

**THE STUDENTS' ABILITY OF USING CAPITAL LETTERS
IN WRITING OF THE EIGHT GRADE AT
SMP NEGERI 1 LANGSA**

THESIS

Submitted By :

ASTIA LILI ERMINDA

**The Student of English Department
Tarbiyah Faculty
Student No : 140900396**



**STATE COLLEGE OF ISLAMIC STUDIES
ZAWIYAH COT KALA LANGSA
2014 M / 1435 H**

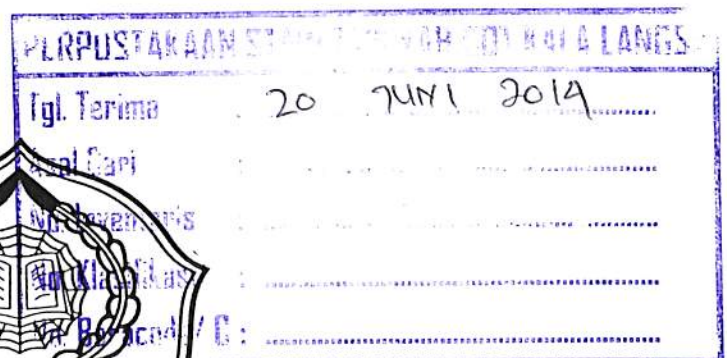
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THESIS

**Submitted to the Tarbiyah of Sekolah Tinggi Agama Islam
Negeri Zawiyah Cot Kala Langsa as a Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for Sarjana Degree S – 1 in Teacher Education**

By

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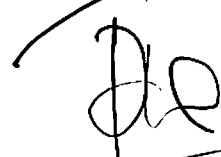
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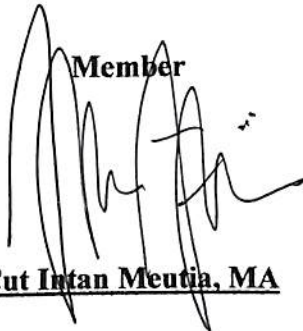
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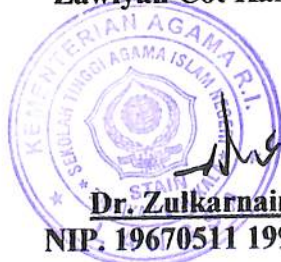
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Dengan ini menyatakan bahwa skripsi saya yang berjudul **“THE STUDENTS’ ABILITY OF USING CAPITAL LETTERS IN WRITING AT EIGHT GRADE STUDENTS AT SMP NEGERI 1 LANGSA”** adalah benar hasil usaha saya sendiri. Apabila dikemudian hari ternyata / terbukti hasil plagiasi karya orang lain atau dibuatkan orang, maka akan dibatalkan dan saya siap menerima sanksi akademik sesuai dengan ketentuan yang berlaku.

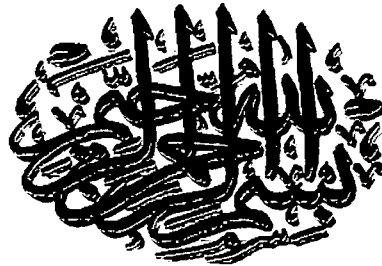
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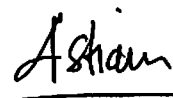
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ABSTRACT

Capital letters is the letters that specifically sized and shaped (larger than regular font) commonly used as the first letter of the first word in a sentence and names. Then, writing is a way to produce language that comes from our thought especially in written form. The research was about the students' ability of using capital letters in writing. The research question is how the students' ability of using capital letters in writing. This study was carried out at SMP Negeri 1 Langsa. This study was qualitative approach, the type of study that needed in descriptive research. The data source was the eight grade of one classroom which has thirty three students, which was taken based on the data by using matrix analysis. The purpose of this research is to find out the students' ability of using capital letters in writing. In order to obtain the data needed, the researcher conducted documentation. Furthermore, to process the data, the percentage formula was taken to find out the result of this research. The results of this research was the eight grade of one classroom which has thirty three students found the completeness and their ability was good in learning by using capital letters. They were often used the rules of capital letter in their writing process. Based on the percentage the students got excellent criteria and the usage of capital letter mastered enough by the students. It reached 57.6 percent. Besides, the ability factor was made by the students resulted that most of them have limited understanding about using capital letters, and they do not understand deeply about rules of use capital letters. Based on the research, the researcher recommends that the teacher needs to give explanation clearly about capital letters.

