

IMPROVING ENGLISH WRITING SKILLS THROUGH LEARNING STRATEGIES AT JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

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ABSTRACT

Writing in academic context is a very important skill for student to master at the junior high school level. While many students have the talent, they often experience challenges when trying to express ideas and compose well-organized writing. This article discusses various teaching methods that can be applied to improve writing skills in junior high school students. With the right methods, it is hoped that students can improve their writing skills and become more confident.

Keywords: Writing Skill, Learning Strategies, Junior High School.

INTRODUCTION

English is one of the most important languages and is used as a first or second language as a means of communication in several countries around the world. English as one of the international languages indirectly has a strong position in the world of education in Indonesia (Alfarisy, 2021). This make English one of the most important subjects to be taught to students. In Indonesia, English is a second language that needs to be develop.

There are four skill of English that students should master : 1). Speaking 2). Reading 3). Writing 4). Listening. These four skills are interrelated and cannot be separated. Each skill has its own level difficulty, especially writing skills. Writing skills are one of the most important skills that students need on order to succeed in their education. Writing skills are one of the basic skills that junior high school students need to be master. Writing is more than just composing sentences; it also requires the ability to think critically, analyze and express ideas clearly and systematically. However, many students struggle with writing due to a lack of understanding of sentence structure, limited vocabulary, and lack of practice. Therefore, this research focuses on developing learning methods that can help improve students writing skills.

The strategies used in this study were project-based learning strategy, brainstorming techniques. Various teaching strategies, such as project-based learning, brainstorming techniques, have been used to improve students writing skills. These strategies not only increase students motivation and enthusiasm, but also help them develop ideas and analyze the writing process. The research findings show that the implementation of various teaching strategies can significantly improve students reading comprehension.

The Project Based Learning (PBL) learning model is a learning approach in which students learn through investigating and developing real projects (Andini, 2024). PBL encourages students to work together and they often work in teams to plan, implement and evaluate projects. PBL also encourages students to actively participate in their own learning process.

The next strategy is the brainstorming technique, this can also improve English writing skills. Brainstorming is a strategy to generate ideas for writing (Sugiharto, Santoso, Gustianing, Welasih, & Huda, 2024). Brainstorming is a type of activity done before writing in which students write a list of ideas about a subject either individually or in small groups with classmates. It starts with a problem, a situation, or even a single word, and then creates solutions from whatever comes to mind.

METHOD

This research used a qualitative approach with a case study method. Qualitative methods can potentially be useful in contributing to the development of social science theories and methodologies in the Indonesian context (Somantri, 2005). The participants of the study were 43 seventh grade students of Nurul Iman Sukakarya junior high school. Data was collected through observation, interviews and analysis of essays of students before and after using the learning strategies. The strategies used in this study were project-based learning strategy, brainstorming techniques and reflective writing.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The result show that the learning strategies implemented at Nurul Iman Sukakarya junior high school can significantly improve students English writing skills.

1. Project-Based Learning: Students are asked to write a script for a short movie or drama in English, then present it in front of classmate and ask questions about what they experienced during the project creation process. This increases students desire and involvement in the writing process, thus enriching their learning experience
2. Brainstorming technique: During brainstorming sessions, students are encouraged to express their ideas without fear of being wrong. Students feel more confident to convey their thoughts in written form in English as this technique helps them develop initial ideas that can be used in their written work.

CONCLUSION

This study shows that Nurul Iman Sukakarya Junior High School students can improve their English writing skills by using project-based learning and brainstorming technique. With this implementation, students became more enthusiastic and excited to learn English, especially writing skilld.

They not only participate in the active learning process, but they also gain confidence to contribute innovative ideas, concepts and thoughts to improve their writing skills. This has a positive impact as it keeps students motivated and thinking critical.

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