

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PERSONALITY TRAITS THROUGH ZODIAC SIGN TO TEACH WRITING DESCRIPTIVE TEXT TO THE SEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS OF SMP NEGERI 1 KAMAL

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Abstrak

Menulis adalah salah satu keterampilan penting yang harus dikuasai oleh siswa dalam mempelajari bahasa. Keterampilan ini digunakan untuk menyampaikan ide atau gagasan dalam bentuk tertulis. Lebih jauh lagi, menulis dianggap sebagai keterampilan yang paling sulit diantara keterampilan lain dalam Bahasa Inggris. Proses menulis sering membuat siswa mudah bosan. Dalam hal ini guru diharapkan mampu meningkatkan motivasi siswa agar tetap tertarik untuk menulis. Zodiac sign adalah media yang dapat digunakan untuk mengajar menulis. Di dalam media ini terdapat kosa kata tentang ciri kepribadian seseorang dan gambar menarik yang dapat meningkatkan motivasi siswa di kelas. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan implementasi dari ciri kepribadian seseorang melalui Zodiac sign dalam menulis descriptive oleh kelas tujuh, respon siswa, dan hasil menulis siswa. Penelitian ini merupakan jenis penelitian deskriptif kualitatif dan menggunakan observasi, wawancara, dan tugas menulis siswa untuk mendapatkan data. Data penelitian merupakan hasil deskripsi yang dijelaskan berdasarkan tujuan penelitian. Setelah melakukan observasi, peneliti mendeskripsikan tiga hasil penelitian. Hasil penelitian pertama menunjukkan bahwa implementasi ciri kepribadian seseorang melalui Zodiac sign yang diaplikasikan guru di dalam kelas berjalan sesuai teori. Hasil kedua menunjukkan bahwa siswa memberikan respon positif, dan hasil ketiga adalah tentang hasil tulisan siswa. Tulisan siswa dianalisis dalam hal apakah isinya sesuai dengan judul, baik tidaknya penyusunan tulisan, penggunaan bahasa yang sesuai dengan descriptive, kosa kata sesuai, dan cara menyajikan tulisan oleh penulis. Kesimpulannya, implementasi ciri kepribadian seseorang melalui Zodiac sign dapat digunakan untuk media mengajar menulis descriptive, khususnya bagi kelas tujuh yang disebut sebagai pemula.

Kata Kunci: Zodiac sign, ciri kepribadian, menulis, descriptive, respon siswa

Abstract

Writing is one of the important language skills that should be mastered by the students to convey their ideas or their opinion in written form. Moreover, writing is known as the most difficult skill in English. Writing process often makes students easily get bored. Here, the teacher is needed to maintain students' motivation in order to keep students' interest in writing. Zodiac sign is a media that can be used for teaching writing. It has personality traits and interesting pictures which can attract the students' motivation in writing class. This research is aimed to describe the implementation of personality traits through Zodiac sign in teaching writing descriptive text to the seventh grade students, the students' responses towards personality traits in the Zodiac sign, and the students' writing task results. This research is a descriptive qualitative research. It used observation checklist, field note, interview, and also student's task result as research instruments to gain data. The researcher endeavored to record the implementation of personality traits through Zodiac sign and describe it. The description is explained based on three objectives of the study; those are the implementation of personality traits through Zodiac sign to teach writing descriptive text, the students' responses towards personality traits in the Zodiac sign, and also the students' writing task results. After observing, the researcher described three results. The first result was regarding the implementation of personality traits through zodiac sign the teacher applied. The steps how the teacher applied the media in writing class. The second result was the students' responses toward personality traits in the zodiac sign and it resulted positive responses. The third finding was the students' writing task result that was analyzed by using ESL composition profile. It has five criteria; content which is appropriate with the topic, organization which is arranged well based on the generic structure, language use which is related to the language features, vocabulary which is appropriate to what have been listed by the teacher, and mechanics related to how well the writers write their writing. In conclusion, personality traits through zodiac sign could be used to teach writing descriptive text, particularly for seven graders as beginner English learner. It could be even used to keep students' willingness in writing because of its steps.

Keywords: Zodiac sign, personality traits, writing, descriptive text, students' response.

INTRODUCTION

Writing is a key to successful school experiences and an essential means of communication that helps students learn how to structure and organize their thoughts (Mather et.al, 2009:1). Writing has an important role in learning a language. Writing is one of the important skills that must be mastered by the students to deliver their ideas in written form.