Key words: Students' ability, capital letter, writing

TABLE OF CONTENT

Acknowledgment	i
Abstract	iii
Table of Content	iv
List of Table	vi
List of Figure	vii
List of Appendixes	viii
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION	
A. The Background of The Study.....	1
B. The Research Question.....	4
C. The Purpose of The Study	4
D. The Significance of The Study	5
E. Terminology	5
F. The Limitation of The Study	7
CHAPTER II LITERATURE REVIEW	
A. Definition of Ability	9
B. Definition of Writing	10
C. Kinds of Writing.....	12
1. Descriptive Writing	12
2. Narrative Writing.....	13
3. Expository Writing	14
4. Argumentative Writing.....	15
5. Persuasive Writing.....	15
D. Definition of Paragraph	16
1. Structure of Paragraph	17
2. Narrative Paragraph	19
E. Definition of Capital Letters.....	19
F. The Rules of Use Capital Letters.....	20
G. Example of Capital Letters in Narrative Paragraph.....	34
H. Criteria of Writing Assessment	36

CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	
A. The Approach and Kinds of Research.....	39
B. The Data and Data Source	40
C. The Procedure of Collecting Data	41
D. Techniques of Data Analysis.....	41
E. The Steps of Research	46
CHAPTER IV FINDING AND DISCUSSION	
A. Finding of The Research.....	47
B. Discussion.....	50
CHAPTER V CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION	
A. Conclusion.....	52
B. Suggestion	52
BIBLIOGRAPHY	54

LIST OF TABLE

Table 1	The Result of Students' Score.....	47
Table 2	Table of Criteria Scoring.....	48
Table 3	The Percentages of Students' Score.....	49

LIST OF FIGURE

Figure 1	16
Figure 2	42
Figure 3	50

LIST OF APPENDIXES

1. **The Certificate of Appointment of Lecturers**
2. **The Research Permit**
3. **The Certificate After Doing Research**
4. **The Pronouncement of His Own Works**
5. **The Documentation of The Student Assignment Sheet**
6. **Biography**
7. **Photo Copy TOEFL Certificate**
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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

English is an international language and it is used all over the world. Education has become essential nowadays, especially during globalization era. It seems to be getting more and more important in the educational institution over the world. It is true that most people in the world use English as a mean of communication. In Indonesia, English as a foreign language and it is a compulsory subject in the curriculum. It has been taught at school as one of the main subject from Elementary School, Junior High School, Senior High School even at University.

Good teachers always know what materials to use with a given class and have access to them. The English teachers are the persons who really know what best works in the classroom. The teacher has to motivate the students to learn English in the class, and create the method of teaching. So the students will feel relaxed, and freely in using English in the classroom. The teacher must make afford to understand the material well. In learning English, the students are expected to reach four skills. There are four skills in learning English they are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. In here, based on the role of English in education, school emphasizes students to determine of using capital letters in writing. The point is students have to be able to write the sentence in correct of using capital letters in writing.

It is undeniable that writing is probably one of the most familiar things in our life. Every day people get written announcements, advertisements, letters, information, even warning in the form of writing. In school, they do a lot of writings such as taking note, making lists, completing laboratory reports and composing any kinds of texts and others. In short, people are consciously or unconsciously engaged in writing a lot. As it becomes crucial to enhance their life, they learn the skills from pre-elementary school to university level. Then, they master them by applying them into business of life.

In this study, the researcher pays attention to writing skill. Capital letters are always used at the beginning of a sentence. It is a universal rule. One of the large alphabetic characters used as the first letter in writing or printing proper names and sometimes for emphasis. Many rules for the use of capital letters have been fixed by custom, such as the convention of beginning each sentence with a capital letter, but the rules change all the time. A recent dictionary is a good guide to capitalization.¹

In English, we do not use capital letters too often. We use it primarily for the first letter in a sentence, names, days, and months, and for some abbreviations. In addition, of course, we always write the first person pronoun as uppercase "I". Not unusual to write entire sentences in capital letters. A sentence or a paragraph that is written in capital letters is very difficult to read. Capitalization is the rules of how to make capital letters and make it very important to know, because capitalization is the main basic in writing.

¹ Elain P. Maimon, Janice H. Peritz, and Kathleen Blake Yancey, *A Writer's Resource: A Handbook for Writing and Research* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2003), 570.

While preparing for writing, the teacher will want to focus on the use of capital letters in writing; at the beginning of sentences and in use with personal nouns such as a specific person, place or thing, how to construct sentences and become aware that each sentence must be started with a capital letter. Make sure that students understand the use of capital letters, and practice writing capital letters on a daily basis.

Government Printing Office states it is impossible to give rules that will cover every conceivable problem in capitalization.² In English grammar, the first letter of words is usually capitalized for one or two reason: The word occurs in a certain grammatical context, or it is proper noun. Within each of these categories, there are specific rules governing which word should be capitalized.

As we know, capital letters are very important because they make sentences easier to read and understand. In English, we do not use capital letters very much. It is not correct or even polite to use a lot of capital letters in English. But there are times when capitals are important. Based on the researcher's experience as a teacher of *SMP Negeri 1 Langsa*, the researcher has seen and observed that not all of students can using of capital letters in writing and some of them do not care about using capital letters in writing.

