# THE INFLUENCE OF COGNITIVE LEARNING STRATEGY AND INTEREST ON WRITING ON STUDENTS' WRITING SKILL AT SMPN 1 SINTUK TOBOH GADANG PADANG PARIAMAN

## **THESIS**



 $\mathbf{B}\mathbf{y}$ 

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### **ABSTRAK**

Mila Fitrita Z. 2016. Pengaruh Strategi Belajar Kognitif dan Ketertarikan Pada Kegiatan Menulis Terhadap Kemampuan Menulis Siswa SMPN 1 Sintuk Toboh Gadang Padang Pariaman. Tesis. Program Pascasarjana. Universitas Negeri Padang

Penelitian ini adalah Korelasi Multivariat yang dilaksanakan di SMPN 1 Sintoga Padang Pariaman yang bertujuan untuk membuktikan bahwa Cognitive Learning strategy sebagai variabel bebas (X1) dan Interest on writing (X2) mempengaruhi kemampuan siswa dalam menulis. Dalam penelitian ini pengambilan sampel dilakukan dengan menggunakan proporsional tehnik sampling. 50% dari populasi diberikan angket strategi belajar yang terdiri dari enam tipe learning strategi. Siswa yang memiliki nilai tinggi pada Cognitive Learning Strategy akan diambil sebagai sampel penelitian. Dari 63 siswa sebagai populasi, 38 siswa terkategori sebagai siswa yang menggunakan Cognitive Learning strategy sebagai strategi belajar. Selanjutnya sampel diberikan angket Cognitive Learning strategy untuk mengelompokkan mereka kedalam upper dan lower cognitive learning strategy. Pengelompokkan data didapatkan 62,05% siswa terkategori upper cognitive learning strategy dan 28,95% terkategori lower cognitive learning strategy. Data sampel didapatkan bahwa sampel juga diberikan angket interest on writing untuk menentukan kelompok upper dan lower interest on writing. Hasil analisa data menunjukkan bahwa 57,89% siswa terkategori upper interest on writing dan 43,11% siswa terkategori lower interest on writing. Data deskriptif menunjukkan bahwa mean score Cognitive Learning strategy berada pada 2,853 dengan standar deviasi 0,6993. Sedangkan interest on writing berada pada mean score 3,039 dengan standar deviasi 0,6096. Selanjutnya analisa inferensial digunakan untuk membuktikan hipotesis penelitian dengan menggunakan uji t. Dari hasil uji t didapatkan bahwa Cognitive learning strategy mempengaruhi kemampuan menulis siswa SMPN 1 Sintoga dengan nilai uji t 3,5032 > 2,402. Uji t juga menunjukkan bahwa *interest on* writing mempengaruhi kemampuan menulis siswa dengan nilai t 3,881>2,402. Dari uji t yang dilakukan terlihat bahwa interest on writing lebih mempengaruhi kemapuan menulis siswa.

### **ABSTRACT**

Mila Fitrita Z. 2016. The Influence of Cognitive Learning Strategy and Interest on Writing on Students' Writing Skill At SMPN 1 Sintuk Toboh Gadang Padang Pariaman. Thesis. Graduated Program. State University of Padang

This study was conducted in Correlation Multivariate held at SMPN 1 Sintoga Padang Pariaman which aimed to prove that Cognitive Learning strategy as an independent variable (X1) and Interest on writing (X2) affects students' ability in writing. In this study, the sampling was done by using proportional sampling techniques. 50% of the population was given a questionnaire about learning strategy that consists of six types of learning strategies types. Students who have a high value on Cognitive Learning Strategy will be taken as a sample. As the population of 63 students, 38 students categorized as students who used Cognitive learning strategy as their learning strategies. Furthermore, samples are given a questionnaire Cognitive Learning strategy to classify them into upper and lower cognitive learning strategy. The data obtained 62.05% of students categorized in the upper cognitive learning strategies and 28.95% students were categorized into lower cognitive learning strategy. The samples were also given a questionnaire about interest on writing to determine their level of interest on writing which was upper and lower interest groups on writing. Results of the data analysis showed that 57.89% of students were categorized into upper interest on writing and 43.11% students were categorized into lower interest on student writing. Descriptive data showed that the mean score of Cognitive Learning strategy was at 2.853 with a standard deviation of 0.6993. While the mean score of interest on writing was 3.039 with a standard deviation 0.6096. Further inferential analysis was used to prove the research hypothesis by using t-test. From the t test results showed that cognitive learning strategy influence the students' writing skill of SMPN 1 Sintoga the value of the t test 3.5032> 2.402. T test also showed that the interest on writing influence students' writing skills with t value 3.881> 2.402. T test conducted shows that the interest on writing influence students' writing ability more than cognitive learning strategy.

