



AN ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' DIFFICULTIES IN WRITING
DESCRIPTIVE TEXT BY USING COOPERATIVE SCRIPT

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Revised: 14 Juni 2025 ; Accepted 29 Juni 2025; Publish: 30 Juni 2025

Abstrak

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui tingkat kesulitan siswa dalam menulis teks deskriptif dengan menggunakan cooperative script. Analisis data penelitian ini adalah data kualitatif dan kuantitatif. Sampel penelitian ini adalah 20 responden siswa kelas VIII SMP N 3 Padangsidempuan. Peneliti menemukan bahwa siswa kelas dua SMP N 3 Padangsidempuan mengalami kesulitan dalam menulis teks deskriptif berdasarkan hasil persentase tertinggi dari masing-masing indikator, kesulitan utama siswa dalam menulis teks deskriptif adalah isi 56%(sedang), kosakata 54%(sedang), pengorganisasian 52%(sedang), tata bahasa 45%(sedang), mekanisme 42%(sedang). Penelitian ini menemukan alasan mengapa siswa kesulitan dalam menulis teks deskriptif adalah kurangnya kosa kata, kurang motivasi dalam belajar, kurangnya ide dalam menulis, dan siswa tidak memahami tentang tense.

Kata kunci: menulis, teks deskriptif, dan cooperative script.

Abstract

The purpose of this study is to find out the level of students' difficulty in writing descriptive text by using cooperative script. Data analysis of this research is qualitative and quantitative data. The sample of this research was 20 respondents from second grade students at SMP N 3 Padangsidempuan. The researcher found that the second grade students at SMP N 3 Padangsidempuan had difficulties in writing descriptive based of the result of the highest percentage from each indicator, the main difficulties of students in writing descriptive text were content was 56%(moderate), vocabulary it was 54%(moderate), organization it was 52%(moderate), grammar it was 45%(moderate), mechanism it was 42%(moderate). This research found the reasons why the students difficulties in writing descriptive text were lack of vocabulary, less motivation in learning, lack of idea in writing, and students do not understand about tenses.

Keywords: writing, descriptive text, and cooperative script.

INTRODUCTION

English is an international language that people use when they want to communicate. As one of the international languages, of course, it cannot be separated from the skills that must be mastered by that person, especially the student. English education in schools can certainly help students communicate or interact socially and also gain knowledge about English. English is one of the subjects taught in junior high school. It is considered by students as be one of difficult subject to learn. There are many reasons why they consider English as difficult subject. They are argue that English is much different from Indonesian and they also think that the English word is difficult as there is a difference between symbol and sound. They also could not understand tenses (Sartika, Rissa, and Rizqiya, Journal 2021).

Writing is a skill requiring a specific technique; in fact, some people believe that writing is difficult and not something that should be enjoyed by students in primary and secondary

school. Writing is a language skill that has connections to the thinking process. Writing skills are expressions of the ability to write that are inseparably connected to other language learning skills such as speaking, listening, reading, and writing. These four language competencies are of the utmost importance for students learning foreign languages.

Based on the researcher's interviewed with Mrs. Ramaita Piliang, the English teacher who teaches at Grade VIII at SMP N 3 Padangsidimpuan on September 2023, the researcher asked how the students' ability in writing descriptive text, the teacher said that the students' have difficulties in writing. As far as speech and writing are concerned, a text stands alone as an act of communication (Knapp and Watkins in Astrianingsih 2021). In addition, Elhabiri (in Astrianingsih 2021) says that the definition of the text is made in different ways according to daily and scientific language. So, this can make it difficult for students to write a text, especially a descriptive text. Further, based on the curriculum, it is stated that first-year students at the junior high school level are expected to express their ideas in written form in some kind of text. One of them is descriptive text.

There is an effective strategy to analyze the students' difficulties in writing Descriptive text, in this research the researcher use Cooperative Script strategy. Cooperative script strategy is a term for the practice of two students working together to summarise material and support one another's understanding and recall of the important facts and concepts in the material read. This strategy is shown to help students think systematically and concentrate on learning materials. Students are also trained with one another in a comforting atmosphere. Cooperative scripts also allow students to find the main ideas of a great idea conveyed by the teacher.

