

Teaching Descriptive Paragraph by Using Announcemnet

Dasrul Danur¹, Muhammadi², Harnon³

¹²³ Universitas Terbuka

e-mail: dasrul@ecampus.ut.ac.id¹, muhammadi@ecampus.ut.ac.id², harnon@ecampus.ut.ac.id³

Article Info

Article history:

Received:

10 Maret 2023

Revised:

15 Maret 2023

Accepted:

11 April 2023

Keyword:

descriptif, paragraph,
announcement.

ABSTARCT

This article aimed to motivate and increase the capability of students in writing paragraph by using simple announcement. Writing is one of difficult skill to be achieved to everybody, so the writer want to take a part in this session in order students of secondary and senior high school to be aware of this skill. At a beginning support the students to write an easy sentence, then step by step drive them to do the specific word of announcement. In making a paragraph remain students to have a planning, drafting and editing. Students should be encourage to make short and simple sentence, so it is easy to catch the idea of the writer. Finally students are able to make paragraphs and articles better and better.



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INTRODUCTION

There are four skills that should be learned by the students when they learn a language. Those skills are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Writing is considered as a difficult skill to be mastered. It is because a writer should understand about how to create ideas into sentences, paragraphs, and essays or books. It is sometimes needed a period of time to create idea to jot down into word. Writing is used to share ideas or information to the people who are not in the same time and place. It enables ideas or information can be shared to the reader cross generation from the past time to a present of time. Writing also can keep and tell the event, culture, tradition, technology, and other that happened in the past. Writing can help people pour their idea, sorrow, and happiness in which can be told orally. To put down an idea or information into written form, the writer has to consider word choice, sentence grammar, and the flow of thought between or among sentences in order to make ideas or information clear. Leo (2007) states that there are three basic principles to make the idea clear; they are content, register, and topic.

Content refers to what the writer will write. In writing, the content must be clear, specific, and relevant to the topic development. It has a clear concept for readers to help them getting the main point of what the writer writes. He/she should be specific in creating the idea and it is focused on one point that he/she will write about. Relevant content in writing is important. It is tracking in understanding the message. It will be no confusion in reader's mind. In other word, the reader directly can catch the message easily.

Register refers to the stilt of language and the choice of word (diction). It can be formalized based on a particular style of writing. Formal style in writing is concise with clear explanation. It is including a good example such as illustration. Illustration will strengthen and dominate reader's mind to the information given.

Topic is a particular subject that you write or discuss about. It should be free from offences. It should also avoid sensitive issues in most cases. In writing, topic sometimes can persuade reader to do something or to remind reader. The writer has a strong idea in writing topic. He usually gives an

example to make the reader understand to what he informs. In the case, the writer can extract some useful information to ease reader catching given idea.

It can be mentioned that language teachers have to prepare their students learning how to write a paragraph well. The students have to know the important of content, register, and topic in making a good paragraph. In order to make students easy to write, the teachers can use several relevant strategies. The strategies should be easy and simple for the teacher apply in the classroom. The strategies are also familiar for the students to understand.

The fact, there are general problems found in writing class. From the content it can be stated when they write a paragraph, the content of the paragraph is not clear, not specific, and not relevant to the topic. Other problem is the choice of word. They use the same word several times. It means that lack of vocabulary to develop their idea. In other words, the paragraph is becoming monotonous. The last problem is about the topic of the paragraph. They are often lost of the ideas being discussed in the paragraph. It will impact to the flow of ideas or thought. As a result the topic of the paragraph is not clear and specific; it is difficult to catch the idea to what they are really writing about.

Based on the English curriculum for Junior High School, it has been specified into a lesson plan of curriculum unit (KTSP, 2006) that to develop students writing ability, the English teacher should introduce and apply the functional texts. The functional texts are the text functionally has specific purpose. They are included: message, invitation, announcement, and advertisement. Those texts should be taught to the students of the eighth grade.

As it is mentioned above, there are some functional texts that should be taught to the students of secondary school. The functional texts are message, invitation, advertisement, and announcement. In this paper, the writer specifies his attention to discuss teaching writing descriptive paragraph through announcement. This activity is focused to the students of junior high school. The announcement is set as an outlined to guide the students writing and developing the information into a paragraph. In this paper, the information of an announcement is described into descriptive paragraph.

This paper is hoped to be useful for English teacher and students. It is expected giving contribution to driving up teaching process become inspiring and light up classroom atmosphere. For the students, it motivates them to state their writing ability into written form through the idea from announcement. It can also be alternative strategy to develop teaching process, especially for teaching writing.

Nature of Writing

Writing is an act of communication places value on the goal of writing well as the perceive audience. It means that writing as communication have goal can be received by readers. In general, writing will be interesting for the readers if they can get something new from it. In producing good writing, one needs some ability to account choice of words, adjust language grammar, track logical thinking, and so on (Oshima, 1991:54).

As an act of communication places, writer should consider some aspect before writing down. He/she has to consider the choice of words to represent idea into written form. He/she also adjusts to sentence grammar to describe relation between or among sentences clear. The relation of sentences will lead the idea running logically.

