A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY ON THE STUDENT’S MASTERY ON PARAGRAPH DEVELOPMENT BY THE SECOND YEAR STUDENT OF SMA N MOJOGEDANG

RESEARCH PAPER

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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

English is the first foreign language taught in Indonesian formal education from junior high school to university. It can be realized because English as an International language plays a very important role for communication. There are more than one means of communication that can be used, but among them, language is the most efficient one, especially English. So it can be said that English is the most efficient means of communication in G-20 (which 20 developing countries) country conference by leadership or delegate of each member to work out a closer International cooperation.

English is not only as a means of communication but also as a growth medium of science and technology. Scientific books, scientific articles are mostly written in English. Even most scientists come from some England.

Therefore, if a nation does not want to be isolated and left behind, it must prepare the people to master English well. So, it is reasonable if the English instruction in Indonesia given from junior high school to university as the first foreign language.

It had been stated by Amran Halim (1980:135) that, “Being considered having the important role in science and technology, English is admitted to be the first foreign language.” For this reason, a senior high school student should have good competency in English, at least they master English a little bit upper than an SMP or junior high school students.
Moreover, for a student of senior high school, English is very significant and most important subject. The teacher delivers the English material using English. Therefore, students of senior high school are required to master English in many aspects. English has many aspects such as listening, speaking, writing and reading. In particular, the students of senior high school should be able to comprehend reading skill. Therefore, the students of senior high school must understand paragraphs well in order to master the reading skill.

John E. Warriner, Mary Evelin Whitten and Francis Griffith (1958: 196) stated that, “A paragraph is a series of sentences developing one topic. As a unit of thought a paragraph contains a group of related sentences developing one central idea.” A paragraph is a group of related sentences about a single topic. If a sentence has key word, a paragraph has key sentence or topic sentence. Mastering paragraph understanding is a complete knowledge of comprehending a group of related sentences about a single topic.

Particularly, the students of SMA N Mojogedang have difficulties in mastering writing paragraph. From the short interview with their teacher, the students’ score in writing short paragraph are poor. Furthermore, in classroom, the students seem to be confused to comprehend the mastery of paragraph writing. Common problems faced by the students are the grammatical and vocabulary aspects. For examples, as taken from the teacher’s experience, the students usually wrote:

1. My mother go to the market every morning
2. My sisters has passing the test two day ago
From the examples, it can be seen that the students are lacking in grammar and vocabulary. However, the writer does not focus on the grammar and vocabulary aspects, but he focuses on the writing result of SMA N Mojogedang.

Thus, based on the description above, the writer is interested in conducting a study entitled “A Descriptive Study on the Student’s Mastery on Paragraph Development by the Second Year Student of SMA N Mojogedang.”

B. Previous Study

The study of reading has been conducted by Fenny Agustina (2005) who conducted “A Correlational Study Between Reading Habit and Reading Achievement of the First Year of English Students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta in 2004/2005 Academic Year.” Those two variables are important factors that the students should have. In this research, she studies whether or not there is correlation between reading habit and reading achievement. She concludes that there is significant correlation between reading habit and reading achievement.

The result of previous research focused only on correlation between reading habit and reading achievement. Meanwhile, this research focuses on the paragraph development of second year students of senior high school. Both researches focus on reading paragraph, but using different method. This research uses descriptive method. In this case, the writer elaborates “A Descriptive Study on the Student’s Mastery on Paragraph Development by the Second Year Student of SMA N Mojogedang.”
C. Problem Statement

In this research, the writer formulates the problem statements as follows:

1. How is the teaching of writing in SMA N Mojogedang?
2. How good is the students’ mastery on paragraph development in SMA N Mojogedang?
3. What problems occur during the teaching of paragraph development in SMA N Mojogedang?

D. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study in this research are as follows:

1. To describe the teaching of writing in SMA N Mojogedang.
2. To understand the students’ mastery in making paragraph in SMA N Mojogedang.
3. To solve the problems which occur during the teaching of making paragraph in SMA N Mojogedang.

E. Benefit of the Study

The research result is expected to be able to give some benefits both theoretically and practically:

1. Theoretical Benefit

There are some theoretical benefits:

a. The result of the research can be used as the reference for those who want to conduct a research in paragraph mastery of senior high school students.
b. The result can be the another reference for next research.

2. Practical Benefits

   There are some practical benefits:

   a. The result helps the teacher to increase the students’ paragraph mastery.

   b. The result helps the students of senior high schools to be able to achieve better in paragraph writing.

   c. The researcher also helps the teacher to reflect the result of her technique in mastering paragraph.

F. Research Paper Organization

   This research paper consists of the five chapter, they are as follows.

   The first chapter deals with Introduction that consists of the background of the study, problem statement, objectives of the study, benefit of the study, and research paper organization.

   The second chapter is review of related literature containing: previous study, general concept of paragraph, and the essential element of a paragraph.

   The third chapter is research method which consists of type of study, subject of the study, object of the study, method of collecting data, and technique for analyzing data.

   The fourth chapter is research finding and discussion. This chapter deals with data analysis and discussion.

   Chapter fifth is conclusion and suggestion. This chapter consists of the Conclusion of the research and complete by suggestion to make the research better.