

## ABSTRACT

**Lutviani (2017): “THE USE OF FREE WRITING TECHNIQUE TO IMPROVE STUDENTS’ WRITING ABILITY OF DESCRIPTIVE TEXT (An Experimental Study at The Eighth Grade of SMP Muhammadiyah)”**

Writing is an essential skill that helps language learners to express expressions or ideas through written messages. However, developing clear and accurate expressions through writing is problematic for most students with different learning difficulties. Written language is perhaps the most difficult of language skills to gain because its development involves the effective coordination of many different cognitive, linguistic and psycho-motor processes particularly for junior high school students. Therefore, this research focused on the students’ writing ability of descriptive text through free writing technique.

The research was aimed (1) to find out the students’ abilities in writing descriptive text by using free writing technique, (2) to find out the students’ abilities in writing descriptive text without using free writing technique, and (3) to find out the significant differences between students’ writing ability of descriptive text with and without using free writing technique. The research uses a quantitative method with experimental design involving pre-test, treatments, and post-test as the data collection technique. This research was conducted at SMP Muhammadiyah involving students of VIII A as the experimental class and students of VIII B as the control class.

The result showed that students’ writing ability by using free writing technique is good seen from the mean score after the students were given treatments that was 76.52. Furthermore, the improvement of students’ writing ability was average seen from the gain score that was 0.33. Besides, students’ writing ability without using free writing technique was sufficient seen from the mean score after giving treatment that was 66.57. In addition, the improvement of students’ writing ability without using free writing technique was low seen from the gain score that was 0.05 smaller than 0.30. The result of *t-test* showed that  $t_{table}$  was on significance 5% and  $df = 40$  was 2.02, while  $t_{count}$  was 6.14 meaning that  $t_{count} > t_{table}$ , so that  $H_0$  is rejected and  $H_a$  is accepted.

Based on the results, this research concludes that there was a significant difference between students’ writing ability of descriptive text with and without using free writing technique. The free writing technique is more effective to improve student’s writing ability of descriptive text. Therefore, the free writing technique can be applied to students in order to improve their ability of writing descriptive texts.