

Improving Students' Writing Ability Through The Use Of Instagram Caption

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Info Artikel

Sejarah Artikel

Diterima: 13 Agustus 2021
Revisi: 19 Oktober 2021
Disetujui: 23 Desember 2021
Dipublikasikan: 30 Desember 2021

Keyword

Instagram
Writing Skills

Abstract

This study aims to improve the students' writing ability of ten grade in vocational high school Manbaul Huda Pati through the use of Instagram caption. This research is motivated by students' anxiety in learning English, especially writing. The purpose of this study is to know how is Instagram caption as a media applied and improve students writing skill. The subject of this study was 27 students in X TBSM of SMK Manbaul Huda Pati. The study used classroom research design. In this study, the researcher used Instagram caption because social media is closer to students so it will be easier to apply it in learning activities. In this case, the media was used to attract students in writing English in the class. There are several steps in this research, namely: pre-elimination test, conducting the cycles starting with planning, acting, observing, reflecting, and post-test. The result of the study showed that there were improvements of students' writing ability after being taught using Instagram caption as a media. It was proved by the improvement between the students' score of preliminary test and cycle 2 post-test. The average of preliminary test was 68.89, while the average of cycle 2 post-test was 79.81. Based on the result above, it can be concluded that this media gave positive contribution to the improvement of the students' writing ability. This media is beneficial to help the students to learn writing English in more enjoyable way.

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Introduction

Language is a way to communicate with each other. In the Oxford dictionary (1989: 700) it is stated that: "Language is a system of sounds, words, patterns, etc. which are used by humans to communicate thoughts and feelings". Based on this statement, it is explained that language is a way of expressing ideas or opinions to others. Sapir (1921: 3) defines language as an instinctive method that humans have to communicate ideas, emotions, and desires, using various symbols that are made for a specific purpose. In this case, it is closely related to how someone can convey their opinions and feelings correctly. It is not only for about an opinion, but also another factor that must be considered in communicating is how a person can respond to what we say. The best communication support is feedback from a conversation so that the communication is considered to run according to the rules of the language itself.

English is one of the international languages that must be mastered. In various circles, communities, and even in the world of education, English is one of the most important criteria to be mastered. The magnitude of the needs for human resources who are expected to be able to master English, makes this knowledge a business commodity. So, this is very influential on education in Indonesia. Learning English is one of the compulsory subjects at several levels such as Junior High School, Senior High School, and Vocational High School. Some school levels such as elementary and kindergarten have been given English language learning as an introduction for

their students to the language. Learning English is one form of developing communication skills in children, so that they are able to adapt the world change, especially the world market.

In this globalization, mastering English is fundamental knowledge for people. In English there are 4 skills, namely reading, writing, listening, and speaking. These four aspects are fundamental knowledge that must be mastered when learning English. Various types of texts, advertisements, books, and products are written in English. In this case, people must understand the text before buying product, books, etc. While mastering writing is the highest level of difficulty in learning English. It is mentioned that writing is the last step in acquiring language, it is the most difficult skill compared to the other main language skills (Khan & Bontha, 2014; Richards & Enandya, 2002).

Writing is one of the most complex activities for human (József, 2001). It includes developing design ideas so that the reader understanding about the text. it also requires students to write main idea of the text and give supporting idea so that the sentence produce good text. Moreover, students must be able to express their ideas well, their writing must also represent their knowledge regarding their issues carry.

On the other hand, information through technology is the essential role in all aspect of human life. One of the information that usually used is Instagram. In the current era, Instagram was very popular and widely used by teenagers. Most of the use Instagram to communicate with their friends, families and others. They also can meet people in different country by using their smartphone in Instagram. While, students tended to spend their time accessing Instagram. They uploaded their photo or video with description, and interact with others by leaving comments or sending direct messages. By this condition, social media is one of tool that can have many positive effects for them especially writing skill. In this case, teacher should have innovation in teaching English by using technology that is popular among students so that they are interesting, and get motivation.

In teaching writing, there are two kinds of approaches that known as process approach and genre approach. Process writing shifts the focus from the finished product to the processes which pupils need to go through as writers. It aims to give pupils a greater sense of ownership and enhance pupils' commitment to their work. While, the genre approach focuses strongly on how to construct particular kinds of texts. Unlike process writing, the teacher has a strong directional input at the beginning and explicitly scaffolds students' writing structures (Broughton, Brumfit, Flavell, Hill, & Pincas, 2005).

Based on the observing, there are some problem statements that is used in this research. They are: 1) How is Instagram caption as a media applied in teaching writing skill at 10 motorcycle engineering (TBSM) of SMK Manbaul Huda Pati?, 2) How does Instagram caption as a media improve students writing skill at 10 TBSM of SMK Manbaul Huda Pati?

