

**IMPROVING STUDENTS' ABILITY IN WRITING  
A NARRATIVE TEXT BY USING A ROUND TABLE STRATEGY  
AT GRADE VIII B OF SMPN 1 SUMBERGEMPOL**

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**Abstract:** Writing is one of skills which is difficult to master. In teaching writing, a teacher must be able to present strategy in the class that can attract students' motivation in teaching learning process. There are many strategy which can be used in teaching writing, one of them is using Round Table Strategy. The purpose of using strategy is to find an easy and interesting way of teaching writing. This study was a classroom action research design. The subject of the study comprised 32 students from VIII B of SMPN 1 Sumbergempol. This study was conducted in two cycles comprising two meetings in each cycle, and carried out in four steps namely : planning, implementation, observation and reflection. At the end of each cycle, evaluation test was conducted to know the improvement of students' ability in writing narrative text. The research instrument was test data collection, interview with English teacher and students and observation sheet. The result of the research shows that Round Table Strategy can improve the students' ability in writing narrative text. The was an improvement on the mean score of the test. In preliminary test, there were 8 students or 25% who meet the criteria of success. In the first cycle there were 23 students or 71.87% who meet the criteria of success. And the cycle 2 there were 29 students or 90.62% who meet the criteria of success. In addition, the factors that influence the improvement of students' ability in writing were teacher's factor (classroom teachers' explanation) and students' factor (students' attention, participation and interest). It showed that Round Table Strategy could improve students' ability in writing a narrative text. Based on the result, the researcher suggests several things. For the English teacher, this strategy as alternative way in teaching writing to help the students to improve their writing ability. Last, for future researchers, this strategy will be useful for the future researcher as the reference to make a further research, especially to improve the students' ability in writing.

**KeyWords:** Writing, Narrative text, Roundtable Strategy

## **INTRODUCTION**

The English class is an ideal location for developing such knowledge because there are few constraints on the subject matter discussed during language learning activities (Focho, 2011:7). English language has an important role in educational world, especially in Indonesia. It can be seen that English has been learnt in some level of education. Students should learn four of English skills. Listening, speaking, reading and writing to acquire the proficiency. Writing is one of the most important skill in language, especially in English language. narrative text is considered as the most interesting text. Narrative text is a form of story text that has purpose to entertain readers. Many students had difficulties in writing narrative text. Most of them difficult to gets more creative ideas. They were hesitating to admit that they are not sure what they wrote. The researcher used Round Table Strategy to overcome those problems in teaching writing narrative text .

## **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

Writing skill plays a pivotal role to improve students' exposure and competency for the purpose of communication and interaction (Javed et. al, 2013:138). In the writing process, process of writng devided become four steps of writing process four are Pre-writing, Drafting, Reviewing and revising and Rewriting. Narrative text is a kind of text that tells about a story that is based on the some events or experience. According to Schweiker (2002:2) Narrative writing relates a series of events of an actual occurrence or a proposed occurrence at a particular time and in a particular place. It requires writers to closely observe, explore and reflect upon a wide range of experiences. Bleiman and Webster (2009:50) Describe types of narrative text there are adventure, mystery, detective , fantasy, war, romance, family saga, thriller, novel of ideas, science fiction, gothic horror, coming-of-age. According to Milhorn (2006:4-7) The elements of narrative text devided into 6 there Plot, story, Structure : setting, Characters, point of view, prose, and theme and subject. According to Cavanagh (1998:8) The generic structures of narrative text are Orientation, Complication, Resolution and

Coda. According to Cavanagh (1998:8) Language features of Narrative Text are: Usually specific participants. Time words used to connect events. Action words predominate in complication and resolution. Noun groups important in describing characters and setting. People write narrative text might be basically for pleasure, to gain and hold the reader's interest in a story. It means that they like to write any kinds of stories to entertain or even to teach the readers about the writer's reflection on experience.

There are some strategies in teaching writing, one of them is Round Table Strategy. Round Table Strategy is an information-sharing strategy that is used to generate multiple answers to a question posed by the teacher. Students respond in writing to a question that requires factual answers rather than conceptual or controversial responses. According to Kagan and Kagan (1998:7) in teams, students take turns generating written responses, solving problems, or making a contribution to the team project. Round Table, the students can easily brainstorm their ideas or their thoughts about the topic. Then, they review it in a group. It makes them can improving their skill in the language. Round Table Strategy is also an active learning strategy.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

The design of the research was Classroom Action Research (CAR). According to Ferrance (2000:1) action research is a process in which participants examine their own educational practice systematically and carefully by using the techniques of research. The research was conducted in SMPN 1 Sumbergempol. One class of XI consisting of 32 students as a subject of research. The following in the Classroom Action Research procedure used which were adapted from Kemmis and Taggart (2000:278) planning, implementation, observation and reflection. The data can be found by observation sheet, written test, interview guidelines.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

The result of the implementation of Round Table Strategy in improving students' ability in writing narrative text could reach the criteria of success. there

was an improvement of students' writing ability before implemented Round Table Strategy in writing narrative text and after implemented the Round Table Strategy of narrative text. It was clear that there was improvement of the students' ability from the preliminary, cycle 1 and the cycle 2. On preliminary study, there were 8 students passed the minimal standard score. It means that 75% from 32 students had low ability on writing. Then on cycle 1, there were 23 students were successful on writing test, 71.87% of all students could pass the writing test and 28.13% students were failed. From the result of cycle 1 it has not reached the criteria of success that 75% should passed the test. So, the researcher conducted the next cycle. On the cycle 2, there were 29 students could pass the standard score. It can concluded that 90.62% of all students passed the test and 9.38% students was failed. It was achieved the indicator of success. Based on the theory Stenlev and Siemund (2011:4) who stated that Round Table is a conference or discussion involving several participants in which one of cooperative learning technique that can be used by the teacher as the appropriate technique for improving student's English skills. One of them is writing skill. the finding showed that the Round Table Strategy could improve the students' ability in writing narrative text.

## **Conclusions**

According to the findings of the study, it could be concluded that there was a significant difference before and after implementing Round Table strategy in teaching narrative text. It means that using Round Table Strategy as strategy to help students brainstorm ideas was effective to improve students' writing achievement. The Round Table Strategy could improve the students' ability in writing narrative text. The students got better score in writing narrative text. The students actively participated in the group discussion to brainstorm their ideas and confirm their understanding among each other. Most of students used correct verb form that used in narrative text. The students showed more enthusiasm and more interested in writing narrative text. In addition, the factors that influence the improvement of students' ability in writing were teacher's factor (classroom

teachers' explanation) and students' factor (students' attention, participation and interest).

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