

**THE STUDY OF THE QUALITY OF DESCRIPTIVE TEXT WRITTEN BY THE  
THIRD YEAR STUDENTS OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT OF MAHA PUTRA  
MUHAMMAD YAMIN UNIVERSITY SOLOK**

**THESIS**



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## ABSTRAK

**Andi Fery. 2011. The Study of the Quality of Descriptive Text Written by the Third Year Students of English Department of Maha Putra Muhammad Yamin University Solok.**

Kualitas menulis sebuah teks sangat diperlukan ditingkat pendidikan universitas. Oleh karena itu, mahasiswa diharapkan memiliki kemampuan menulis yang baik dan memadai. Namun demikian, mahasiswa masih sering mengalami berbagai kesulitan dalam menulis sebuah teks. Ada beberapa faktor yang dapat menyebabkan gagalnya mahasiswa dalam menulis suatu teks yang berkualitas. Diantaranya adalah; tidak jelasnya penulisan identifikasi, dan deskripsi, ketidak mampuan menyusun isi tulisan, dan kesalahan menerapkan pola struktur bahasa, pemilihan kata yang tidak tepat dan penulisannya serta penggunaan tanda baca yang tidak sesuai. Oleh karena itu, penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menjelaskan kualitas penulisan deskriptif teks mahasiswa.

Penelitian ini adalah penelitian deskriptif. Populasi penelitian ini adalah mahasiswa tahun tiga Jurusan Bahasa Inggris Universitas Maha Putra Muhammad Yamin, Solok. Sample penelitian ini adalah *random sampling* dan data dikumpulkan melalui tes. Untuk mengadakan tes ini, peneliti memberikan lima topik. Mahasiswa memilih tiga diantara lima topik tersebut untuk dikembangkan menjadi teks deskriptif. Data tersebut kemudian dianalisis dengan menggunakan kriteria penilaian untuk keempat komponen teks yaitu identifikasi, deskripsi, organisasi dan fitur bahasa.

Berdasarkan analisis terhadap ke-tiga teks yang ditulis oleh mahasiswa, ditemukan bahwa mahasiswa jurusan bahasa Inggris tahun tiga universitas Maha Putra Muhammad Yamin, Solok dikategorikan rendah dalam menulis deskriptif teks. Ada 11 mahasiswa yang dinilai baik kualitasnya dalam identifikasi. 17 mahasiswa dikategorikan rendah, 2 mahasiswa mendapat kategori sangat rendah dan tidak ada satupun mahasiswa yang mendapatkan kualitas sangat bagus pada komponen ini. Selanjutnya, setelah teks tersebut dianalisa per indikatornya. Ditemukan bahwa ada 2 mahasiswa yang mendapatkan nilai sangat bagus, kebanyakan dari mereka (20 mahasiswa) mendapat nilai bagus, 6 mahasiswa bernilai rendah dan 2 lainnya mendapat kualitas sangat rendah untuk identifikasi. Untuk deskripsi, ada 3 mahasiswa mendapat kualitas sangat bagus, 13 orang dari mereka mendapatkan nilai bagus, 13 mahasiswa mendapatkan nilai rendah dan yang mendapatkan nilai sangat rendah ada 2 mahasiswa. Kebanyakan mahasiswa (18) bernilai rendah, 8 dari mereka mendapat nilai bagus, 2 mahasiswa mendapat nilai sangat bagus dan 2 mahasiswa lainnya mendapat nilai sangat rendah pada komponen organisasi teks. Komponen terakhir adalah fitur bahasa. Tidak ada satupun mahasiswa yang mencapai kategori kualitas sangat bagus pada komponen ini, kebanyakan mahasiswa (15) mendapat nilai rendah, 11 dari mereka mendapatkan nilai bagus serta ada 4 mahasiswa mendapatkan nilai sangat rendah.

Temuan tersebut menunjukkan bahwa mahasiswa masih menghadapi banyak masalah dalam menulis teks deskriptif. Oleh karena itu, berdasarkan hasil penelitian, mahasiswa diharapkan untuk memperhatikan identifikasi, deskripsi, organisasi dan fitur bahasa dari teks yang ditulis tersebut. Dosen yang mengajarkan mata kuliah menulis (*writing*) di Universitas juga disarankan untuk membimbing para mahasiswanya mengenai tata cara menulis teks deskriptif teks yang baik dengan lebih memperhatikan ke empat komponen teks deskriptif tersebut.