Unfortunately, many students have difficulties in writing. They could not construct their written ideas well. The students have a problem in starting to write because they did not know what they must write to express their ideas into sentences. So they get bored with the writing activities. It is supported by Pirangelo and Giuliani (2006:245) who state that students in educational system feel that writing process takes a long time, so they are common to dislike or avoid writing activity. If they know how to convey their ideas in written form well, the writing process will not take a long time. Students lack of motivation in learning writing activities. They need more motivation which can interest them to write.

Another problem is lack of vocabulary. Vocabulary plays an important role in the process of language learning. The success of students is greatly influenced by how many words they could master and how well they use them. Research indicates that learners need to have access to a minimum of 3000 words in order to begin to comprehend authentic text (Laufer (1992) in Scmitt, 2005: vi). Meanwhile, Lado (1991): 116 cites that in order to be able to communicate in English at least one has to master 2000 words.

Knowing that vocabulary hold an important role in the language learning, teacher must have ability to choose a good teaching media. As the part of language, vocabulary is not easy to be learned. As what Wright says that language learning is a hard work (1984:1). It takes an effort to learn language, in this case vocabulary. The fact that some teachers are still unable to attract students to learn English, makes this process become harder.

Picture is one of the media which can be used to teach in writing class. Picture can help students to develop their ideas in writing process. It is because pictures are able to say much than words (Sadiman et.al, 1993:29). Picture also be able to stimulate the students' motivation in teaching learning process. It is in line with El-Araby (1981:90) pictures are interesting because they make the class livelier and contribute a great to make learning more enjoyable.

A boring picture could not stimulate the students' motivation in teaching learning process. Zodiac sign is a media which is suitable to be used in teaching writing especially descriptive text. It is because

Zodiac signs have personality traits that could be used as vocabulary by the students in writing a descriptive text. Mei (2008:1) states that astrology is a truly good conversation starter and is good teaching material in English language classrooms. It has been conducted by Nengke (2009) which shows that zodiac sign is effective to improve the students' ability in writing descriptive text.

However, there are only few teachers who implement personality traits through zodiac signs in classroom activity, particularly in teaching writing; one of them is an English teacher of Junior High School in Kamal. In KTSP curriculum, learning descriptive text belongs to seventh graders basic competence. The teacher uses personality traits through zodiac signs in teaching writing descriptive text for the students.

Thus, the personality traits in the zodiac signs are found useful to help teacher to teach writing descriptive text. In teacher's point of view, zodiac signs can enhance students' motivation in writing descriptive text. Moreover, this media only needs simple description which is suitable for the seventh grade students who learn to describe something simply. From the explanation above, the researcher therefore wants to conduct a research related to the implementation of personality traits through zodiac signs in teaching writing descriptive text deeply.

The researcher formulates the research question as follows: (1) How does the teacher implement personality traits through zodiac signs in teaching writing descriptive text to the seventh grade students of SMPN 1 Kamal? (2) How are the students' responses towards the implementation of personality traits through zodiac signs in teaching writing descriptive text? (3) How are the students' writing tasks results during the implementation of personality traits through zodiac signs in teaching writing descriptive text?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In doing this study, the researcher used descriptive qualitative research, since it more focuses on the process rather than outcomes of the phenomena. The subjects of the study were the English teacher and the seventh grade students of SMP Negeri 1 Kamal. The setting of the study was SMP Negeri 1 Kamal which is located on Jln. Banyuajuh No. 5 Kamal, Bangkalan. The researcher collected the data through some instruments. The instruments were observation checklist to gain the data for the first research question, doing interview to gain data for the second research question, and students' writing task result analyzed with Jacob's ESL Composition Profile for the third research question.

Moreover, the data were analyzed by using three stages, those are familiarizing and organizing, coding and reducing, and interpreting and representing. In the familiarizing and organizing, the data which have been gained were read and reread, checked and rechecked many times to familiarize initially and organize all of the data for easy retrieval. After that, the researcher came to the next stage, coding to categorize. The researcher sorted the data into three categories since there are three research questions in this study. The researcher also reduced some data that have no relation and could not be used to answer those three research questions. Finally, the last stage was interpreting and representing. This means that the researcher described the data and elaborated them referred to related theories and findings and represents them in the form of words, or even diagram, chart or table.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

The implementation of personality traits through zodiac signs in Teaching Writing Descriptive Text

The implementation of personality traits through zodiac signs was done in two meetings; those were on Tuesday May 13th and Tuesday May 14th. The time that was allocated for each meeting was 2 x 40 minutes.

