

Using Twitter to Teach Writing for Beginning Level of EFL (English as a Foreign Language) Students

Paper

Submitted as partial fulfillment of the requirement to get strata one degree (S1)



By

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2013

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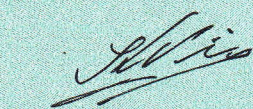
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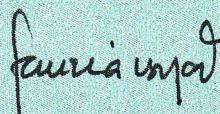
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USING TWITTER TO TEACH WRITING FOR BEGINNING LEVEL OF EFL (ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE) STUDENTS

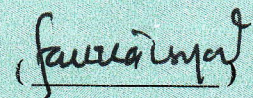
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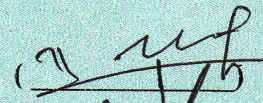
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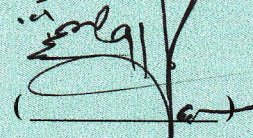
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Abstrak

Sarita Aminta Ilonasbonia, 86742/2007. "Using Twitter to Teach Writing for Beginning Level of EFL (English as a Foreign Language) Students". *Paper*. Jurusan Bahasa Inggris. Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni. Universitas Negeri Padang

Penulisan makalah ini bertujuan untuk memberikan kontribusi dalam peningkatan kemampuan menulis siswa **EFL** (*English as Foreign Language*). Seperti yang kita ketahui, bahasa Inggris merupakan bahasa asing yang masih sulit dipelajari oleh siswa-siswa di Indonesia. Pada era sekarang, Internet telah menarik perhatian pendidik dan peserta didik untuk digunakan sebagai alat/ media pembelajaran, contohnya *Youtube*, *Facebook*, *Twitter*, dan lain-lain. *Twitter* adalah layanan jaringan sosial online dan layanan *micro blogging* yang memungkinkan penggunaanya untuk mengirim dan membaca pesan berbasis teks hingga 140 karakter, yang dikenal sebagai "*tweets*".

Penggunaan *Twitter* diharapkan dapat melatih siswa EFL agar mampu mengembangkan imajinasi dan berkomunikasi secara tulisan dalam bahasa Inggris yang baik dan benar. Dalam kegiatan ini, siswa dapat menyampaikan idenya dan menuangkan imajinasinya melalui *twitter* dengan menuliskan kalimat bahasa Inggris sederhana. Kegiatan ini merupakan kegiatan yang rileks, gembira dan mengasyikan. Teknik ini juga diharapkan dapat bermanfaat bagi para guru atau pengajar bahasa Inggris, sehingga memperkaya mereka akan teknik pengajaran menulis. Dan juga bagi anak diharapkan agar dapat mengembangkan kemampuan menulis bahasa Inggris.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

First of all, the writer thanks to the almighty Allah who has given the mercy to the writer be able to finish this paper and the writer also express her gratitude to propet Muhammdas SAW. Next, the writer would like to express her appreciation to Dra. An Fauzia Rozani Syafei, M. A as the the advisor of her paper. Thaks for your guidance and valuable advice, so that the writer could finish this paper.

Furthemore, the writer would like to express her gratitude to Dr. Kurnia Ningsih the chairman of English department, and Dra. An Fauzia Rozani Syafei, M. A, the secretary of English department and all the lectures who have educated and guide her study in this department.

Then her deep thanks and appreciation always go her beloved parents, Alm. Asbon Budinan Haza and Sofia Dewi from them she learns about life. Her gratitude is also presented to her sisters, Sosia Annisa Indirasbonia and Sukma Amatora Ikrarasbonia who have assisted her with love. She also says thanks to all of her friends who have accompanied and helped her in reaching her goals. The specials thanks go to her friends who have given some contributions in her long journey at campus.

Finally, some constractive suggestion and correction are kindly invited from readers for an improvement of this paper.

Padang, January 2013

The writer

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

English has four skills that have to be learned. They are reading, listening, speaking and writing. Each skill is related to each other. Among the four skills, writing is one of the important skills that has to be mastered. According to Rosidi (2009) writing is an activity to extend ideas, thoughts, and feeling of person which is expressed in written cycle. We can say that writing is an activity to convey ideas to the readers in written language to make them understand.

