengah pertama. Langkah-langkah dalam pengajaran *menulis* yaitu *preparation, pre-teaching, whilst-teaching* dan *post-teaching*. Pada *preparation* guru mempersiapkan materi, media ajar yang akan digunakan, dan rencana pengajaran. Pada *pre-teaching* guru mengaktifkan latar belakang pengetahuan siswa dengan memberikan ilustrasi yang sesuai dengan materi yang akan diajarkan. Pada *whilst-teaching* guru menjelaskan struktur teks yang digunakan dalam penulisan teks deskriptif melalui salah satu teks dalam digital writing *My StoryMaker* tersebut,kemudian siswa memilih gambar dalam *My StoryMaker* berdasarkan arahan guru. Lalu siswa menuliskan dalam bentuk paragraf di website. Pada *post-teaching* guru menyimpulkan pelajaran Apabila siswa telah menulis menggunakan aplikasi ini, siswa bisa langsung mencetak hasil menulisnya dalam bentuk file pdf dan juga siswa bisa langsung mengirim email ke guru sehingga guru bisa mengoreksi hasil menulis siswa secara langsung.

Kata Kunci: Writing, my story maker media

A. Introduction

Writing is the way to express ideas in written form using letters, words, media in order to express the ideas. Writing is a communication process. It is an important part in English skill which should be emphasized on teaching learning

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process in the classroom. Writing skill is one of the language skills that need to be mastered by the students. Writing is not a natural skill, because it cannot be learned automatically and easily. Barret (2006) says that "to write well, you must do a lot of thinking, and you must begin reflecting on the topic before you begin to write". In learning writing, students should get enough practices. These practices can stimulate the student's skill in writing.

Teaching writing in Junior High School is very important. It is because writing is one of the skills that must be learned by the students. This skill is crucial to be learned because its products will determine the students' ability in combining other skills into written form, namely speaking, listening and reading. Basically, the students should know about ideas, messages or information written in a text.

Based on curriculum 2013, there are five genres which are taught in Junior High School. They are descriptive, narrative, recount, procedures, and report. Each genre has own social function, generic structure, purpose and language features. Descriptive text is always used in daily life, for example, in describing place to someone, describing a person, or describing a thing and so on. It has identification and description. It is clear that every student has to master how to describe something.

There are some problems in writing descriptive text. The first, most of students do not know how to present their ideas clearly and meaningfully in written language. They have knowledge to write but they also get difficulties in combining ideas to produce the sentences correctly. Besides, the students sometimes feel confused to state the paragraph based on the generic structures of the descriptive text itself. The students do not arrange the sentences and paragraph based on the generic structures of a descriptive text.

The second problem is related to language feature in a descriptive text . By understanding language features, students can identify the sentences in descriptive text easily. Homstad and Thorson(1996) also say that poor grammar and inadequate vocabulary are the most serious writing problems of second language students. Most of students have lack of knowledge relates to grammar and vocabularies as the parts of the language component. Tense that usually in writing a descriptive text is simple present tense. In the use of the simple present tense.

The third problem, the teachers do not create interesting media in teaching and learning process. They only provide monotonous activities for their students. Many teachers preferred to use one material which is well known as student book to teach their students. Teaching activities depend on the instruction in the student book which has short explanation and less instruction to practice, so it makes the students do not interested in writing. After that, teacher asks the students to write a paragraph about the topic that they have learned. The classroom media can be used for setting up writing activities for instance by using videos, pictures, various materials, even creating games and interesting media in the classroom.

Because of these problems, the teachers have to find good solution and make the students interested in writing descriptive text. According to Sadiman (2002:31) "media is kind of tools used to deliver information from sender to receivers which

can attract their mind, feeling, attention and interest of the students". It means that media can develop the relation between teacher and students in the teaching and learning process effectively. Student will enjoy the learning process and understand about the material given.