The First Observation

There were 40 students which consist of 8 males and 32 females students. There were 20 tables and 40 chairs. They sat in pairs and in the same gender. Those tables and chairs were arranged in five columns and four lines with little space between one column to the others. The class was covered with white ceramics. On Tuesday, the class was started on 3rd - 4th period, it was around 08.30 a.m. The teacher started the class by greeting the students, checking the attendance list and asking the students' condition.

Later, the teacher continued opening session by giving the students motivation to learn English. It was given when the teacher saw the students who less motivated as it was after the physical education lesson. After that, the teacher explained the material that was going to learn. The teacher explained that the material was about descriptive text.

The teacher also explained that this meeting would use zodiac signs. The teacher introduced the main concept of zodiac signs. The teacher explained the procedure of zodiac signs and the students paid attention to her, but some of the students asked some questions related to her explanation.

In that session, the teacher explained the procedure or the steps of zodiac sign deliberately. She mentioned three steps in the zodiac sign; those are opening, whilst teaching, closing. After explaining each step, the teacher applied the media by using the learning material entitled "My Personality".

Opening

First of all, the teacher introduced the topic of the learning material. That was "My Personality". The teacher then asked some questions to the students related to their zodiac as brainstorming for them. Moreover, the teacher also wanted to gain prior knowledge and general information from the students.

Whilst Teaching

The teacher listed some vocabularies related to the zodiac on the whiteboard and she helped the students to find the meaning of some vocabularies which is new for them. The teacher asked the students about the meaning of those vocabularies. She tried to relate it with the real life. She also asked the students to open their dictionary as the last way if they did not know the meaning of one vocabulary.

After all students understood about the meaning of vocabularies that has been listed by the teacher, the teacher asked the students to fill the learning sheet which has been given by the researcher. That learning sheet will help the students to write a descriptive text about. By using that learning sheet, the teacher ask the students to write a descriptive text about "My Personality".

Closing

The teacher switched the students' task result, so they did not get their own task result. Then the teacher asked them to analyze the task result which had been gotten in terms of generic structure and language features. The teacher invited at least two pairs to analyze their friends' writing. The students in the classroom became active to defend their opinions. At the last, the teacher gave feedback and correction to the students work. Finally, the students rewrote their writing by using the correction and they submitted it again.

The Second Observation

The second meeting was held on 14th May 2014 in the 3rd – 4th period. Coming to the class, the teacher saw the condition of the class. It was very dirty. The teacher asked some students to clean the class first for about 5 minutes. After cleaning the classroom, the students were asked to sit down. The teacher started the class.

The teacher greeted the students and asked about the students' condition. Then she checked the attendance

list and called the students one by one. After opening section, the teacher tried to review and remind the students about the material that had been learned the day before. The students answered some teacher's questions.

The teacher questioned about generic structure and language features of the text and the students competed to answer it. In this reviewing session, the teacher explained again the descriptive text. After reviewing, the teacher started the lesson on that day. She said that she would apply zodiac signs again, but with different title. She did not need to explain again what zodiac sign is in detail. She just recalled it in general. Then it was ready to do teaching and learning process the classroom on that day.

After doing the learning sheet, the teacher ask the students to write a descriptive text entitled "My Friend's Personality". Then the teacher switched the students' task result, so they did not get their own task result. Then the teacher asked them to analyze the task result which had been gotten in terms of generic structure and language features.

The teacher asked the two students to come forward and present their analysis. The teacher asked what errors that they found and then asked the class' opinions.

The teacher invited at least two pairs for one writing. The students in the classroom became active to defend their opinions. At the last, the teacher gave feedback and correction to the students work by showing the original text which can be used by the students to compare with their task result. Finally, the students rewrote their writing by using the correction and they submitted it again.

Students' Respond to the implementation of personality traits through zodiac sign in Teaching Writing of Descriptive Text

The teacher has conducted an interview. She interviewed the students who attended the teaching and learning process. There were 40 students who interviewed by the researcher. The purpose is to gather information about the students' respond to the implementation of personality traits through zodiac sign in teaching writing. The researcher has six questions relate to the teaching and learning process.

The interview result :

The students opinion about writing class. There were 40 students. Most of students said that writing was difficult. There were 30 students stated that writing was difficult. In the other hand, the 10 students said that writing was not really difficult for them.