However, writing is not as easy as people think. There are some reasons why writing becomes the difficult skill. According to Abdullah (2011) the effective writers are noted for having a range of vocabulary, getting the grammar right, punctuating meaningfully, spelling accurately, using a range of sentence structures, and linking information across sentences to develop the topic, developing and organizing the content clearly and convincingly. It means that the writer should master these six things at above. If the writer can master these six things, the readers can understand and there will be no misunderstanding.

A writer must understand about grammar. The writing can be understood easily if the sentences have a good grammar. Punctuation and

spelling must be correct too. The writer should choose the suitable punctuation on his writing. For examples; the using of commas, periods, and other punctuations. It is used to keep the correlation between the ideas in a paragraph and it eases the readers to understand the message in the writing. The writer also has to use the correct spelling, so the readers will understand what the writer says.

In teaching writing for EFL students, there are some problems that are faced by students. For examples; sentence structures, dictions, coherency, and etc. Dealing with EFL students' motivation, they sometimes are faced to a barrier that can keep them from learning. Also, the students are still not able to make a good simple sentence. They often make mistakes. Therefore, teachers need to find the interesting way to remove those educational obstacles so that your EFL students can learn and grow. Thus, teachers should be able to help the students to find an interactive and interesting media in learning writing. One of the ways that can be used as an interesting tool for teaching writing is social media.

David (2011) states that "Social media includes any kind of website that people use to connect with each other. That includes sites such as *Facebook* and *Twitter*, forums, blogs and anywhere else people talk to each other online. There is also an increasing number of sites designed specifically for language learning". By using social media, students can enjoy to write. Social media can train the students to write as they like. It also can help them to write in English. Using social media is a good idea

to teach writing because it is booming. Nowadays, most of people are using it in their life.

The growth of communication and technology has brought the significantly changes to every dimension of human's life, such as men and women, young and old people, teachers and students, jobless and workers, the people are following the advancement of era. People know the internet; they can use it through hand phone and computer connection. In line with the civilization and technology, so the paradigm of education also changes, especially about the existence of teachers in teaching learning interaction.

The growth of social network is also changing in advanced. One of the examples today in internet is the function of social network, *twitter*. *Twitter's* users can write anything that they like and share to people with maximum 140 characters. Even though the limit of characters, Twitter precisely considered successful. According to semiocast.com on Fitra's blog (2012), Indonesia becomes the fifth country who has many users. The total of *Twitter* users in Indonesia is about 19, 5 millions. If it is compared with the total over the world, it means Indonesia uses it about 5.1 %.

Twitter is a kind of micro blogging system that provides the users to write on 140 characters. The words that are written and read by the users are called "*tweets*". *Twitter* becomes one of the famous social media which is loved by people with all ages over the world. *Twitter* is used as a place to share hobbies, like/dislike, communities, films, activities, jokes, and other general conversations.

Nowadays, many people use *Twitter* not only as a communication tool, but also as an educational one. *Twitter* can be used as an educational tool easily and fast. Teachers and students can get the information with fun. *Twitter* can be accessed very easy by using hand phones, laptops, and other internet computers.

Here, the point is how to make EFL students are motivated to write. By using *twitter*, students will enjoy to write, because twitter is easy to use. *Twitter* can be used to train students in making simple sentences. Also, *twitter* can be used to tell the student's hobbies, likes and dislike, films, jokes, their activities and etc. Then, *twitter* is being favored, most of teenagers have twitter account. If teacher can utilize it rightly, it can be an awesome way to teach EFL students. Teacher should change their techniques to teach writing. Teacher should be creative and make innovation. The way is by using *twitter*.

B. Limitation of the Problem

This paper only focuses on teaching writing simple sentences by using *twitter* for Beginning level EFL students.

C. Formulation of the Problem

The formulation of the problem is “How does a teacher to teach writing by using *Twitter* for EFL students?”

D. The Purpose of the Paper

This paper has a purpose to teach EFL students to write by using *Twitter*. The writer expects that students will be motivated to write and feel enjoy in writing. Also, the writer hopes that the students will love English.