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### **CHAPTER I**

#### INTRODUCTION

## A. Background of the Problem

Teaching English stated on the demand of curriculum 2013 affirms clearly that teachers have to help students to achieve competence in language skills. One of the competences in language skills that should be achieved by the students is writing skill. Writing is one of the important skills to be mastered by the students. They use it to communicate to each other, as means of ideas and emotional expression, because when they write their ideas and emotion creatively, they are communicating on paper in their very best way and purposes. Based on Core Competency -Kompetensi Inti (KI) and Basic Competency-Kompetensi Dasar (KD), the second year students are expected to be able to express meaningful ideas in term of functional text and simple short essay in the form of descriptive and recount to interact with people in their nearest environment. The work of writing is presented in the form of text types, usually known as genres, which are closely related to the purpose of each type. There must be a convergence between English teaching and learning. Therefore, efforts to develop students writing skills in English, is not only one of the important objectives of English teaching, but also to adapt to the needs of examination.

Dealing with the efforts to achieve students writing skill, a number of factors which influence students in achieving the skill have to be considered. A number of theories have stated about the factors which affect students' writing

skill. Most of the theories claim that as writing is a process which needs strategy and interest of the writers to complete their writing. This theory is supported by Nachira (2010) who conducted research about the factors which affect the students' writing skill. She found that students learning strategy, knowledge, effort and interest of the writing topic influence students' competence in writing.

The findings of the previous research stated that interest is one of some factors which affect students' writing skill. Interest is psychological condition that drives and leads a person to behave. It is also stated as an internal state that arouses, directs and maintains behavior. Gambrell (2001:130) states that interest refers to what moves people to put forth. It means that interest is everything that can make a person to do something. In other words, interest is an encouragement that comes from itself or given by one person to another. The encouragement is done in order to make someone become a better person than before. Additionally, interest means as an underlying reason for activity that is done by a person.

The next factor which can give influence on the students' competence in writing is learning strategy which is had by the students. It is assumed as the way of the students to understand and promote their language learning and it is also claimed as a tactic that a learner has in order to get the competence of language acquisition and used with the explicit goal of helping learners improving their knowledge and understanding of a target language. The learning strategies are also concluded as aware judgments and behaviors used by students to facilitate language learning tasks and to personalize the language learning process. If the

language learner wants to get their target in learning a language, they have to have a good strategy in order to learn a language.

As stated by Oxford (2002: 8), learning strategies are specific actions taken by the learner to make learning easier, faster, more enjoyable, more self directed, more effective, and more transferrable to new situation. It can be assumed that learning strategy in writing which had by the language learners make the learners are excited more in achieving writing skill. Therefore, the students have to have good strategy to increase their writing skill to prove their skill mastery.

One of learning strategies that has big influence in writing skill is Cognitive learning strategies. It is a kind of strategies which is unified by a common function, manipulation or transformation of the target language. It implies that the different processes concerning learning can be explained by analyzing the mental processes first. It posits that with effective cognitive processes, learning is easier and new information can be stored in the memory for a long time. On the other hand, in effective cognitive processes result to learning difficulties that can be seen anytime during the lifetime of an individual (Sincero: 2011, 3).

Furthermore, Cognitive learning strategy which constructs cognitive learning competence affects writing skill in some components of writing. As the component of writing which developing idea needs to accept incoming information and to retrieve the store information, so that the cognitive

competence has to be had. This statement is supported by Julia (2003) who states that cognitive learning strategies refer to all strategies that writer use to implement the actual writing skill. Based on the opinion, it can be assumed cognitive learning strategies concern with the writing skill since this strategy simply refers to the thinking process and storage knowledge.

Besides learning strategy, another factor which also influence the students' writing skill is their interest on writing. According to Mu (2005), in term of interest of learning this strategy is similar to rest that has an aim at reducing anxiety and increasing curiosity. It means that interest on writing makes the students' relax and enjoy in doing writing activity, which cause they are easy to build their ideas and deliver their opinion, argumentation and their feeling through writing activity.

Dealing with the explanation above, the researcher did some investigation with the number of students at SMP N 1 Sintoga Padang Pariaman about their writing skill. Form the result of investigation, the researcher found that the students' writing skill are very lame. Some students are in high skill and some students are in lowest skill. Seeing the fact above, the researcher did some informal interview with the some teachers and students. The teacher stated that the students did not have ideas in developing topic to be written. They seemed not interest to do writing. Another factor was because the student did not have good strategy in developing their knowledge. Meanwhile, the result of the informal interview with the students showed that the students were lazy to

complete their writing because they did not have knowledge to develop ideas and they did not have interest in writing. It can be seen from a number of indicators of learning such as feelings of pleasure; students' interest, students' attention, and students' engagement are still not had by the students.

