

**An Analysis of Students Word Choice in Writing a Paragraph (A
Case Study at English Department of IAIN Zawiyah Cot Kala Langsa)**

THESIS

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May Allah SWT, the all maighty, bless us all, Amin ya rabbal'alamin..

Langsa 6 December 2015

The researcher

Rika Dewi

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ABSTRACT

Writing is one of the four skills that are taught in English. In English teaching and learning process, there are four skills namely Listening, speaking, reading and writing. Writing ability is the most difficult and complicated language skill to be learn. word choice (diction) refers to the writer's choice of an individual word. Acknowledging diction, the students recognize the choices of writer has made and inferred with possible reasons from it. It means that word choice is the degree of the clarity. This analysis study was an attempt to answer questions, is the word choice of student`s writing vivid, precise in using figurative language to paint picture, strong and clear meaning, word and phrases, catch reader`s mean. The source data of study were students at fourth semester of IAIN Zawiyah Cot Kala Langsa of Academic years 2013-2014. They are 25 samples. The result of analysis showed that students get score between 2 and 3. There were 14 (56%) essays considered as "Fair", 6 (36%) compositions were categorized as "Developing" stage, and merely 2 (8%) composition could be determined as "Good" writing. Based on the result of the study, the students are suggested to learn much about word choice, synonyms, antonyms and read many books for vocabulary mastery and tone in writing a composition. Thus, these factors will improve the students' writing.

Keyword: writing, word choice

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of Study

One of the essential parts of learning English is writing. Writing is one of the four skills that are taught in English. In English teaching and learning process, there are four skills namely Listening, speaking, reading and writing. Writing ability is the most difficult and complicated language skill to be learned almost by the students in every level of education. The difficulties occur when students have knowledge about vocabulary and grammar.

Writing is a basic and very important language skill because it is integrated to the learning process and it can improve the students' academic performances but it cannot be learned in a short time. Writing skill requires more capabilities than other language skills and need special preparation. It requires the students to understand the spelling and punctuation, the sentence structures, the vocabulary, and the paragraph development. Writing is one of the communication means by which the students can communicate by their ideas and messages. It involves composing which implies the ability either to tell or retell pieces of information in the form of narration, description, or transform information into texts.

Too many students produced lower diction of writing texts. They choose inappropriate word in writing paragraph. Writing is a process where writing is often heavily influenced by the constraints of genres, then these elements have to

be present in learning activities.¹ In writing skill, student will study how to describe the idea to be a paragraph, essay, story, and other kinds of writing product. To learn writing students need serious effort, because writing cannot be reached naturally, as people learn to walk and to talk.

When we talk about learning style, there will be many interpretations because this term has a number of meaning. For example, when the students choose words, the power of words chosen must carefully, accurately, and facinating.² On other hand, what makes good writing is compelling and helping the students develop their writing skills.

The more words student knows, the better students can choose to communicate clearly and explain dynamically. In other hand, word choice in writing is the most important part. Word choice is also commonly known as diction. Diction is defined as thinking clearly about each specific word that is chosen. When choosing words, it is important to watch out for commonly confusing words and to make sure that idioms are used correctly.³

Word choice (diction) refers to the writer's choice of an individual word. Diction means simply of the writer's choice of words. From diction people recognize the choices of the writer that has made and inferred with possible reasons.⁴ Word choice is a study of diction, the analysis of how a writer uses

¹Jeremy Harmer, *how to Teach Writing*, (Malaysia: Logman, 2007), p.86

²Leann Niclesen, *Teaching Elaboration and Word Choice*, (New York: Longman, 2001), p.4

³English/Grammar/VoiceandStyle/WordChoice/http://www.brightstom.com/17/5/2015

⁴Anisatur Rohmah, *Style & Tone*, (Malang: UIN-Maliki Press, 2010), p.21.

language for a distinct purpose and effect, including word choice and figures of speech. When choosing words, you must choose the word that proper with your writing. It meant that the horrified story need horrified word, romence story need romantic word and tragic story need tragic word.

Learning writing is not easy. Therefore, the teacher might find many phenomenon. They will find many students who have good writing ability, middle ability and many students who have low ability. These phenomenon depends on each student personality and learning style. This phenomenon also find in English Department of FTIK of IAIN Zawiyah Cot Kala Langsa, the students are difficult to choose the good word when they write a paragraph. Based on reseacher observation the difficulty caused of students limited about grammar and literaty.