## ABSTRACT

**Andi Fery. 2011. The Study of the Quality of Descriptive Text Written by the Third Year Students of English Department of Maha Putra Muhammad Yamin University Solok.**

The quality of the writing a text is needed at the university level. Thus, the students should have good writing skills. Meanwhile, the students still have some difficulties in writing a text. There are many factors that cause the students failed in writing a good quality of text. They are; unclear identification and description, unable to organize details, and applying the correct grammar patterns, selecting appropriate words, writing spelling and punctuation of text. That's why, the research is aimed at explaining the students' quality of writing a descriptive text.

This was a descriptive research. The population was the third year students of English department of Maha Putra Muhammad Yamin University Solok. The sample of the research was derived from random sampling and the data were collected by using test. For the test, the researcher provided five topics. The students chose three of them to be developed in descriptive text. The data from writing test were analyzed by using scoring rubrics for the four components of the text such as identification, description, organization and language features.

Based on the analysis of the three texts written by the students, it was found that the third year students of English department of Maha Putra Muhammad Yamin Univeristy Solok was mostly poor in writing descriptive text. There were 11 students got good quality in identification, 17 students were poor, 2 students obtained very poor and none of the students got very good quality. Furthermore, after analyzing the texts per indicator. It was found that 2 students got very good, most of them (20) got good, 6 was poor and 2 was very poor for identification. For description, there is 3 of the students were very good, 13 of them got good, 13 students also obtained poor, and very poor was only 2. Most of the students (18) were poor, 8 of them was good, 2 of them got very good and there was 2 of the students got very poor in organization component. The last component was language features. None of the students achieved very good category in this component, most of the students (15) were poor and 11 of them was good category and there was 4 of them got very poor.

The findings above shows that the students are still have problems in writing descriptive text. Therefore, based on the result of the research, the students are suggested to pay attention to the identification, description, organization and language features of the text. The writing lecturers at the university are also suggested to guide the students how to write a good descriptive text by paying more attention to the four components of the descriptive text mentioned above.

## SURAT PERNYATAAN

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Padang, Mei 2011  
Saya yang menyatakan

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The writer

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<b>CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION</b>	
A. Background of the Problem .....	1
B. Identification of the Problem.....	5
C. Focus of the Problem .....	5
D. Formulation of the Problem .....	6
E. Research Questions .....	6
F. Purposes of the Research .....	7
G. Significance of the Research.....	7
H. Definition of the Key Term .....	8
<b>CHAPTER II. REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE</b>	
A. Review of the related Literature.....	9
a. The Concept of Writing Skills .....	9
b. The Process of Writing Text.....	13
c. Writing Descriptive Text .....	18
d. Developing Writing Skill of Descriptive Text.....	23
e. The Concept of Evaluating Descriptive Text.....	29
B. Some Related Findings.....	33
C. Conceptual Framework.....	36
<b>CHAPTER III. METHOD OF THE RESEACH</b>	
A. Research Design.....	38
B. Population and Sample.....	38
C. Instrumentation.....	39

D. Technique of Data Collection .....	40
E. Technique of Data Analysis .....	40
F. Checking Data Trustworthiness.....	44

## CHAPTER IV. DATA ANALYSIS, FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

<b>A. Data Analysis</b> .....	45
<i>a. The Qualitative Analysis per Pieces</i> .....	46
1. Very good Quality of the Text.....	47
2. Good Quality of the Text.....	47
3. Poor Quality of the Text .....	51
4. Very poor Quality of the Text .....	55
<i>b. The Qualitative Analysis per Indicator</i> .....	60
1. The Identification.....	60
2. The Description.....	73
3. The Organization.....	89
4. The Language Features.....	102
<b>B. Findings</b> .....	115
1. The Identification.....	115
2. The Description.....	117
3. The Organization.....	118
4. The Language Features.....	120
<b>C. Discussion</b> .....	121

## CHAPTER V. CONCLUSIONS, IMPLICATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

A. Conclusions.....	125
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B. Implications.....	126
C. Suggestions.....	127
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	128
APPENDICES	



