IMPROVING STUDENTS’ ABILITY IN WRITING RECOUNT TEXT BY USING PICTURE SERIES
(A Classroom Action Research at Eighth Grade of SMP Negeri 2 Mondokan, Sragen in 2011/2012 Academic Year)

THESIS

by

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PRONOUNCEMENT

This is to certify that I write this thesis, entitled “Improving Students’ Ability in Writing Recount Text by Using Picture Series (A Classroom Action Research at Eighth Grade of SMP Negeri 2 Mondokan, Sragen in 2011/2012 Academic Year)”. It is not a plagiarism or made by others. Anything related to others’ work is written in quotation, the source of which is listed on the bibliography.

If then this pronouncement proves wrong, I am ready to accept any academic punishment, including the withdrawal or cancellation of my academic degree.

Surakarta, May 20th, 2012

Siti Jumadilah
MOTTO

1. Don’t wait till tomorrow what you can do today

2. Five words that can change your life: hope, cope, survive, thrive, soar.
DEDICATION

This research paper is proudly dedicated to:

1. My lovely family
2. My colleagues
3. The readers
ABSTRACT


This study is based on the needs to improve the students' ability in writing recount text. Therefore, it is designed to improve the students' writing skill especially in writing recount text through the use of picture series technique. In this technique, the students practice writing recount text based on the picture series given. This technique is believed to improve the students' writing ability and their involvement in the teaching and learning process.

This study constitutes a classroom action research. Employing an action research design, it was conducted collaboratively with a fellow English teacher in observing the implementation of the technique. This study was conducted in two cycles. Each cycle encompassed three meetings. The subjects of the study are the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 2 Mondokan Sragen.

The findings of the study indicated that picture series media was successful in improving the students' ability in writing recount text as well as increasing their involvement in the teaching and learning process. It can be seen from the percentage of students' who gained scores set in the criteria of success which was at least 6.5. In the first cycle, only 21 students (56.7%) of the students gained scores higher than and/or equal to 6.5. Meanwhile in second cycle, 37 students (100%) of the students gained scores higher than and/or equal to 6.5. Besides, the finding indicated that picture series media was effective in enhancing the students' involvement in the writing activities, especially when they worked in groups.

With the findings above, it can be inferred that picture series media has been proven to improve not only the students' ability in writing recount text but also the students' involvement in the teaching and learning process, particularly in writing recount text. Therefore, it is suggested that English teachers apply this technique as one of the alternatives that can be used in teaching recount skill. For next researchers, it is recommended to do further research about the use of picture series in the teaching of English which focus on improving students' grammar mastery. The use of picture series is beneficial not only in improving the students' ability in writing recount text but also the students' involvement in the teaching and learning process, it is advisable that this technique be used by students as their learning strategy to practice their recount text ability, and even more to practice their writing skill as well. Therefore, teachers should always try to create interesting picture series and text for their teaching. Based on the result, teachers can apply recount text to improve the students’ ability in writing recount text.

Key words: improvement, writing, picture series, recount text
ABSTRAK


Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa media gambar berseri telah berhasil meningkatkan kemampuan menulis siswa di dalam menulis teks Recount, serta meningkatkan peran serta di dalam proses belajar mengajar. Hal ini dapat dilihat dari prosentase siswa yang berhasil adalah yang dapat mencapai nilai 6,5. Pada siklus ke-1, hanya 21 siswa (56,7%) yang dapat mencapai nilai lebih dari sama dengan 6,5. Sementara pada siklus ke-2, 37 siswa (100%) dapat mencapai nilai lebih dari sama dengan 6,5. Disamping itu, hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa media gambar berseri efektif dalam menangani keterlibatan siswa di dalam kegiatan menulis, khususnya ketika mereka bekerja secara kelompok.


Kata-kata kunci: peningkatan, menulis, gambar berseri, teks Recount
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

All the highest praises, gratitude and honor are honestly devoted to the God, Allah SWT, for his countless mercy from the beginning until the end of study. It is merely owing to his benevolence that the writer was eventually able to accomplish her thesis entitled “Improving Students’ ability in Writing Recount Text by Using Picture Series (A Classroom Action Research at Eighth Grade of SMP Negeri 2 Mondokan, Sragen in 2011/2012 Academic Year)” successfully.

The writer particularly wishes to dedicate this thesis to her family, colleagues, and relatives for their sincere prayers, stimulating supports, and everlasting love. It is due to them that the writer’s spirit is never extinct.

The writer’s sincere gratitude is addressed to her honorable consultants, Prof. Dr. Sri Samiati Tarjana and Drs. Sigit Haryanto, M.Hum for their patience, guidance, suggestions, and criticism so that the writer could finish writing her thesis smoothly. To Prof. Dr. Markhamah, M.Hum. the Chief of Language Studies Magister, the writer is very grateful for her kindness in assisting and facilitating the writer to be able to finish her hard assignment.

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