MAKING BULLETIN BOARD DISPLAY TO ENCOURAGE SENIOR

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO READ AND WRITE

PAPER

Submitted as Partial Fulfillment for Getting Strata One (S_1)



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ABSTRAK

Wahyuni, Sri. 2008. Making Bulletin Board Display to Encourage Senior High School Students to Read And Write. Makalah. Padang: Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris. Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni. Universitas Negeri Padang.

Tujuan penulisan artikel ini adalah untuk menjelaskan penerapan kegiatan membuat *bulletin board display* untuk mendorong siswa SMA aktif membaca dan menulis. *Bulletin board display* ini merupakan hasil dari *project work* siswa. Kegiatan ini diawali dengan memperkenalkan dan merancang *bulletin board*, mempelajari skill dan strategi membaca, mengumpulkan informasi, menghimpun dan menganalisa informasi dan menulis teks, hingga menampilkan dan memberikan pendapat terhadap karya kelompok bersama dengan siswa. Kegiatan *project work* ini bertujuan untuk meningkatkan kesadaran akan pentingnya membaca dan menulis. Siswa akan lebih aktif dalam membelajaran membaca dan menulis dalam bahasa inggris.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Problem

Reading and writing are two skills of English learned in senior high school. According to the English curriculum (KTSP 2006), they have several competencies standard and basic competencies to be achieved at every level or grade. Based on the curriculum, reading and writing skills must be taught at all levels of senior high school, starts from the first grade until the third grade. The senior high school students have to learn functional texts and monologue texts.

Reading and writing are not only important for students to be mastered for formal context but also for informal one. For formal context, they have to master these skills in order to pass the English subject. Then, for senior high school students who intend to continue studying to the higher level, college study, it's important for them to comprehend these two skills. That is because some of college books are written in English. Besides, some majors also require the students to follow TOEFL test as a graduation requirement where the three of TOEFL test sections are about reading and written ability. Comprehending in English can also be a "plus" for people when applying for job.

For informal context, these skills will be very helpful for them to attach with the world. For example, if they want to know about their international idol or recent news around the world, they can read the information through internet which is mostly written in English. Chatting with people around the world can also be done if the students are able to write in English. If the students cannot write well or express their ideas or message in understandable written form, miscommunication will occur. In conclusion, there are many reasons why reading and writing are important for students' life.

Regarding to the importance of reading and writing, teacher must encourage the students to read and write well. However, there are problems in the way of teachers teach and students' abilities in these skills. In teaching writing, most of the teachers tend to give monotonous activities. Mostly, the teachers simply ask the students to make a text based on a topic given. They only give a brief explanation to the students about a kind of text being learned in that day and ask them to make their own text. Some other teachers tend to focus in teaching grammar only. They explain about the language features in a text then explain the grammar rules emerged in the text. In fact, to make a good written text, students have to master not only grammar rules, but also the organization of ideas, the coherence, the unity, the choices of words, the spelling and the punctuation. Unfortunately, it seems like they miss the explanation about how students make their written text become more meaningful and understandable. In addition, they do not apply the suggested procedures in teaching writing like; brainstorming the background knowledge of students to generate their ideas.

The second problem arises from the students itself. Most of the students have lack of vocabularies. Of course it affects their writing process. They continuously stop to write whenever they do not know how to deliver their ideas in some English words. Sometimes, they use Indonesian words in their text. Moreover, they use electronic dictionaries to find the English words that they do not know. The electronic dictionary only gives simple translation of a word. In a matter of fact, some English words will be differing in meaning depend on the context. If the students are not careful in choosing the words, their writing will be not clear for the reader. The reader will get different meaning with what the students intend to say in their writing. It means, lack of vocabularies can cause a problem for students in conveying their ideas in their writing.

Generating ideas is another problem that is always confronted by the students. Because of some teachers do not lead them to brainstorm the topic, the students cannot find the ideas to write. It makes their writing "walk around the bus". They keep repeating the same ideas. They cannot arrange good supporting details. They take too much time alone to think what they should write. The lack of knowledge about the topic is also one of the reasons why they cannot develop their ideas into a good text. Thus, those make the students lack of motivation to write.

In teaching reading, the activities seem to be a burden for the students because of the boring activities. The activities are only ranged in reading a text; it is read by student to student, translating the text and answering questions. The skills of reading are rarely taught by the teacher such as; guessing the title, skimming and scanning. In addition, most of the teachers do not varied their reading activities. Then, the topics of the texts sometimes are not interesting. Most of the teachers only take the reading material from LKS or school book. It will limit the students to enhance their vocabularies. They will not get the understanding of the reasons why they should read; the purpose and the advantages of reading. These activities will only decrease the motivation of the students to read.

In fact, encouraging the students to read English written texts can improve the quality of students' writing. One purpose of reading is to find information. Through reading, students will enhance their knowledge about a particular topic. Whenever the students understand about a particular topic, they will not get trouble in generating their ideas to write. They will also know the vocabularies mostly used in a topic and will improve their understanding of diction. Reading will increase the students' quality of writing. Much information they get in their reading will make their writing become more credible. There are proofs on students' opinion in writing. It can be concluded that connecting reading and writing activities can be the most appropriate way to solve the problems above. Therefore, an activity that relates these two skills into a purposeful activity could be creating a project work like making bulletin board display.

Making bulletin board display can be a fun way for students to express their creativity. Commonly, bulletin board display is only used as a place where the students show their arts in random theme or to decorate their classroom. It can be seen from the bulletin board displayed in every classroom. Now, teacher can use this opportunity to develop not only the creativity of the students but also their motivation to read and write as well.

Through making bulletin board project, teacher can vary their reading and writing skill which are mostly monotonous and boring. This project starts with brainstorming the students' knowledge that will help them to generate their ideas to write. Making bulletin board as students' project work, they are required to gather information through reading several sources that will improve the quality of their writings. Students are encouraged to read many sources that support the theme of their bulletin boards which interest them. They will attach to authentic materials that they find while searching for information. Through this activity, it is hoped that students will be able to develop their ideas, motivate them to do purposeful reading and writing activities, and enhance their knowledge and vocabularies.

1.2 Limitation of the Problem

In this paper, the study is limited to the procedure of making bulletin board display to encourage senior high students to read and write.

1.3 Formulation of the Problem

The problem of this paper is formulated as follow: "How do teachers encourage senior high school students to read and write through making a bulletin board display?"

1.4 Purpose of the Paper

The purpose of the paper is to describe how the English teachers encourage senior high school students to read and write through making a bulletin board display. The writer also explains the procedures of encouraging senior high school students to read and write through making bulletin board display in details. So, it will be easier for the English teachers to apply this project work.