

**STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF USING CLUSTERING TECHNIQUE IN
ENGLISH WRITING PERFORMANCE IN DESCRIPTIVE TEXT
AT SMK TARUNA MASMUR PEKANBARU**

THESIS

**Submitted to Fulfill
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ABSTRACT

Bella Tri Shentia, 2024 : Students' Perceptions of Using Clustering Technique in English Performance in Descriptive Text

Perception is the set of process by which recognizing, organizing, and making stimuli in environment. In learning English text, especially in descriptive text, students are asked to describe, recognize, organize something. Descriptive text is a kind of text with a purpose to give information such as the description of particular thing, animal, person, or others. To help students express their ideas and experiences, it needs suitable technique to achieve the goals. One of them is cluster technique also known as diagramming or mapping. This research aims to know students' perception of using clustering technique in performance in descriptive text. The population of this research comprised of the tenth grade of SMK Taruna Masmur Pekanbaru, in which there were 20 students. The instrument of this research used was questionnaire. The data was analyzed by using Microsoft Excel : mean and percentage. The result of the research showed that the percentage is 93% which is categorized very high. Based on the data, the most students' interest in learning descriptive text using clustering technique the first is feelings which has 94%, the second is attitude which has 93% and the third is motivation which has 92%.

Keywords: Perceptions, Clustering Technique, Feeling, Attitude, Motivation

ABSTRAK

Bella Tri Shentia, 2024 : Persepsi Siswa terhadap Penggunaan Teknik Clustering dalam Pertunjukan Bahasa Inggris dalam Teks Deskriptif

Persepsi adalah serangkaian proses mengenali, mengatur, dan membuat rangsangan di lingkungan. Dalam pembelajaran teks bahasa Inggris khususnya teks deskriptif, siswa diminta untuk mendeskripsikan, mengenali, mengorganisasikan sesuatu. Teks deskriptif adalah jenis teks yang bertujuan untuk memberikan informasi seperti gambaran suatu benda, hewan, orang, atau lainnya. Untuk membantu siswa mengungkapkan ide dan pengalamannya diperlukan teknik yang sesuai untuk mencapai tujuan. Salah satunya adalah teknik cluster yang disebut juga dengan diagram atau pemetaan. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui persepsi siswa terhadap penggunaan teknik clustering dalam pertunjukan teks deskriptif. Populasi penelitian ini adalah siswa kelas X SMK Taruna Masmur Pekanbaru yang berjumlah 20 siswa. Instrumen penelitian yang digunakan adalah kuesioner. Data dianalisis dengan menggunakan Microsoft Excel : rata-rata dan persentase. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan sebesar 93% yang termasuk dalam kategori sangat tinggi. Berdasarkan data, minat siswa terhadap pembelajaran teks deskriptif dengan teknik clustering yang paling banyak adalah yang pertama adalah perasaan sebesar 94%, yang kedua adalah sikap sebesar 93% dan yang ketiga adalah motivasi sebesar 92%.

Kata kunci: *Persepsi, Teknik Clustering, Perasaan, Sikap, Motivasi*

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AT SMK TARUNA MASMUR PEKANBARU**

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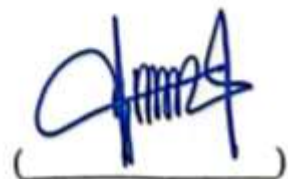
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SURAT PERNYATAAN KEASLIAN TULISAN

Dengan ini saya menyatakan bahwa:

Karya tulis ini, dengan judul *Students' Perceptions of Using Clustering Technique in English Writing Performance in Descriptive Text at SMK Taruna Masmur Pekanbaru* adalah asli karya saya sendiri dan belum pernah diajukan untuk mendapatkan gelar Sarjana Pendidikan (S.Pd.) di Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris Fakultas Pendidikan dan Vokasi Universitas Lancang Kuning.