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

Related to background of the problem above, the researcher identified that there were several factors can affect the students at SMP N 1 Sintoga Padang Pariaman in writing skill. Good writing skill of the students has good affected for the students itself especially in transferring their ideas and opinion in daily life in English language. Writing skill of students can be calculated in good content, organization, grammar, rich of vocabulary and mechanic of writing. Besides writing skill that should be had by the students, interest in learning also should be built in order to get good learning result. Actually, to achieve good writing skill, there are some factors should be considered such as cognitive learning strategy and writing interest.

Cognitive learning strategy in writing skill is claimed as the important factor should be considered since this learning strategy affect students' skill in writing. Ability in developing ideas as the main component of writing can not be separated from students cognitive learning strategy since this strategy leads the students having linguistic knowledge of the topic that will be written and this strategy also guides the students to find and select important information from outside sources. A learner remembers new words by visualizing them represented

in a memorable or ridiculous situation. This makes it easier and faster to recall these words.

Meanwhile, interest on writing is also stated as the factor of writing skill. Students who are interested in a particular subject is a form from how teaching methods can affect students thought the lesson on then make students interest to the lesson. The students will have a high interest in a case because of the satisfaction and benefits that have been acquired, as well as strengthening the response received from parents, teachers, groups, and the environment, then someone is going to focus on the activity of interest.

### C. Focus of the Research

Based on the identification of the problem above, there are some factors that influence students' writing skill. But, in this research, the researcher discussed about Cognitive learning strategies and writing interest. Since interest in writing and learning strategy generate students' mind set in acquiring information and reducing anxiety. Therefore, it is important for the researcher to find out the influence of Cognitive learning strategy and interest on writing toward students writing skill.

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

According to the limitation above, the problem of this research is formulated based on the topic of this research which is aimed to see the influence of cognitive learning strategy and interest on writing toward students' writing skill. The formulation of the problem was stated in the following question: "Are

there any significant influence of Cognitive learning strategy and interest on writing toward students writing skill?"

## E. Research Questions

Based on the formulation of the problems, some research questions could be developed as following:

- 1. What are the cognitive learning strategy of the students?
- 2. What are the interest on writing of the students?
- 3. What are the upper and lower cognitive learning students' writing skill?
- 4. What are the upper and lower interest student' on writing?
- 5. What are the influence of students' cognitive learning strategy and interest on writing on student's writing skill?

## F. Purpose of the Research

The purposes of this research were

- 1. To find out the upper and lower students cognitive learning strategy.
- 2. To find out the upper and lower students interest on writing
- To find out the students' writing skill of the upper students cognitive learning strategy and lower students cognitive learning strategy.
- 4. To find out students' writing skill of the upper students interest on writing and lower students interest on writing.
- 5. To find the influence of cognitive learning strategy toward students' writing skill
- 6. To find out the influence of interest on writing toward students' writing skill

7. To compare the influence of cognitive learning strategy than the influence of interest on writing on students' writing skill

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

The result of this research is intended to give contribution to the researcher, the reader, and the students. For the researcher, this research will add the knowledge and be useful to know the influence of cognitive learning strategy and interest on writing toward students' writing skill. For the reader, this research will enrich knowledge about the cognitive learning strategy. Last, for students of senior high school, this research is hoped can make them motivated to increase their Cognitive learning strategy and they realize that Cognitive learning strategy is important to be encouraged because it has good influence toward their writing skill. This research can be used as consideration in building Cognitive learning strategy in order to be good writer and having good interest in learning.

### H. Definition of Key Terms

In order to make the readers have the same perception with the researcher had better to present the key terms as the following:

- Learning strategies are specific activity taken by students of ninth grade of SMPN 1 Sintoga Padang Pariaman to make learning easier, faster, more enjoyable, more self directed, more influenceive and more transferable to new situation.
- 2. Cognitive learning strategy is the strategy which is used students of ninth grade of SMPN 1 Sintoga Padang Pariaman to interact with the material to be

- learned by manipulating it mentally (as in making mental images or relating new information to previously acquired concepts *or* skills) or physically
- 3. Writing skill is ninth grade of SMPN 1 Sintoga Padang Pariaman students' competence in constructing some written text which scored based on some components namely, organization, content, grammar and vocabulary and mechanic of writing.
- 4. Interest on writing is ninth grade of SMPN 1 Sintoga Padang Pariaman students' feeling of writing about specific topic.