METHOD

The method of this research was a mixed method. Johnson, Onwuegbuzie, and Turner in Hands (2022) stated that mixed methods research is the type of research in which a researcher or team of researchers combines elements of qualitative and quantitative research approaches (e.g., use of qualitative and quantitative viewpoints, data collection, analysis, inference techniques) for the broad purposes of breadth and depth of understanding and corroboration. Mixed methods research involved the use both quantitative and qualitative methods in a single study. To collect data, the researcher used writing test, questionnaire, and interview. The test writing was given to some students, and after that, the question was given to see the real problems. Students answered the items available in the questionnaire, and the respondents have a limited time of 35 minutes to complete. In addition, the researcher interviewed the students and teacher. To answer the question, the researcher was given the students maximal 2 minutes to respond. The interview was used to determine the honesty of students and to support the teacher interview. The population of this research is the students at grade VIII SMP N 3 Padangsidimpuan. Sutrisno Hadi in Journal Abunawas (2023) said that some of the individuals investigated were samples. The sample of this research consist of 20 students. The researcher was used a Likert scale to analyse the data. For the interview, the researcher was asked some students and teachers to answer the question by recording. Then the students and teacher can given a statement based on the question.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

RESULTS

The quantitative data was taken from students' writing test and students' questionnaire. In collecting data by writing test, there are 18 students completed the writing test, and 2 students did not follow the given test.

Table 1 the Result of Students' Writing Test by Using Cooperative Script

NO.	Student's Initial	Content	Organization	Vocabulary	Language use	Mechanism	Score	Classification
1.	ATH	20	12	12	16	4	64	Good
2.	AH	19	11	11	13	3	57	Fair

3.	DSI	24	14	12	19	4	73	Good
4.	I	23	14	12	22	3	74	Good
5.	KC	0	0	0	0	0	0	Very Poor
6.	KN	24	14	13	18	3	72	Good
7.	LF	18	10	10	16	3	57	Fair
8.	NMP	20	16	17	17	4	74	Good
9.	NHH	20	15	13	12	3	53	Fair
10.	NAFD	18	11	10	11	3	63	Good
11.	NS	24	12	11	16	3	66	Fair
12.	PAH	23	14	16	19	4	76	Good
13.	RM	0	0	0	0	0	0	Very Poor
14.	RS	22	11	8	7	3	51	Fair
15.	RNS	24	14	15	19	3	75	Good
16.	SPS	23	11	11	12	3	60	Fair
17.	SR	24	15	13	13	3	68	Good
18.	SAL	24	15	16	15	3	73	Good
19.	ZHSB	24	15	17	18	3	77	Good
20.	ZSB	19	10	11	15	3	58	Fair

The students' difficulty in writing descriptive text is about *vocabulary*. The average student got the score between fair to poor and very poor criteria. The student also difficulty in *mechanism*, the average student got the score in fair poor criteria.

The second data was taken from questionnaire about students' difficulties in writing descriptive text, the questions are verified using Likert scales, which include: strongly disagree, disagree, undecided, agree, and strongly agree. The researcher presented the result of the data presented clearly with the procedure of conducted data at grade VIII SMP N 3 Padangsidempuan. There are 2 students did not follow the given test. The research explained the result to find out the students' difficulties in writing descriptive text. The questionnaire has 20 question. To calculated data, the researcher used formula:

$$P = F/N \times 100\%$$

P = Percentage of item

F = Frequency of Item

N = Number of respondents

Table 2 the Result of Questionnaire Based on the Organization's Indicator

Item	SDA (1)	DA (2)	UN (3)	A (4)	SA (5)	%
1	-	-	13	4	3	70%
2	1	4	7	6	2	64%
3	1	7	2	8	2	63%
4	1	5	6	4	4	75%

Table 3 the Result of Questionnaire Based on the Vocabulary's Indicator

Item	SDA (1)	DA (2)	UN (3)	A (4)	SA (5)	%
5	-	2	8	6	4	73%
6	1	2	-	14	3	76%
7	-	7	4	6	3	65%
8	2	5	8	4	1	57%

Table 4 the Result of Questionnaire Based on the Grammar's Indicator

Item	SDA (1)	DA (2)	UN (3)	A (4)	SA (5)	%
9	2	3	9	5	1	60%
10	1	5	8	5	1	70%
11	4	6	5	5	-	51%
12	2	8	4	4	2	56%

Table 5 the Result of Questionnaire Based on the Mechanism's Indicator

Item	SDA (1)	DA (2)	UN (3)	A (4)	SA (5)	%
13	1	6	9	3	1	57%
14	2	11	5	2	-	52%
15	3	5	8	3	-	51%
16	-	8	9	3	-	55%

Table 6 the Result of Questionnaire Based on the Content's Indicator

Item	SDA (1)	DA (2)	UN (3)	A (4)	SA (5)	%
17	-	4	9	7	-	63%
18	-	1	3	6	10	85%
19	1	4	10	5	-	59%
20	-	3	4	7	6	76%