The reasons were various. There are 14 students respond that long and boring processes become the first reason of feeling difficult to write. There were 10 students stated that they had few vocabulary. Therefore they had something in their mind unfortunately they got difficulties in expressing it in the written form. There are 8 students stated that they had problem with grammar. While only 5 students state that it is difficult to get idea when doing writing activity. The rest of students said that writing was not really difficult. Through writing they can express their ideas eventhough they still lack of vocabulary.

The third questions was the students' opinion about the implementation of personality traits through zodiac sign in teaching writing. Most of students said that the writing class was good. Unfortunately 8 students did not agree with it. There were 32 students stated that the writing class was good. Most students said that the implementation of personality traits through zodiac sign in teaching writing was fun and enjoyable.

The fourth question was about the students opinion about the advantages of Zodiac Sign in their writing class. Whether it is helpfull or unhelpful. The students answer were good. There were 23 students answered that the advantages was it can increase their motivation in writing. They thought that they had a little motivation to write. Through Zodiac Sign, they got more motivation in writing. The next reason was it can improve their knowledge and socialization. They did the assignment by writing their own and their friend's personality therefore it increases their socialization among their friends. The statement was stated by 9 students. The other reason was they could increase their vocabulary. They get new vocabularies from the zodiac sign therefore it could help them in writing. This answered was stated by 6 students. The 2 students stated that they could build better relationship among their friend.

The fifth question was the student opinion about Zodiac Sign in teaching writing. Whether it was useful or unuseful for them. All of students said that it was useful for them. There were several reasons that explained about it. The first reason was they got more motivation to practice writing skill in class. This sentenced was stated by 19 students. Moreover, 14 of students stated that it was fun class. They gave their opinion that activity could lead their motivation to write because the picture can attract the students to write. 7 students answered that it was increase their confidence to write

The last questions was the students opinion about the Zodiac Sign in writing class, if the teacher applied the media again the students agree or disagree. 34 students said that they agree when the teacher applied the

media in writing class again. The most reason that the researcher got was it was the motivation for the students to write in class. 24 students stated this answered. Six students said that it was fun. Four students said that the pictures are cute and cool.

The rest 6 of students stated that they disagree when the teacher applied the media in writing class again. The first reason was there were some students who did not really ask the partner about his personality, they just look at the zodiac sign. It was stated by 2 students. The next reason was it did not really help them to write

Students' Writing Task Result

In order to answer the research question number three that is about students' task result during the implementation of personality traits through zodiac sign, the researcher shows the task result in this part based on some criteria.

The Content of Students' Writing Task Result

Content is one of the important components in writing. Since the text is one for all, the content is related with topic, logical development of ideas, and content of each paragraph for a text. Since there are two task results, the researcher will describe both task results for each criterion.

The Organization of Students Writing Task Result

The second component in writing is organization. This component deals with how the writer arranges the writing based on the given title, conveys the idea clearly, and organizes the idea in each paragraph based on the generic structure of descriptive text.

The Language Use of Students Writing Task Result

The third component in writing is language use. In the description below, the researcher will describe language use which is used by the students, such as the use of tense, pronouns, article, modals, and also the verb.

The Vocabulary of Students Writing Task Result

Vocabulary is the fourth important component in writing. It deals with whether or not the writers chose good vocabulary for their writing. In this case, vocabularies which are related to the text have been listed by the teacher. Therefore, the more those vocabulary used, the better writing task result in terms of vocabulary component.

The Mechanics of Students Writing Task Result

The last component in writing proposed by Jacob et.al (1981) is mechanics. In this study, mechanics

are dealing with spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and paragraphing.

Discussion

There are three results to be discussed in this part. Firstly, related to the observation checklist result as the first result regarding the overview of the implementation of personality traits through zodiac sign, whether it is applicable to be applied to teach writing or not. Secondly, related to the second result of the interview guidelines which could give brief explanation about the students' responses towards zodiac sign, whether positive or negative. Thirdly, the students' writing task result as the result used to know whether or not zodiac sign is workable to help the students in writing descriptive text.

Based on the observation, it could be said that the material was given in the writing class from the first to the second meeting was explained in understandable way. The selection of text was describing people. In the first meeting the student was asked to write a descriptive text about "My Personality", in this activity the students wrote the descriptive text about themselves according to the personality traits in the zodiac sign. In the second meeting, the teacher asked the students to write a descriptive text about "My friend's Personality", in this activity the students wrote the descriptive text about their partner according to the zodiac sign of their partner. This activity can make the students become more sociable with their friends.

