

# Students' Writing Difficulties in Online Learning during Covid- 19 Pandemic

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## Students' Writing Difficulties in Online Learning during Covid-19 Pandemic

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### ABSTRACT

This research aims to find out the students writing difficulties in recount text that faced by the students during online learning process. In performing data and data analysis qualitative research design was applied. It is based on basic interpretative analysis. It was used to describe topic related to the phenomenon happened in writing through online learning during pandemic covid-19. The object of this research was the students at tenth grade in SMA Swasta Teladan Pematangsiantar. In collecting data questionnaires were shared to 77 respondents. The research finding shows that the subjects have difficulties in writing recount text during online learning at situation of Covid-19 pandemic. The difficulties in four aspects of writing, they are sentence construction, organizing text, paragraphing aspect and text cohesion aspect. It is supported by the degree of percentage score of the questionnaires scores they are sentence construction aspect with Agree scale 55.2 %, organizing a text and paragraphing aspect with Agree scale 51.95 %, text cohesion aspect with Agree scale 51.95% and register/style aspect with Strongly Agree scale 47.5 %.

Keywords: Writing Difficulties, Online Learning, Recount Text, Covid-19 Pandemic

### INTRODUCTION

English is one of compulsory subjects learnt in any level of education in Indonesia. English is essential to be mastered. Mastery of English helps students understand others knowledge. It is based on the role of English which is used in almost source of knowledge. English is used in almost knowledge both in written and oral. English is learnt in four skills; they are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The mastery of English is considered in order to get better life for students in future. They can get job with good position (Sadiku, 2015; Barus et al, 2020). To achieve better achievement of English, teacher has to prepare teaching material well. The teacher should ideas on the nature of language in the learning condition that makes students acquire the language (Dakowska, 2018).

Learning English is a process where someone able to communicate using English language (Rahmanita & Mukminatien, 2019; Sinaga et al, 2020). Therefore, each student is required to be able mastered English as a provision for the future. In fact, the world situation is facing with an outbreak of the COVID-19 disease, including in Indonesia. This situation affects all community activities in various fields greatly. One of the activities most threatened is the field of education. Even though, education has a very important role in the civilization of human life so far (Haratikka, 2020). In this current situation, schools need the additional various educational teaching methods to maintain the continuity of the teaching leaning process.

Learning English in Indonesia in this current situation, especially in Pematangsiantar city, is experiencing considerable challenges because learning that usually done face-to-face

has stopped and is diverted to online learning. It is an alternative way to maintain the effectiveness of continuity in English learning. During Online learning in Covid-19, educators must be creative in designing interesting learning materials so that students can understand the learning material well and do not feel bored. But in the fact, some of problems faced by students in several schools, especially in Teladan Senior High School who implementing online learning are found difficulties in English lesson especially in writing recount text. Writing is one of the important skills in English lesson because it is a media to share ideas or thought and information in written form (Hasibuan, Prisilia, and Aritonang, 2020; Pardede et al, 2020; Herman et al, 2020). There are twelve kinds genre of writing includes recount, report, discussion, explanation, exposition analytical, hortatory, new items, anecdote, narrative, procedure, descriptive, review. This research focused in recount text because it is one of topic talk about. It was based on the experience of the researcher when teaching training program. Recount text can be defined as a text which retells past events orderly and has aimed to describe what have already happened (Anderson, 1997 as cited in Sidauruk, Silalahi, and Herman, 2020).

This research focused to analyze students' writing difficulties in seven aspects of writing. The seven aspects of writing are handwriting, spelling, punctuation, sentence construction, organizing a text and paragraphing, text cohesion and register/style (Bryne, 1988, cited in Aulia & Nugrahini, 2019). Besides, the difficulties faced by some students became more increase when they are faced to the existence of online learning. The students only receive part of the material without any explanation and after that they continue to work on the questions that have been sent by the teacher through learning media. Not only the students, the teacher also has an obstacle for the learning in creating explanation, strength, material enrichment and the clarification of the material (Thenmozhi and Ponmozhi, 2017). As an objective of this research, is to find out the students' writing difficulties in recount text through the aspects of writing on online learning during covid-19 pandemic. So, this research entitled "An analysis of students' writing difficulties on online learning during covid-19 pandemic".

## **METHOD**

This research used qualitative research as the research design. Qualitative research is the method that focuses on understanding social phenomena from the perspective of the human participants in natural settings (Ary et al., 2010:22; Thao and Herman, 2020). There are some types of qualitative research, namely basic interpretative studies, case studies, content or document analysis, ethnographic studies, grounded theory studies, historical studies, narrative research, phenomenological research. This research focused to use basic interpretative studies. Basic interpretative studies mean descriptive accounts targeted to understanding a

phenomenon, a process or a particular point of view from the perspective of those involved. It has a purpose to understand the world or the experience of another (Ary et al., 2010:472; Hutabarat et al, 2020).

The sample of this research is the students in Teladan Senior High School which consist of 77 students. This research focused to two classes, they are students of X PIS-1 and X MIA-1 with 77 students. The data analyzed based on seven aspects of writing that make students faced difficulties in writing according to Bryne's theory. This research focused to this object because the researcher has an experience to teach the students. This experience made the researcher easy to analyze about the difficulties that faced by the students. The researcher also known where the students' weakness in learning especially in writing, then the researcher just needs to make sure that the students found some difficulties related to this research.