## LIST OF APPENDICES

	Page
Appendix I	Scoring Criteria
Appendix II	Score Level
Appendix III	Students' Score for Text I, II, III of the three raters
Appendix IV	Students' Average Score of Texts
Appendix V	Students' Descriptive Texts
Appendix VI	Syllabus of Writing
Appendix VII	Surat Izin Penelitian

## LIST OF TABLES

Table. 3.0 Score category of the students’ Descriptive text. ....	42
Table 4.0. Students’ Quality in Writing Descriptive Texts per Indicators .....	101
Table 4.1. Students’ score of the four components.....	103
Table 4.2. Students’ Texts Score in Frequency and Percentage for text I .....	104
Table 4.3. Students’ score for each component of text I .....	104
Table 4.4. Students’ score of the four components .....	107
Table. 4.5. Students’ Texts Score in Frequency and Percentage for text II .....	108
Table 4.6. Students score for each component of text II.....	109
Table 4.7. Students’ Score of the four Components .....	112
Table 4.8. Students’ Texts Score in Frequency and Percentage for text III .....	113
Table 4.9. Students score for each component of the texts III ....	113

## **LIST OF FIGURE**

Figure 4.1. Students score for each component text I.....	105
Figure 4.2. Students score for each component text II .....	110
Figure 4.3. Students score for each component text III .....	114

## LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix I	Scoring Criteria.....	126
Appendix II	Score Level .....	130
Appendix III	Students' Score for Text I, II, III.....	133
Appendix IV	Syllabus of Writing .....	134
Appendix V	Students's Texts .....	135

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **A. Background of the Problem**

Writing is one of the most important skills to be mastered, especially for university students. The ability to write is needed since the students have to write a text or paper for their academic purposes, completing the assignments, as well as expressing ideas, experiences and feelings into a written form. Beside that, the ability of writing will also contribute to the development of knowledge of the students themselves because writing is transferring ideas from one to another. Therefore, good students are the ones who can communicate their thoughts in the written form such as text. Writing a text can boost the understanding of the students to subject matter as well as improve the language skills and helps the students to think critically.

Nevertheless, the findings of the writer preliminary research done to students of Mahaputra Muhammad Yamin University Solok showed that writing was considered as the most difficult task to do for students. Most of the students (75% of 70 students interviewed) answered that they had difficulties in writing. They often had difficulty in choosing words, since most of them still lacked of vocabulary, so that they can not arrange the words into good sentence to express and organize their ideas to convey the messages in writing form. Beside that, most of the students had the problem to put the correct grammar and punctuation to the sentence they write. As soon as they come to writing activity their mind often get

stuck for ideas to write, they do not know what to write and how to express their ideas.

Furthermore, besides doing the preliminary research, the writer also reviewed some related findings done by previous researchers. Those findings showed that most of the students considered writing as the difficult subject to accomplish. The students tend to get difficulty in most aspects of writing such as; writing identification or finding the main idea to focus. They also commonly tend to have difficulties in writing description or the details for describing a place or object with vivid details that reinforce the main point or dominant impression.

Furthermore, they tend to have problems in organizing the relevant details in effective order that focus on a particular aspect of the thing or place described as well as providing a description with direction and unity. Besides that, they also have difficulties in using the language features such as the use of a correct grammatical patterns, the use of verb, linking verbs and tenses or the use of adjective which is functioned to describe or illustrate the object as well as the use of mechanics and diction of a text (see Chapter 2 for more details).

In addition, the lecturers should motivate them to practice their students' writing to create a good development, because writing is process that needs time and effort and should be taught and practiced continuously. Finocchiaro and Bonomo (1973) say that students should be encouraged and carefully nurtured in order to make them able to express their ideas clearly and correctly.

For advanced level like university students, writing does not only focus on correct grammar of the sentence or vocabulary. But it will be far beyond than

that since expressing ideas in well thought out and well-organized of written text is essential. To be able to compose a good text, the students need some knowledge of what a paragraph is, topic sentence, supporting details, unity and coherence as well as concluding sentence. That's why lack of this knowledge will affect badly to the process and the product of the text written by the students.

To reach this goal, the students are taught many genres of text during their study at the university. Some of the genres of texts taught are narrative, descriptive, expository, and argumentation. The genres of text that the students have to write will depend on some ideas to convey. Each text has a different purpose and special characteristics that differentiate with others and it is arranged in certain arrangement. It also has different social function, generic structures, and language features of the text but it has same functions that are to communicate the thoughts to other people.