There are many media that can be used in teaching writing skill to encourage students' creativity to write. Briggs (1997) says that media as physical used to send messages to the students and stimulate them to learn. Scanlan (2004) states that media is an instructor and teacher might use to implement instruction and facilitate learner's achievement of instructional objectives. In this Information Communication Technology (ICT) era, the internet offers resources that can be used as instructional media, such as printed text, pictures, animations, audios, videos, films, etc. Even now web 2.0 offers unique opportunity for everyone to have their own websites in the form of blogs, facebook, twitter, path, digital story. This website can be a powerful tool for language learners to express themselves and interact with others in English, not only with members of their class but also with learners throughout the world. Website 2.0 can be very motivating for the students to practice their English more intensively. It means that this website can facilitate the students to get ideas easily and express it in writing. By giving interesting site the students feel interested to create sentences based on the pictures in the website.

My StoryMaker website can be used by the teacher to carry writing activities. Therefore, by using *My StoryMaker* as an alternative media of teaching writing descriptive text for the second grade of junior high school students, it is expected that students will enjoy learning writing and can understand the writing at the same time they study it. By using these media, teachers are offered a great possibility to increase motivation to the students. By using digital writing students will interest and motivate confidence in writing, so that it is very helpful in writing. *My StoryMaker* site provides some interesting pictures that stimulate students in writing. Students can choose the interesting picture that related to the topic. By using *My StoryMaker* students can create their own sentences. The pictures of *My Story Maker* motivate students to do writing descriptive text. This site is designed to be used with the Internet Explorer browser and uses technology. My story maker is a kinds of digital writing that can be used by the students easily to create writing.

B. Discussion

Teaching English for the students of the foreign language learners can be a hard work for some teachers, if they do not know the students's capability. A successful teaching should be supported by a good media and good material. In term of choosing interesting media using *My StoryMaker* as a media is one of alternative media in improving and motivating English students to learn writing. In choosing the topic of the media, the teacher links the topic with the syllabus and curriculum. The lesson or material is presented in interested media; this can make students understand about the lesson. The process of teaching learning English at junior high school

focuses on the student's ability to communicate in daily lives, the students have to understand the text. It is important to help the students easily to understand about what they should write and how to write the text. The media that teachers need for teaching writing descriptive through *My Story Maker Site* web 2.0 tools are as follow: computers, a projector, *My Story Maker Site* web tool.There are three kinds of descriptive text such as description place, person, things. It is very important for the teacher to select the material that will be used or taught for the students. The selected material will help the teacher to achieve the teaching learning goal.

In teaching writing, there are three stages that have to be followed. They are pre-teaching activity, whilst-teahing activity and post-teaching activity.

Pre Teaching

In pre writing, the teacher is expected to conduct brainstorming where the teacher invites the students to refresh their mind by discussing everything related to the topic. After that, the teacher tells about the learning objective of the lesson. The teacher can also asks the student's knowledge that they have that related to the topic. In the first activity, the teacher and students do some activities to overview the lesson that will be learned. It is for activating and stimulating the students understanding. Teacher asks the students about the concept of descriptive text. Students have learnt descriptive text in reading before.

Whilst Activity

In whilst teaching the lesson begins to be introduced, delivered and practiced during the class. After activating the students' background knowledge in pre teaching, it will be easier for teacher to teach students. In this stage, the teacher explains the material to the students. Teacher explains the learning objectives and the significance of learning the materials to the students. Whilst teaching activity is the main activity of teaching procedure. In whilst activity teacher explains about writing descriptive text by using *My StoryMaker* site. Based on the curriculum 2013 there are five stages in whilst activity. They are observing, questioning, associating, experimenting and networking.

In observing, the teacher shows a picture as a model of descriptive text. The text given will be equipped with the generic structure of descriptive text. It helps students to observe the text and also motivate them to write later. The purpose of example descriptive text is to recall student's knowledge about descriptive text. After showing the descriptive text, teacher guides the students to discuss about what the text tells about. In addition, the teacher is going to guide their student in questioning about the text they have observed before coming to the next stages.