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Demikianlah pernyataan ini saya buat, apabila ditemukan penyimpangan dan ketidak benaran dari pernyataan ini, saya bersedia menerima sanksi akademik berupa pencabutan gelar yang telah saya peroleh, serta sanksi lainnya sesuai dengan norma dan ketentuan hukum yang berlaku.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

Writing is important because it's used extensively in higher education and in the workplace. It is essential and brings a lot of advantages. Much of professional communication is done in writing: proposals, memos, reports, applications, preliminary interviews, e-mails, and more are part of the daily life of a college student or successful graduate (Klimova, 2012). Writing is also the process of putting your creativity and ideas into the written word. Because the author expresses his thoughts opinions and desires in writing. But the concept of writing also has different meanings. It is depended by someone or an expert explaining it.

Besides that, there are some kinds of writing. Quoted from Martin and Rose (2012) writing genre at school are recount, narrative, report, explanation, procedure, descriptive, exposition. So, it is possible to find out problems in writing. It may have different problem in different type of writings. To overcome students writing problems, schools should use more appropriate teaching methods.

According to Husniah, Yasin & Fitriani (2021) in their research in Implementing Clustering Technique in Writing Descriptive Texts, they found that the students in experimental group had an improved quality of writing a descriptive text. This figure has corresponded with the results of the three writing aspects of the students work, which also brought a relatively positive achievement. This means that there were significant improvements regarding the students writing aspects of content, organization, and language use in descriptive texts respectively. Then, Widyanti, Susilawati & Rosnija (2018) in The Use of Clustering Technique to Teach Writing Descriptive Text showed that there is a highly significant effect of clustering technique to increase students writing descriptive text on eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 21 Pontianak. Next, Rahmawati, Sihite & Zulkarnain (2021) in their research called Clustering Technique in Teaching Writing Descriptive Text found that clustering technique had a significant effect on students achievement in writing descriptive. The data

obtained were analyzed using t-test. The test found out that the scores of the students in the experimental group were significantly higher than the scores of the students in the control group.

In vocational high school, the basic competency that should be achieved in the writing English subject is that the students have ability to develop and produce written simple functional text. Descriptive text is one of the functional texts which is difficult enough to be learnt by the students. Descriptive text is a text that describes the features of someone, something, or a certain place. Descriptive text consists of introduction and description. Introduction is the part of paragraph that introduces the character, and description is the part of paragraph that describes the character. The students can use the simple present and adjective clause in writing descriptive text (Garot and Wignell, 1994).

In writing the descriptive text, students often find some difficulties. The students usually feel difficult to organize their ideas. Furthermore, many students made some mistakes and faced difficulties to build and develop their imagination. Based on the statement above, teachers must be able to organize learning-teaching activities. They have to master the materials, methods and also technique or strategy to make the students understand and apply descriptive writing matters in practice. A good technique can help the students in comprehending and mastering the lesson. One of the teaching failures is caused by an unsuitable method or technique in teaching learning process.

There are a lot of methods and techniques to get the English teaching effectively. One of them is using clustering technique. It is the technique of grouping ideas from the general to the most specific and directed. This technique can be used to help students generate ideas that they have, develop ideas that they have, and be able to group those ideas correctly. According to Langan (2000), clustering technique also known as diagramming or mapping, is another strategy that can be used to generate material for a paper. Moreover, the clustering technique can motivate the students to write and to stimulate their ideas. Besides that, this technique will help the students to organize their thinking before they develop in a paragraph.

In SMK Taruna Masmur Pekanbaru especially for grade tenth, the students learn kind of texts. In term of indicators in its syllabus, one of the indicators mentions about the ability in making descriptive text. The students are expected to be able to write descriptive text. Descriptive text is a kind of text with a purpose to give information. This context of this kind of text is the description of particular thing, animal, person, or others, for instance: pets or a person (Garot and Wignell, 1994). So, the students are asked to describe a noun using their own words. Here, the students have to find the easiest way to make text without forgetting the essential factor of descriptive text.