One of the text genres that should be taught to the students at the university level is descriptive text. A descriptive text is the text to describe person, things or place. Descriptive texts are very interesting to write for owning a reasonable amount of creativity and writing skills. The objective of a descriptive assignment is different from that of other types of texts. This type of text, as is obvious from the term, describes the matter in much more detail than other assignments. It is not easy to write since the writer has to indentify a thing, person or place being described, so the readers are able to imagine as if they see the things, place or person. Besides that, the writer also has to tell how something looks smells, feel acts, or even sound in much more details. That's why; it cannot

be done only in simple sentences. Therefore, it is assumed that writing a descriptive text would be difficult for the university students to do, since they should have enough background knowledge to write down what they see or feel.

Conversely, based on the findings and the preliminary research, they showed that most of the students are still get difficulty in writing descriptive text, let alone to write the good quality of descriptive text. First, they get the difficulties to find and express the ideas become a descriptive text. So that, the students become confuse and lazy to write. Second, the students are still found difficulties to use the correct tense to describe something/someone (Pardiyono, 2007). Furthermore, there are many factors that cause the students failed in writing a good quality of descriptive text such as lack of coherency; developing ideas, write a clear identification as well as selecting appropriate words and put the correct punctuation into their text.

Based on the phenomena above, it seems that most of the students still lack knowledge of writing especially when they write a text of descriptive one in which the descriptive text is often creative, personal, or simply artistic. Therefore, a research about the descriptive text written by the students need to be conducted. That's why the researcher is interested to discuss and analyze about the quality of descriptive text written by the third year students of English department of Maha Putra Muhammad Yamin University, Solok.



## **B. Identification of the Problem**

Based on the background of the problem above, the students often have problems in some elements of descriptive text such as; to write identification. They commonly have difficulties in providing a paragraph that contains some background information, interesting, and well thought out introduction and leading the readers to the specific topic.

In addition, they tend to have difficulties in writing a description such as describing a place or object with vivid details that reinforce the main point or dominant impression, and using language that shows to make the text more concrete and specific.

Moreover, the students often have problem in organizing the relevant details in effective order that focus on a particular aspect of the thing or place described as well as providing a description with direction and unity.

Finally, the students tend to have some problems in language features of descriptive text. Students often do not understand how to use correct grammatical patterns. Beside that, the students also still have problem in mechanics and diction or vocabulary of a text.

## **C. Focus of the Problem**

Based on the problem stated above, this study was limited to the quality of the descriptive text written by the third year students of English department of Maha Putra Muhammad Yamin University, Solok. The researcher focus on students' quality of identification, description, organization and language features

of the descriptive text of the place. It is chosen in order to be more focus and providing the writer with wide background knowledge and variety choice of the words.

#### **D. Formulation of the Problem**

Related to the focus above, the problem of this research was formulated in this following question “What is students’ quality in writing descriptive text of a place?”

#### **E. Research Questions**

The problem of this research is elaborated in the following questions:

1. What is the quality of the identification of descriptive text written by the third year students of English department of Maha Putra Muhammad Yamin University, Solok?
2. What is the quality of the description of descriptive text written by the third year students of English department of Maha Putra Muhammad Yamin University, Solok?
3. What is the quality of the organization of descriptive text written by the third year students of English department of Maha Putra Muhammad Yamin University, Solok?
4. What is the quality of the language features of descriptive text written by the third year students of English department of Maha Putra Muhammad Yamin University, Solok?

## **F. Purpose of the Research**

The purposes of the research are to find out:

1. The quality of identification of descriptive text written by the third year students of English department of Maha Putra Muhammad Yamin University, Solok.
2. The quality of description of descriptive text written by the third year students of English department of Maha Putra Muhammad Yamin University, Solok.
3. The quality of organization of descriptive text written by the third year students of English department of Maha Putra Muhammad Yamin University, Solok.
4. The quality of language features of descriptive text written by the third year students of English department of Maha Putra Muhammad Yamin University, Solok.

## **G. Significance of the Research**

The result of this research is expected to give some contributions about teaching writing for lecturers so that he or she can develop the technique of teaching writing as well as to provide them with knowledge for keeping them developing the students basic skills and to enhance the ability of the students in descriptive text. The findings of the research also is hoped to be useful for the students of English Department of Maha Putra Muhammad Yamin University, Solok.