Table 7 Recapitulation of Students Questionnaire

Indicators	SDA (1)	DA (2)	UN (3)	A (4)	SA (5)	Total score	%
Organization	3	32	84	88	55	262	52%
Vocabulary	3	32	60	120	55	270	54%
Grammar	9	44	78	76	20	227	45%
Mechanism	6	62	93	44	5	210	42%
Content	1	24	78	100	80	283	56%

The most students' difficulty in writing descriptive text is about *content*. There are 76% of students stated strongly agree that *If I have a lot of knowledge about the topic I want to describe, that I will find it easy to write*. The reason why the students difficulty in writing descriptive text because they have a limited of vocabulary, there are 85% of students stated agree that *I always repeat words in every sentence because of my limited vocabulary*.

The qualitative data was taken from the students and teacher interview by recording audio. Based on the result of interview students and English teacher, the researcher divided the reason why the students difficulties in writing descriptive text, there were internal and external:

1. Internal

- Students limited vocabulary, makes writing difficult for them.
- Since in Elementary School, they do not learning English lesson. So they have less interest or lack of motivation in learning English.
- When asked to write a text, students do not have creativity or the Student have no idea to write.

- Students often make mistake in translating Indonesian sentences into English sentence.
- Students don't understand about tenses, particularly the simple present tense.
- Students dislike to reading English texts/books.
- Students often ignore their teacher's explanations of subjects.

2. External

- Students' parents fail to motivate them appropriately.
- The amount of time they use learning English in a week is still insufficient.

DISCUSSION

First of all, the researcher designed the lesson plan in four meetings and choose the appropriate material and given the writing test by using cooperative script. Second, the reseacher checking and discussing with the student by using cooperative script. The third meeting, researcher was given the questionnaire to the students. The last meeting was the interview students and English teacher. The result of this research are students have a moderate crtiteria or 56% of difficulty in the content section. Students have a moderate criteria or 54% of difficulty in the vocabulary section , 52% in moderate criteria of diffciculty in the organizatiaon section. 45% in moderate criteria of difficulty in the grammar section, and 42% in moderate criteria of difficulty in the mechanism section.

Based on this research when using cooperative script, the research found that cooperative script can use to analyse students' difficulties in writing descriptive text because they work in pairs. Their confidence in writing can be improved by using a cooperative script strategy because they can share ideas. In another hand, cooperative script strategy can also analyse the students' reading ability when they discours or read the material, because they exchange the roles, who is first plays the speaker and who acts as the listener.

CONCLUSION

The researcher conclude that the students at grade VIII-3 SMP N 3 Padangsidimpuan has moderate difficulties (56%) in writing descriptive text in the content section. The students has moderate difficulties criteria (54%) in writing descriptive text in the vocabulary section. The students has moderate difficulties (52%) in writing decriptive text in the organization section. The students has moderate difficulties (45%) in writing descriptive text in the grammar section. The students has moderate difficulties (42%) in writing descriptive text in mechanism section.

The reason why the students difficulties in writing decriptive text were Students limited vocabulary, makes writing difficult for them. Since in Elementary School, they do not learning English lesson. So they have less interest or lack of motivation in learning English. When asked to write a text, students do not have creativity or the Student have no idea to write. Students often make mistake in translating Indonesian sentences into English sentence. Students don't understand about tenses, particularly the simple present tense. Students dislike to reading English texts/books. Students often ignore their teacher's explanations of subjects. Students' parents fail to motivate them appropriately. The amount of time they use learning English in a week is still insufficient.

Suggestion

Based on the result of this research, the researcher would like to give some suggestion as follows:

1. For the Headmaster

The result of this research can helping the headmaster formulate strategies that affect the teaching and learning of English in the classroom, especially with a focus on students' writing abilities.

2. For English Teacher

The result of this research can help the English teacher as an alternate teaching strategy for writing, particularly in writing descriptive text and help the teacher to improve the students' ability in writing descriptive text based on the students' difficulty in writing.

3. For the Students of Second Grade at SMP N 3 Padangsidimpun

Students at grade VIII SMP N 3 Padangsidimpun should always do exercises in writing descriptive text. Students should to read the English texts/books to improve or give a lot of the new vocabulary and always to write and use in daily life to memorized the vocabulary, so it can motivate to learning English. Students must pay attention about tense especially simple present tense, because to be good writing, we must use a correct grammar.

4. For The Next Researcher

For the next researcher the researcher give suggestion who intended to conduct the same research, the researcher hope that the next research can use this reference and develop all components of it in order to analyse the students' difficulties in writing descriptive text.

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