

STUDENTS' ABILITY AND DIFFICULTIES IN WRITING REPORT TEXT AT SECOND SEMESTER STUDENTS OF STIE-SAK ACADEMIC YEAR 2024/2025

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Abstract

This research was descriptive research which used to analyzed students' ability and difficulties at second semester of accounting major at STIE-SAK academic year 2024/2025. The population of this research was students all the students at second semester of accounting major. The instrument used in this research was writing test. The research findings showed that the students' ability was low in understanding report text because from the students' score, there was 1 student got 80, 1 student got 70, 1 student got 60, and most of the students or there were 10 students got under 60. Then, after counting the students' percentage score, it showed that only a students got A, 1 student got B, C, and D. There were 9 students got E. It could be concluded that the students at second semester of accounting major at STIE-SAK academic year 2024/2025 failed in writing report text. Moreover, in writing report text, the students faced some difficulties. The difficulties were: the understanding of paragraph, the understanding of generic structure, and the understanding of language features.

Keywords: *Writing; Writing Ability; Paragraph; Report Text*

INTRODUCTION

Writing is an important skill to be mastered by English students. Writing is a process of expressing their thought, feelings, and opinions in a written language. Writing is not easy to do because the writer needs to construct and organize ideas in written form. So the writer should master grammar, vocabularies and also the ability in expressing their ideas and opinions into good sentences.

Talking about the text, there are some types of text which is learned in the class by the students based on the Lesson plans. They are descriptive, narrative, recount, report, procedure, etc. In University, report text is a text which is learned at the second semester. But, the students face difficulties in writing report text because it is complicated for them and they have the little vocabulary in writing especially in writing report text.

The students are aware that learning writing is the most important but they are confused in how to write by deciding the vocabularies because they have no technique design sentences. It can be said that writing is a very important element in the process of teaching and learning a language. So as a Lecturer, it is needed to pay attention to this problem to make the students can understand and comprehend the English language. Therefore, Lecturers have to use some ways to make the students understand English.

Based on the data that is obtained from the English lecturer, It meant that the students fail to construct good writing. Many students still have difficulties in writing and understanding report text. First, the students can not make good sentences because lack of grammatical understanding. Second, many students often do not use suitable vocabularies in the text. Third, they do not know how to use the punctuation correctly. Fourth, many students still do not know how to make a good paragraph in their writing. It makes them confused in writing. Fifth, the students still do not understand the language features and generic structure of the report text. As a result, students fail in writing. It means that students do not master the report text.

Based on the explanation, it is important to analyze the students' writing ability in writing report text. By doing this research, the researcher want to know the students' ability and difficulties in writing report text at second semester students of accounting major at STIE-SAK academic year 2024/2025. The result of the research will be target for the researcher to make a modul in teaching and learning process related to how to teach report text.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The type of the research was descriptive quantitative research, the aim was to get information and description in the research. Descriptive research involves collecting data in order to answer questions concerning the current status of the subject of the study. In addition, the descriptive research involved collecting data in order to answer questions concerning the current status of the subject of the study. So this research was descriptive research, the aim of the research was to get description about students' ability and difficulties in writing report text.

The population was the group which researcher will take the data of the research. It meant that in this research the population was all of the students at second semester of STIE-SAK academic year 2024/2025. A class will be chosen as a sample and it is chosen randomly because the students are taught with the same teacher and same materials. Then, the instrument was used to get the data from the fields, the researcher would use writing test. The aim of the test was to know the ability and difficulties made by students. The form of the test was writing test, the students would write a report text, after that they would write report text for 60 minutes.

To know the students' ability and difficulties, the researcher would analyze the students' writing. The researcher would analyze the generic structures and language features from the students' test. Then, the researcher would describe the students' difficulties from the result of their writing. The analyzing of the data will be described by using the steps from Gay (2000).

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

FINDING

The finding was based on the data that was gotten from the students' test. The form of the test was writing test, the students were asked to write a paragraph about report text. The aim was to know the students' ability in writing report text and to know the students' difficulties in understanding report text. After analyzing the data, the researcher found the students' ability in writing a report text, and the difficulties faced by the students.