The material was well-prepared by the teacher. It was explained by the teacher in understandable way. It was in line and relevant with the objective of the study because it was accordance with the curriculum that the seventh graders are expected to be able to understand and create descriptive text. Since the teacher used interesting pictures and various exercises, it could lead the students to be enthusiastic to write.

From the result of interview, the researcher got information about the students' respond to the implementation of personality traits through zodiac sign in writing of descriptive text. The students agreed and supported that zodiac sign could be a media that implemented in writing class. The reason was that zodiac sign could lead their motivation to write because the picture can attract the students to write.

They also stated that it can improve their knowledge and socialization. They did the assignment by writing their own and their friend's personality therefore it increases their socialization among their friends. They could increase their vocabulary because they get new vocabularies from the zodiac sign therefore it could help

them in writing. they are easier in delivering their ideas to become written form.

Zodiac sign is a good media to be implemented in writing class. The teacher stated that the students became more enthusiastic in writing class. The media could attract them to write the descriptive text about their personality and their friend's personality. In general, the students responded positively toward the use of zodiac sign in writing in terms of the writing activity, implementation, and also the learning material.

In this part, the writer will discuss the students' ability in writing descriptive text after the implementation of personality traits through zodiac sign based on the result of the students' writing. The discussion was related to the each component of writing profile which are content, organization, vocabulary, language use and mechanics

In the component of content, based on the result of students' writing, it was shown that mostly students had been able to state their idea and then generated it in the form of descriptive text. Most of students' idea was relevant. They could write the development of idea in good order. It was shown from their ability in developing their idea in the form of appropriate sentences. Some of them still found difficulties to write their idea in the form of paragraph in descriptive text. They were still confused how to add the supporting details to generate their idea. But, the problem could be solved by the teacher's feedback.

Based on the result of the students' writing task, after the implementation of personality traits through zodiac sign, the students showed their ability in organization of their writing. They were able to develop and put their idea in right position of the generic structures of descriptive text which are identification and description. Only few of them wrote incomplete generic structure of descriptive text.

In the term of vocabulary, more than half of students were able to use complex construction of words to generate their idea in the form of paragraph. Another half of students were able to use effective words even in a simple construction. For some students who were still confused with the use of proper word and the effective one, they can discussed it with their friend and also to the teacher. It was shown from the students' writings that they were able to use proper word choice, appropriate register and effective agreement or idiom.

In the term of language use, it was shown that some students were able to write descriptive text in good manner which was accordance with the language features of descriptive text. They were able to use proper verbs and tense used in descriptive text. But some of them still did occasional errors in the term of language use.

Students' ability in writing descriptive text in the term of mechanics could be said mostly perfect. Nearly all students were able to practice the rule of good writing which was about punctuation, capitalization, spelling and paragraphing. Only few of them ignored the rule of writing.

In conclusion, the implementation of personality traits through zodiac sign to teach writing descriptive text did run well. It was applied as media to teach descriptive text. In addition, the students' responses are positive toward zodiac sign, which help most of them in reconstructing the text in terms of providing their motivation and vocabulary for their writing. Furthermore, zodiac sign is also workable to help most of students in writing descriptive text.

CONCLUSSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusion

In conclusion, the implementation of personality traits through zodiac sign to teach writing descriptive text did run well. In addition, the students' responses are positive toward the implementation of that media, which help most of them in reconstructing the text in terms of providing their vocabulary for their writing. Furthermore, personality traits through zodiac sign is also workable to help most of students in writing descriptive text. Moreover, the result of the students' writing tasks was satisfying. It means that Personality traits through zodiac sign could help most of the students in writing, particularly in terms of vocabulary as their guidance before writing.

Suggestions

At the end of this study, the researcher would like to give some suggestions which are hoped to be useful to enhance the quality of teaching and learning process, particularly in writing. The teacher should be more creative in creating attractive and interesting class for teaching writing descriptive text. Besides, the teacher also has to pay attention to the students' need. The teacher should have many ideas to be implemented. Personality traits through zodiac sign is one of the media that cannot only help the students in writing, but also motivate them in learning other skills. While for the next researcher, there must be further research in the same study; it is expected for the next researcher to do research in different areas of personality traits through zodiac sign, the implementation of personality traits through zodiac sign in different skills, grade and for different themes, for instance.

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