So, according to aforementioned issues, in the process of writing descriptive text is not kind of an easy stuff for the students grade tenth. The students have to express their idea and explore them into a good writing. At the same time, they have to refer to indicators which need to be considered in descriptive text.

So, the teacher needs to be more creative in teaching, including the use of the technique. One of the techniques used in SMK Taruna Masmur Pekanbaru is clustering technique. Clustering techniques is expected to help students express their ideas and experiences through English writing using clustering techniques. In the end, it is expected to address and enhance scores in English writing by examining students' participation in the use of clustering in the teaching and learning process using clustering techniques.

Meanwhile, there would be students process, performance and interaction in the class during application of this technique. It would be known how students point of view about this technique. It means that students perception could be seen in their English performance in descriptive text. Perception is how to recognize, organize, and make stimuli in environment. Based on the explanation above, the researcher was interested in finding out about how the students perception about writing descriptive text using clustering technique. So, the researcher conducts the research entitled: **“Students Perceptions of Using Clustering Technique in English Performance in Descriptive Text”**.

B. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the research above, students need revolutionary learning methods to improve their language ability. The researcher investigated how students perception of clustering technique in writing of descriptive text at the tenth grades students of SMK Taruna Masmur Pekanbaru.

C. Limitation of the Research

Based on the previous of identification of the research above, the limitation of the research would be focused on the tenth grade of SMK Taruna Masmur Pekanbaru at the first semester 2022/2023. It is focused on the students perceptions in using cluster technique in learning descriptive text.

D. Formulation of the Research

How was the Students Perceptions of Using Cluster Technique in English Performance in Descriptive Text ?

E. Purpose of the Research

Based on the research questions above, the purpose of this study was to know how the Students Perceptions of Using Cluster Technique in English Performance in Descriptive Text on the tenth grade of SMK Taruna Masmur Pekanbaru at the first semester 2022/2023.

F. Significance of the Research

a. Theoretically

The result of the research is giving information about students level in writing descriptive text with clustering technique. So, it can be used as an evaluation to revise a good technique in teaching descriptive text. Then, for the next researcher, this research is beneficial as resourceful material to conduct further study related to this research.

b. Practically

The result of this research can be feedback for the teachers in teaching descriptive text. Furthermore, it gives more information whether clustering technique can be used to teach descriptive text in vocational high school. So, it will be useful for teachers who try to improve the teaching process.

G. Definition of Key Terms

- a. Descriptive text is a kind of text with a purpose to give information such as the description of particular thing, animal, person, or others (Garot and Wignell, 1994).
- b. Clustering technique
Clustering, also known as diagramming or mapping, is another strategy that can be used to generate material for a paragraph. It is a way to think on paper about how various ideas and details relate to one another (Langan, 2000).
- c. Perception as the process taken by individual to govern and to interpret perception of sensory to give significance in their environment (Robbins, 2003).

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion

After conducting the research, the researcher concluded in these following points: The most prominent factor influencing the most students interest in learning descriptive text using clustering technique at the tenth grade of SMK Taruna Masmur Pekanbaru at the first semester 2022/2023 is feeling. The second is attitude and the last is motivation. Clustering technique is an interesting learning tool for students because it is a flexible, easy, and practical tool. The students like clustering technique because it can improve their writing ability especially descriptive text. Students have enjoyment, needs, motivation, attention, desire show interest when learning descriptive text through clustering technique.

B. Suggestion

There are some suggestions that the researcher can propose after doing the research as follows:

- a. Teacher as one of supporting student success in learning English. The teacher has a role to make a guidance and knowledge about clustering technique, because with the guidance from the teacher, it will allow students to understand the learning process through it.
- b. The next researcher, this research is only focus on student perception in descriptive text through clustering technique especially in feelings, attitude and motivation aspect. It is suggested to other researcher to investigate more to complete this study, to analyze the factor, correlation or the effectiveness using clustering technique in other kind of text.

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