The students' score in writing report text was analyzed by using scoring criteria from Brown (2004). From the students' score, it could be seen that most of the students failed in writing paragraph. From the students' score, there was 1 student got 80, 1 student got 70, 1 student got 60, and most of the students or there were 10 students got under 60. It means that the students failed in writing report text. After counting the students' score, the researcher counted the students' grade based on the scoring criteria, and counted the students' percentage in order to know the student who got A to E and the percentage for each grade.

From the students' percentage score, it showed that only a students got A, 1 student got B, C, and D. There were 9 students got E. It could be concluded that the students at second semester of accounting major at STIE-SAK academic year 2024/2025 failed in writing report text. From the data, the researcher classified the finding of the data to be analyzed based on the indicators of writing and writing report text.

1. Students' Writing Ability in Writing Paragraph

After calculating the students' score of topic sentence, it was found that the students' score in writing topic sentence was 129 from 260. Only 129 score that the students got in writing topic sentence. It could be said that the students' ability in writing topic sentence was in poor category. From the data, the students faced problems in starting the idea about the topic, they felt hard to construct good sentence for beginning the topic. The table in the following showed the data about the score of topic sentence made by the students:

The Mean Score of Topic Sentence

No	Sum of students' Score	Mean score	Category
1	106	8, 15	Fair

In writing supporting detail, from the students' score, it was found that the students' score in writing supporting detail was 121 from 260. It could be concluded that the students' ability in writing supporting detail was poor. There were problems faced by the students. They were lack of the vocabularies so it made them difficult to arrange the sentence to make more sentences. The table below showed the data of supporting sentence got by the students:

Students Score of Supporting Detail

No	Sum of students' Score	Mean score	Category
1	129	9, 30	Fair

In concluding sentence, it was found the students' score, it was 121 from 260. The students did not conclude their writing. From the data, it could be caused by low of understanding about how to write a paragraph. They just wrote about the topic without knowing about concluding their writing before finishing it. So, the students' ability in writing supporting detail was also in poor category. The table below showed the data of concluding sentence from the students' score:

Students' Score in Concluding Sentence

No	Sum of students' Score	Mean score	Category
1	106	8, 15	Fair

In choosing the vocabulary, the students could not choose the right vocabularies. It was found that the students' score in word choice was 116 from 260. It could be said that the students' ability in using word choice is low. The students just wrote the simple words in their writing without choice the vocabularies to be used. It meant that the students faced problems in English vocabulary. As a result, the students got just lost the ideas because they did not know the meaning of the vocabularies in English. The category for this indicator was fair. The table below showed the data:

Students' Score in Word Choice

No	Sum of students' Score	Mean score	Category
1	116	8, 92	Fair

In mechanical and grammar, from the students' score, it was found that the students' score in using mechanical and grammar was 116 from 260. It could be concluded that the students' ability in using mechanical and grammar was low. It could be caused by lack of understanding about mechanical, and grammar. They tend to use the wrong mechanical for their sentences and wrong grammar for their sentences. Look at the table in the following:

Students' Score of Mechanical and Grammar

No	Sum of students' Score	Mean score	Category
1	111	8, 53	Fair

From the explanation of the students' writing ability in writing paragraph was poor. All of the score for five indicators were in fair category. All of the mean scores were under 10%. It meant that the students' writing ability at second semester of accounting major at STIE-SAK academic year 2024/2025 was fair. It was proved by the data from the students' writing test.

2. The Students' Ability in Writing Generic Structure of Report Text:

In writing the report text, the students should know the generic structure and use the language features correctly. However, after analyzing the data from the writing test, the researcher found that there were some the data from the students in writing report text. In this research, the researcher analyzed the generic structure made by the students, and the language features used by the students.

In general classification, the writer should state the classification of general aspect of thing; animal, public place, plant, etc which will be discussed in general. It means that the writer writes the general classification to describe about the topic. However, based on the data, most of the students did not write the general classification correctly. They just directed to write randomly. They wrote what they think about without knowing about how to write a paragraph.