Method

In this research, the researcher uses action research design. Action research is regarded as a "form of 'self-reflective enquiry by participants, in order to improve rationality and justice of their own social and educational practices'" (Carr & S, 1986). This research employs classroom action research design that will involve four broad phases in a cycle of research; planning, action, observation, and reflection. The first cycle may become continuing, or iterative, spiral of cycles

which recur until the action researcher has achieved a satisfactory outcome and feel it is time to stop.

To make easier in scoring, there will be guideline of scoring. And the aspect of what will be scored, there will be rubric is made. Here is the rubric that will be applied in this research as stated in the theory of successful writing by Weigle, which includes content, organization, grammar, vocabulary, and mechanics of the writing (Weigle, 2002):

Aspect of writing	Score	Criteria
Content	5	Provide complete element (goal, materials and steps) and easy to understand
	4	Provide almost complete element (goal, materials and steps) and easy to understand
	3	Provide fairly complete element (goal, materials and steps) and fairly easy to understand
	2	Provide quite complete element (goal, materials and steps) and quite easy to understand
	1	Not complete and difficult to understand
Organization	5	Well organized and utilize effective use of transitional words/phrases
	4	Fairly well organize and utilize effective use of transitional words/phrases
	3	Loosely organized but main ideas clear, logical but in complete transitional words/phrases
	2	Ideas disconnected, lack transitional words/phrases
	1	Lack organization, and does not utilize any transitional words/phrases
Grammar	5	No errors in the use of the present tense
	4	Almost no errors in the use of the present tense
	3	Some errors in the use of the present tense
	2	Many errors in the use of the present tense
	1	No mastery of the present tense, dominated by errors in the use of the present tense
Vocabulary	5	Very effective choice of words and words form
	4	Effective choice of words and words forms
	3	Adequate choice of words but some misuse of vocabulary and words forms
	2	Limited range, confused use of words and words forms
	1	Very limited range, very poor knowledge of words and words forms

Aspect of writing	Score	Criteria
Mechanics	5	Well organized and utilize punctuation: periods, commas, semi colons, quotation, and marks and initial capital letter.
	4	Well organized and utilize punctuation: periods, commas, semi colons, quotation, and marks.
	3	Occasional errors of punctuation: periods, commas, semi colons, quotation, and marks.
	2	Frequent errors of punctuation: periods, commas, semi colons, quotation, and marks.
	1	No mastery of convention, dominated by errors of punctuation: periods, commas, semi colons, quotation, and marks and initial capital letter.

In collecting the data, this research uses observation, test, and documentation. The observation will consist of student's behavior during teaching learning process, their respond toward task given through Instagram caption. The test of this research uses preliminary test and cycle test. For the document, the research uses some photos from student's result of writing in Instagram account. While the subject of this research is the tenth graders of SMK Manbaul Huda Pati in the academic year of 2019/2020.

Findings and Discuss

The researcher explains the work of tenth grader of SMK Manbaul Huda Pati based on improving students' writing ability through the use of instagram caption. This research was conducted through two cycles in three meetings. The first meeting, the researcher did preliminary test. The second and the third meeting, the researcher did cycle test. The research was conducted through two cycles in three meetings. Each meeting spent 90 minutes. One meeting consisted of treatment and general test. Before doing cycle one, the preliminary test was done to find students' difficulties in writing and measure the ability of the students in writing. The post-test is to measure the improvement of students' writing ability. The result of the test was called as the primary data of the research. The secondary data are observation checklist and teaching learning documentation. All data gained during the process were used to answer the question in research problem.

Durung the observation the final result of the test deals with the total score the students gained before and after using Instagram caption media. In the pre-test result, the students had problems in every aspect of writing skill. After conducting the test, the result of the test increased. It can be shown by the result of the pre-test was 68,89 while the cycle test was 79.81. It means that the students were improving in writing English using Instagram caption.

Conclusion

According to the data analysis, it can be conclude that; (1) The purpose of the study is 'to find out how improving students's writing ability using Instagram caption to the tenth graders of vocational high school of Manbaul Huda Pati in the academic year 2019/2020.' was carried out well. This is evidenced by the compatibility between the planned steps in accordance with the expected results. The use of Instagram caption media is easy for students to understand where they are already familiar with this media. In addition, during the learning process, students felt enthusiastic when using this media because this was their first experience of learning English using

Instagram captions; and (2) 'The Instagram caption help to improve students' achievement in writing after being taught using this media. This is evidenced by the percentage obtained in cycle 1, which is 59.25% and cycle 2, which is 77.77%. Thus it can be said that Instagram media is an efficient tool to improve students' writing skills.

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