In questioning, students ask about the descriptive text with the guidance and direction of teachers. Students ask questions that they do not understand related to the text. The students can ask about the generic structure and language features of the text that they still do not understand. If the students are still confused about simple present tense, the teacher will explain simple present tense. Then, the teacher together with the students discusses the questions that are asked by the students. This activity will make the student understand about writing descriptive text. This stage

also increases the student's confident and interest in writing descriptive text and also make the student's vocabularies become richer.

In associating, teacher shows a model of *My StoryMaker* and explains about *My StoryMaker* site. Teacher has to show the sample of using *My StoryMaker* to students. The purpose of associating is to describe teachers and students active participation in the classroom. So, in associating teacher and students make a descriptive text in my story maker. Here, teacher and students do writing in *My Story Maker* website together. In this stages teacher can see the students' ability about the descriptive text.

The fourth is experementing. This is a process of writing. Because in this stages students write their writing task by themselves. In experimenting activity, the students write a descriptive text by using the picture in *My StoryMaker* site. But, in this meeting teacher choose the topic about place. Students can choose place that they will describe in *My StoryMaker* site. Then students motivate will do writing descriptive through *My StoryMaker* site based on the knowledge that they have. Students can do writing creatively in this site. Experimenting is the activity of the students to produce a written text by themselves. It is time for students to do writing text creatively, dependently.

In networking activity, the students try to show their writing to other students. Here teacher ask a student to show her or his writing descriptive text in front of the class. Other students can give comments and the teacher gives the feedback about text that showed by the students.

Post Teaching

In post activity or conclusion students and teacher give conclusion about the material by doing reflection of the activity that have been done. Teacher gives feedback about process and the output of learning. Teacher may give the students a home work by asking the students to do writing decsriptive text at home and share it to teacher's email.

Advantages of Using My Story maker in Writing Descriptive Text

Teaching descriptive text through *My StoryMaker* site has many advantages for students and also for teacher: first, it makes the students interested in their learning process. It is because they can choose the appropriate picture in this site. Second, *My StoryMaker* can stimulate the students to encourage be more creative. They can describe things, people, or animals in this site. Pictures will help the students to find and create ideas to support their writing. Third, they can save or print out their writing in pdf form.

Fourth, at the completion of the tasks, a story code is provided to access and share the tasks. It means that if the students want to share their writing to others, they can share easily by using a code. That they get after they finish their writing. *My Story Maker* is friendly for students to get started within minutes and do not need much training to do the task in this site. Students will be able to get their creative stories as they practice their English. It is easy for students to join this site.

Limitation of *My StoryMaker* site

However, my story maker has two weaknesses. The first, it does not have completed spelling grammar. Therefore students cannot check spelling grammar automatically. Whereas grammar check is also required in digital writing. The second, the task of students will disappear in this website automatically after one month. So that students are expected to print out the results of their tasks.

C. Conclusion and Suggestion

Writing becomes a part of students' need that cannot be separated. It is one of important skill that should be learned and mastered by the students in the school. Moreover, writing is not only about how to write some sentences into good paragraph especially descriptive text, but also skill of conveying meaningful message to the reader. The writer should follow some important process of writing that can support the writing product. That is why English teacher should be aware about the process of the teaching and learning process.

However, the media that the teacher use can motivate students in learning. My story maker site in teaching writing will help the students to find and gather their ideas about what they are going to write. This site will make the students motivated of learning. The students will feel satisfied when they can reach the goal. This site will be a reference for the students in doing the next writing. The students can also improve their ability to produce a good writing. They will be confident and creative in writing by using their own ideas to create a text.

Suggestion

The writer expects the teacher to motivate the students in writing process through *my story maker* site. It is suggested to the teacher to use this site for the students. Therefore, teacher can focus on helping the students finding, organizing and delivering the ideas into the text. Therefore, teacher only needs to recall what the students have learned about descriptive text. Hopefully the students will have initiation to write more because they have already learned one of media and fun way to start the writing process.

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