The researcher hope this study will help student to study and know more about word choice (diction) in writing a paragraph. Based on the explanation above, the researcher want to analyzed **“An Analysis of Students Word Choice in Writing a Paragraph (A Case Study at English Department of IAIN Zawiyah Cot Kala Langsa) ”**

B. The Research Question

Based on the background above, the research question is: “How do the students select a proper diction in writing a paragraph for the fourth semester students of English Department of FTIK IAIN ZCK Langsa?”

C. The Purpose of the Study

Based on the research question, the purpose of this study is: “To figure out the proper way in selection of diction in writing a paragraph for the fourth semester students of English Department of FTIK IAIN ZCK Langsa?”

D. The Significance of The Study

Here are some significance that is expected to be useful for following individuals or the institutions:

1. For other Researcher of TESOL

The other researcher can broaden their knowledge in writing especially on the essential part like word choice in writing. When choosing words, you must choose the word that proper with your writing. It meant that the horrified story need horrified word, romence story need romantic word and tragic story need tragic word.

2. For Students

By reading this thesis, the readers are expected to find information about writing and word choice in writing paragraph so that the readers can improve their knowledges. Moreover, this study can be a guidance to make a research which related to writing or word choice.

3. For Lecturer

The researcher hopes that the lecturers can help the students to get more information about word choice and intend to teach it in writing.

E. The Terminology of The Study

The terminology is several terms which related to the title. The writer will explain them one by one and limited definition of each terms.

a. Writing

Writing is a process of what we write it often heavily influenced by the constraints of genres, then these elements have to be present in learning activities.⁵ Writing is the final product of several separate acts that are hugely challenging to learn simultaneously.⁶ From the definition the researcher concludes that writing is an ability to express an idea, opinion, feeling, and experience, that somebody has heard in written form. It begin from a simple piece of writing to be a more advanced level.

In writing performance also has the task, there are four categories of written performance that are, imitative, intensive, responsive and extensive. In this research the researchers analyze extensive assessment. Especially in paragraph construction task.

b. Definition of Paragraph

A paragraph is a group of sentence that discuss one main idea, or topic. It has unity, each sentence contribute to the development of that single topic. It also

⁵Jeremy Harmer, *how to Teach Writing*, (Malaysia: Logman, 2007), p.86

⁶Trudy Wallace, Stariba E. W and Walberg J. H, *Teaching speaking, listening and writing*, (France:IAE, 2004),p.15

has an introduction, a body, and conclusion. A paragraph usually introduces its main idea in a topic sentence (most often at the beginning of the paragraph) so that readers may predict and make sense of the ideas that follow. Each sentence in the body discusses a part of the topic idea and fulfills the most likely predictions of the readers. The last sentence of a paragraph brings it to a graceful end.⁷

c. Definition of Word choice

According to Hall that quoted in the Anisatur Rohmahs' thesis, the word diction refers to the writer's choice of an individual word. Diction means simply the writer's choice of words. From diction people recognize the choices of writer has made and inferred with possible reasons from which he or she has made.⁸

Diction or word choice is just a fancy way of saying "word choice." That is, when someone tells you that you have "good diction," they are saying that you have a good vocabulary and you use it well. Having good diction is an essential part of writing well no matter what kind of writing you are doing. Diction is the key to develop your style, tone, and point of view.⁹

Word choice is the use of rich, colorful, precise language that communicates not just in a functional way, but in a way that moves and enlightens the reader. In descriptive writing, strong word choice resulting in imagery, especially sensory, show me writing, clarifies and expands ideas. In persuasive writing, purposeful

⁷Alan Meyer, *Composing With Confidence* (USA: Harpen collins publisher, 1987), p.18

⁸Anisatur Rohmah, *Style & Tone*, (Malang: UIN-Maliki Press, 2010), p.21

⁹How-to-write-with-good-diction-to-develop-style tone <http://study.com/academy/lesson/point-of-view>.accessed on 11/05/2015

word choice moves the reader to a new vision of ideas. In all modes of writing a figurative language is defined as metaphors, similes and analogies articulate. It enhances and enriches the content. Strong word choice is characterized not so much by an exceptional vocabulary chosen to impress the reader, but more by the skill to use everyday words well.¹⁰

¹⁰Traittrait-definitions<http://educationnorthwest.org>accessed on18/6/2015