In this research, the researcher collected the data by giving the questionnaire. The researcher used combination of questionnaire types since those two types could facilitate the researcher and the respondents in collecting the data, there were the structured or close questionnaire, the researcher could easy to analyze the result of questionnaire and got as large number of respondents as possible and got the opportunity to be relaxed in answering the research question. The researcher gave questionnaire to the object because the researcher has experience to teach the object when teaching-learning training. There are some steps that will use by the researcher to get the data for this research, those are creating the questionnaire into Google Form, giving questionnaire to the students who have experience about the difficulties in learning writing, sharing the questionnaire to the students via WhatsApp application, and re-collecting the questionnaire that has been shared to the students.

The analysis in a research is important to get the data. Then, data analysis also used to find out the result of research (Silalahi, 2017:180). In analyzing the data, researcher used the theory of Creswell (2012). There are the details of the theory are shown in the steps as follows; prepare and organize the data, explore and code the data, use code to description and theme the data, represent and report findings, and interpret findings. Triangulation is a method used to increase the credibility and validity of research findings (Noble & Heale, 2019:67). Triangulation is also an effort to help explore and explain complex human behavior using a variety of methods to offer a more balanced explanation to reader. There are four types of Triangulation namely, data triangulation, investigator triangulation, theory triangulation and methodological triangulation (Fusch, Fusch & Ness, 2018). Thus, this research used theory triangulation. Theory triangulation alternative theories to the data set, this research used some theories such as difficulties of writing in English by Mohammad et al, (2020) and students' difficulties in writing hortatory exposition text ability by Hasibuan, Prisilia & Aritonang

(2020). The researcher used this triangulation because there are some of theories that gotten from sources such as, Articles, Journals and E-book.

**FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

**FINDINGS**

The difficulties faced by the students in writing on online learning during pandemic covid-19 are found in four aspects of writing. The four aspects are parts of seven aspects in writing. They are sentence construction aspect, organizing a text and paragraphing aspect, text cohesion aspect, and register/style aspect.

**The four aspects of students’ writing difficulties**

The questionnaire was given to identify students’ writing difficulties in four aspects of writing to 77 students of tenth grade of Teladan Senior High School. The result can be seen in the table below:

**Table 1.** The four aspects of students’ writing difficulties

Aspect	strongly Agree(SA)	Agree (A)	Neutral (N)	Disagree (D)	Strongly Disagree (SD)
Sentence Construction	7	6	3		0
Organizing a text and paragraphing	7	0			0
Text cohesion	5	3	8		0
Register/style	7	5			0

Based on the table above, it can be captured through percentage as follows:

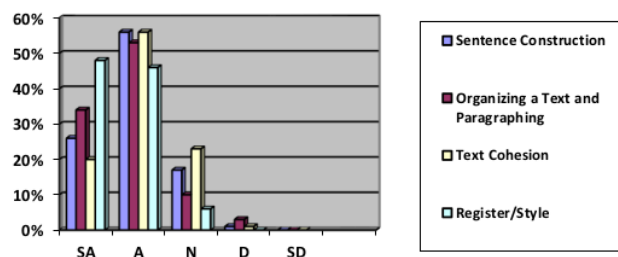


Figure 1. Percentage the four aspects of Students' Writing Difficulties

Based on the table 1 and the figure 1, the students' writing difficulties showed that in sentence construction aspect 17 students (26 %) were strongly agree, 46 students (59 %) were Agree, 13 students (17 %) were Neutral, 1 student (1%) were Disagree and 0 (0%) were Strongly Disagree. In organizing a text and paragraphing aspect 27 students (34%) were Strongly Agree, 40 students (53%) were Agree, 8 students (10%) were Neutral, 2 students (3%) were Disagree and 0 (0%) were Strongly Disagree. In text cohesion aspect 15 students (20%) were Strongly Agree, 43 students (56%) were Agree, 18 students (23%) were Neutral, 1 student (1%) were Disagree and 0(0%) were Strongly Disagree. In register/style aspect 37 students (48%) were Strongly Agree, 35 students (46%) were Agree, 5 students (6%) were Neutral, 0(0%) were Disagree and 0(0%) were Strongly Disagree.

## DISCUSSION

This research observed the students' writing difficulties based on the Bryne's theory (1988) as cited in Aulia & Nugrahini (2019). There are seven aspects of writing which consist handwriting, spelling, punctuation, sentence construction, organizing a text and paragraphing, text cohesion and register/style. In this research, the researcher found four aspects of students' writing difficulties, those are sentence construction, organizing a text and paragraphing, text cohesion and register/style. It is because the researcher found the responses of the students through questionnaire, where the students assumed the four aspects in writing on online learning during covid-19 pandemic.

There is a previous researches related to this research. In the first previous research conducted by Habibi, Wachyuni, and Husni (2017) entitled "Students Perception on Writing Problems: A Survey at One Islamic University in Jambi". The objective of this research was to find out students problem in writing the fifth semester students in one Islamic University in Jambi. The similarity of this research used the aspects of writing which consists of seven aspects of writing difficulties. In the previous research, the researcher only found two aspects in writing difficulties those are poor organization/illogical sequence and word choice. It is different with this research where this research

found four aspects of writing difficulties that faced by the students.

## CONCLUSIONS

After analyzing the data, the conclusion can be said as in the following: 1) The difficulties faced by students in writing on online during pandemic is categorized poor in four aspects especially to the aspects of writing such as sentence construction, organizing a text and paragraphs, text cohesion and register / style. From the four difficulties in writing faced by students, the most dominant difficulty is in the register / style aspect with Strongly Agree scale and an average percentage of 47.5%. 2) In the aspects of handwriting and punctuation, students did not find difficulties in writing on online learning during a pandemic. This result was obtained by the researcher through a questionnaire response, the results were neutral. 3) The spelling aspect is one of the aspects in writing that does not affect student difficulties while learning writing on online learning during a pandemic.

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