This research is also conducted to give a significant contribution to writing subject. By identifying it, the lecturers might get better description about students' quality in writing a text, especially the descriptive text.

In addition, this research also gives the theoretical contribution in which it is addressed to the next researcher in order to provide basic point of view about teaching writing of descriptive text for the developing of the theory.

#### **H. Definition of the Key Terms**

In order to avoid misunderstanding in this study, the researcher defines specific key terms as follow:

1. *Descriptive text* is a kind of text that gives illustration or to represent a particular person, place or thing in details, so the readers can visualize or imagine about the object that is being described.
2. *Descriptive text Written by the third year students of University* is a kind of text, which has the specific function to give description about an object in much more details that involve at least five senses with correct rhetorical structure, organization and grammatical patterns.
3. *Writing descriptive text* is an activity to describe something in written form
4. *Quality* is the ability to express and to communicate form by considering the writing situation and the elements of a text, such as identification, description, organization and language features.
4. *Generic structure* is specific organization of the text.

## **CHAPTER V**

### **CONCLUSIONS, IMPLICATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

#### **A. Conclusions**

The purpose of this research was to describe the quality of the texts written by the students of Third year students of English department of Mahaputra Muhammad Yamin University, Solok. Based on the research findings in the previous chapter, the researcher can draw some conclusions:

1. The findings show that the quality of the third year students of English Department of Maha Putra Muhammad Yamin university, Solok in writing the identification obtained mostly in good rate.
2. The quality of the third year students of English Department of Maha Putra Muhammad Yamin university, Solok are still having problems in writing the description. It can be said that the students are fail in writing the qualified details for the text. That's why most of the students are poor in this component of the descriptive text.
3. The quality of the third year students of English Department of Maha Putra Muhammad Yamin university, Solok, is poor in the organization of the text. It meant that there were many students who still have problems in organizing their descriptive text.
4. The quality of the texts written by the third year students of English Department of Mahaputra Muhammad Yamin, Solok also was still poor in language features. Here, they got difficulties in applying the grammatical patterns, selecting appropriate words (diction) and mechanics of the text.

## **B. Implications**

The findings and the conclusions of this research have certain implications for writing lecturers as well as other lectures such as vocabulary and grammar who contribute in teaching writing. Especially, the descriptive text. The researcher believes that teaching writing for the descriptive text need to be improved, including the process of learning as well as the product. The teaching strategies of how to write descriptive text have important implications and offer considerable opportunity for the students of English department of Mahaputra Muhammad Yamin University, Solok. The result of this research has proved that the students need to have some strategies in writing the identification, description, organization, and language features. Although the students got the good rate for identification component, it still needs to be improved for better quality of descriptive text.

For that reason, the researcher invites the lecturers who teach writing to use this research result in order to improve and design their syllabus, since the researcher believes that the teaching technique of writing should be the solution to the problem of writing in which the quality of students' writing is still low. If the lecturers of writing use the varied and better technique, the student's process of learning could be effective. Besides, the lecturers also should encourage the students to have the creativity to learn the writing skills. Furthermore, this study might be generalized to other university or classes that have similar issues in term of

teaching and learning writing skills of descriptive text.

### **c. Suggestions**

Based on the research findings and conclusions of the research, the researcher would like to propose the following suggestions:

1. The writing lecturers are suggested to present the up to date as well as familiar topics for the writing classes. So that, the students will be more trained in writing texts and providing background knowledge for the students if the texts based on the up to date topics and familiar ones.
2. The vocabulary lecturers are also suggested to provide the students with the strategies of how to use the appropriate diction in different situation and context. Moreover, the grammar lecturers are suggested to help the student in understanding of the use and concept of the grammar pattern, correct spelling, and also the use of punctuation. In order the students can write the text with correct language features.
3. Students are suggested to vary the attention grabbers in writing the identification. Based on findings, most of the students only used one type of attention grabber that is build of knowledge or background information that so static. The students also are suggested to write the convincing details, well-thought out organization, and appropriate language features of their description text in which the mostly students texts are still poor.
4. To further researcher, it is suggested to conduct this research at different skills and level of the students.

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