Basically learning outcomes of using capital letters conducted by teachers is one stimulus that can be given to students so that students' ability can come to the surface. In fact, most students of *SMP Negeri 1 Langsa* not were able to

² Mary K. McCaskill and Langley Research Center, *Grammar, Punctuation, and Capitalization: A Handbook for Technical Writers and Editors* (Virginia: Langley Research Center, n.y), 76.

increase their ability to learn of using capital letters due to dissatisfaction with writing.

In this case, the researcher focuses her attention in writing to the students in the school. The researcher wants to know the students' ability in writing especially of using capital letters. So, it is expected to give some information as a feedback to improve students' ability of using capital letters in writing and the researcher understand how far the knowledge writers have.

Based on the explanation above the researcher will do research entitle **“THE STUDENTS’ ABILITY OF USING CAPITAL LETTERS IN WRITING OF THE EIGHT GRADE AT SMP NEGERI 1 LANGSA”**

B. The Research Question

This study is the aimed at the following questions:

How is the students’ ability of using capital letters in writing of the eight grade at *SMP Negeri 1 Langsa*?

C. The Purpose of the Study

Related to the statement of the problem above, the study is conducted:

To find out the students’ ability of using capital letters in writing of the eight grade at *SMP Negeri 1 Langsa*.

D. The Significance of the Study

This study is hoped can be useful in teaching writing with using capital letters as below:

1. Be a reference for the principal in formulating the well designed curriculum or syllabus for the English materials on the subject matters that relate of capital letters in writing.
2. Be a reference for the teachers who teach of using capital letters in writing particularly in making some plans to teach in order to decide the best method in teaching the subject.
3. Be a motivation for the students in improving their ability of using capital letters in writing.
4. Be a starting point for the researchers and readers those who want to do further research with the same related topic in conducting their research.

E. Terminology

There are some terms correlate to the title that the researcher wants to explain clearly. This explanation is essential to make clear about the definition and to make the same understanding about the words.

1. Ability

Ability means having the power to do something or to perform a certain action. If one does not have the ability to do something, it means he or she lacks the required knowledge, strength, or resources to do that action or task. A person's ability can be judged on how much they know or how much

they have achieved. Furthermore, Allyn and Bacon presented that ability is “potential or power to do something physical or mental or special nature power to do something well”.³ In that sense, the researcher exposes that ability is power or skill required to do something.

2. Capital Letters

Capital letters are used for more than just starting sentences and names.⁴ Capital letters are important in English, and there are many situations when you should use them. We've already reviewed several basic situations when capital letters are needed. A capital is used for the first word in every sentence. It follows a full stop, question and interrogation marks, is used at the opening of a quote if it begins a sentence, and also for months and days of the week. Capitals should be used for proper nouns or names (words referring to a particular person or place), for formal titles, names of companies and organizations, political parties, titles of newspapers and magazines, titles of newspaper and periodical articles, books, films, trade names, names of ships and aircraft types. They are usually used for abbreviations, although some organizations adopt a lower case style in order to reflect advertising or product branding.⁵

³ Allyn and Bacon, *Psychology of the Science of Behaviour* (Oxford: Oxford University press, 1965), 20.

⁴ Anne Stilman, *Grammatically Correct: The Writer's Essential Guide to Punctuation, Spelling, Style, Usage and Grammar* (United States: Writer's Digest Books, 1997), 266.

⁵ John Foster, *Effective Writing Skill for Public Relations* (London: Kogan Page, 1998), 25.

Antjie Krog states, "I am a poet. I distrust anything that starts with a capital letter and ends with a full stop."⁶ So, we should use capital letter of the first letter of every sentence, regardless of what the word is, and then ends with a full stop of every in writing a sentence.

3. Writing

Writing is an activity of written communication that connects language as the medium. According to Widdowson, writing is the act of making up correct sentences and transmitting them through the visual medium as a mark on paper.⁷ So, writing skill helps the learners to express ideas, thoughts, and feelings to other people in written symbols to make other people or readers understand the ideas conveyed with fluency and creativity in writing.

F. The Limitation of the Study

There are a lot of kinds of paragraph in English, such as narrative, descriptive, persuasive, and many more. Each paragraph has different characteristics. In this study, the writer will focus on using capital letter in writing a narrative paragraph. A narrative paragraph is the most interesting of writing genre for students of Junior High School because it tells about something imaginative so it will be quite relevant to their world and make them produce a text. A narrative paragraph tells a story that tells about a series of events that happened to the narrator. It is usually told in time sequence with a definite

⁶ David Marsh, *Guardian Style* (London: Guardian Books, 2007), 51.

⁷ <http://teachingenglishonline.net/definition-of-writing-ability/> (Accessed on June 3, 2013).

beginning, middle and end. So, the writer will explore a genre in writing, that is, narrative, because narrative is an interesting genre for students because they can share their idea, opinion and their own experience, like writing in a diary.