From the data, it could be said that from the students' writing a report text, it was found that most of them know how to write general classification but they could not design or construct it correctly. In writing the general classification of report text, it should be written the general of the topic discussed. However, the students know how to write the general classification or starting the sentence in writing but they made wrong

grammatical in their writing. It means that the students' ability in writing general classification was good, only a few of them made wrong. So totally, most of them knew the general classification in report text, the students also did not know to make different between the general classification and description.

In description, the writer should describe the thing which will be discussed in detail; part per part, customs or deed for living creature and usage for materials. Based on the data taken by the researcher, most of the students made mistakes in writing the description, they did not describe it detail but they just described it in general. So it could be said that the students could not make a different between report text and descriptive text.

From the data, it could be seen that most of the students did not make the description in detail, and there were some of them just made their writing in four or five sentences. As a result, there was no detail description about the topic written by the students. In conclusion, the students' ability in writing detail description of report text was low. The students could not make their writing well. In other word, the students did not have good ability in writing paragraph especially in writing report text.

3. The Students' Ability in Using Language Features of Report Text

In using the language features of report text, the students made a lot of mistakes. In this research, the researcher explained the mistakes found from the writing test made by the students. As we know that in writing report text, the tense used is simple present tense. But from the data, there were a lot of mistakes made by the students. Because there were so many mistakes of grammatical made by the students so the researcher only discussed verbal, nominal and pronoun. From the data of students' writing test, it was found that the students did not understand the usage of the language features of the report text.

From the language features made by the students, it could be said that the students had low understanding of the language features especially on verbal, nominal, and using pronoun. In using verbal sentence, the students did not know the rules of using s/es. Most of them made mistakes on verbal. Then, in nominal the students were hard to use to be so most of them also made mistakes in using to be. While in using pronoun, most of them could not know the use of subject, object and possessive of pronoun. In conclusion, the students' ability in using language features in report text was low because most of them made mistakes on their writing.

DISCUSSION

Based on the data and the explanation, the researcher would come to the discussion. After analyzing the data from the students' writing test in writing report text, it was found that the students' ability were low. From the students' score, it could be seen that most of the students failed in writing paragraph. from the students' score, there was 1 student got 80, 1 student

got 70, 1 student got 60, and most of the students or there were 10 students got under 60. It means that the students failed in writing report text.

In writing report text, the students faced some difficulties. In writing paragraph, the use of topic sentence, supporting sentence and concluding sentence should be known. However, the students did not know the steps in writing a good paragraph such as topic sentence, supporting sentence and concluding sentence. Most of their writing was wrong. There was no topic sentence, supporting and concluding sentence.

Each text has different generic structure, the students should know about it. In this research, the text used was report text. Based on the data found, the students were still hard to make different between the generic structure, and even, they had no ideas about that. It means that the students did not know the kind of text especially report text. Most of the students made wrong generic structure, and there were some of them made description first then made general classification of report text.

In using grammatical, grammatical was the important one in writing or speaking because if we made wrong grammatical, the meaning of the sentences would be wrong so it should be known by the students. From the data gotten, it was found that, most of the students made wrong in using grammatical, there were some kind of grammatical made by the students such as the understanding verbal, nominal, pronoun, etc. But the researcher only explained three of them.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings and discussion in this study, the writer made some conclusions. From the data of students' writing, it was found some types of the errors in writing that were made by students. The data showed that the students' writing ability was not good because all of the students made errors in generic structure and language features at second semester accounting major at STIE-SAK academic year 2024/2025 was low. Based on the analysis and the description of data, most of the students did not know the rule of report text especially in generic structure and language features.

SUGGESTION

Based on the findings and discussions of the research, the writer would like to propose some suggestions for the English lecturer, students and other researchers. For the English lecturer, it is hoped to pay attention to teach how to write a good paragraph especially in report text. For the students, they should pay more attention to the sentences in writing paragraph, the generic structure of report text, and the grammatical form. For other researcher, it is hoped for them to find out the cause of errors that are made by the students in writing report text.

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