Boardman (2002:53) states that writing is an action process in which the sentences produce interrelated among some aspects. First, writing represents a way of making meaning one's experience. Generally, it is defined as process by which make meaning of experience called learning. Writing provides writers with a unique way of learning. Second, writing occurs as a change of process. It is series of interaction with work and ideas that develop and change over time. Last, the process of writing can be different from one step to other step of writing in different type of writing, because they have specific steps or ways to in each types of writing. When compared with other fundamental skills such as listening, speaking, and reading, writing is considered as the most difficult skill for language learners because it requires writers to have great deal of lexical and syntactic knowledge as well as principles of organization in second language to produce a good writing (Tangpermpoon, 2008:1).

Action process of writing needs interrelated aspects to build good text. The aspects of writing that should be paid closely attention. The aspect is a way of making meaning one's experience, as a change of process, and as series of interaction between work and ideas.

Harmer (2004) adds that writing is a process of making words work together to produce sentence, paragraph, and text in which convey clear idea based on four elements. The four elements are described as follows.

First is planning. In planning, there are three main issues that should be handed. One is purpose. It tells about the influence not only from the type of the text that wishes to produce. Two is thinking of the audience and words choice. Last is contents structure. It is how best the sequence of facts, ideas, and arguments which decided to be included.

Second is drafting. Drafting is the first piece of writing. There are several forms of drafting. The form is depended on writer's tendency of writing.

Third is editing (reflecting and revising). Editing uses to see where it works and it does not work. The writer has to look the issues of general meaning and overall structure before concentrating on detailed feature such as words and grammatical accuracy, reflecting and revising are often helped by other readers (editors) who comment and make suggestion.

Last is final version. Some changes are taken to consider aspects that will be necessary to produce final version. Final version is clearly made after plan, draft, and edit work.

To produce a good paragraph a writer should consider some aspects. The aspects are planning, drafting, editing and the final version. Those aspects should be operated in the process of writing. Those aspects will help a writer organizing his/her idea so that the paragraph easy to be understood by readers.

In summary, it can be said that in producing a good paragraph there are some aspects that should be accounted. Those aspects are planning, drafting, and editing. Those aspects should be used in writing to get final version in order to make reader easy to catch idea or opinion in the text.

Paragraph

Joly (1984:72) mentions that a paragraph should give a unit information in several sentences and central and controlling idea. It means that a paragraph should have at least one sentence for central idea (generally known as topic) and one other sentence for controlling idea. The sentences, however, can be into some in order to make the idea clear.

A paragraph should have one single idea that should be developed. The idea has to be developed be some sentences. The sentences are rooted or related to the idea.

Anderson (2002:57) also states that a paragraph means several sentences that develops an idea together and has one thought or main point. To develop the idea, the writer needs some more related sentences that explain and describe it clearly. The sentences should support every aspects of the development of idea in the line of central idea.

Furthermore, Joly (1984:77) asserts that central idea is often expressing some points in a paragraph into one single sentence (main sentence). Main sentence is also known as topic sentence or thesis statement. This sentence can be found at the beginning of a paragraph. But it can also come at the end or in the middle of a paragraph.

From the opinion above, it can be said that a paragraph is a group of sentences. Those sentences are related to support a single idea being developed. Ideally a paragraph at least has one topic to be developed, topic sentence, supporting detail, and sentence connectors to relate the idea among sentences.

Descriptive Paragraph

According to Barnet (1990:74) and Anderson (2002:26) there are four classification of paragraph. They have specific characteristic. The four paragraphs are classified into Argumentative paragraph, narrative paragraph, descriptive paragraph, and expository paragraph. In this part the writer only takes and discusses descriptive paragraph according to some experts' opinion.

One type of paragraph is descriptive paragraph. Rojas (1999:57) writes that the descriptive paragraph allows writers to pick one element, such as person, a room, or some places scenic, and describe what it looks like. In short, short this type of paragraph allows the writer to take a solid stand issue. The aim in this type of writing is to paint a picture with words for the reader.

Anderson (2002) states that description is a writing strategy that depict an obstacle subject with vivid sensory details. Description contains the following characteristics such as it focuses on an obstacle subject, gives specific details, and it is related the details in an order that allows the reader to graph the subject, one detail must be related to another detail.

Then, Rojas (1999:59) suggests simple recipe for writing a well-developed and focused descriptive paragraph. One, take some time to think about a simple element that you want to describe. Once you decide what you want to describe, be sure to think of at least one adjective that best describes your element. Your paragraph should be written in a way that supports the adjective that you choose. Then, think the standard format of a descriptive paragraph. They are as follows:

a. Start with your topic sentence. Your topic sentence should be one sentence that mentions the one element that you are writing about, and you should have one adjective that best describes your element.
b....In about 7-10 sentences discuss and show how the one adjective that describes your element is logical.

.... These sentences need to 100% support your adjective, by using clear and specific examples.

.... Furthermore, in order to support your adjective, you want to paint a picture with words for your reader, such as making references to the 5 senses (sight, hearing, smell, touch, and taste) or make comparisons to things that many readers can relate to or imagine.

.... Also, be sure to use transitions between your examples.

c. Have a closing sentence that seals off your paragraph.

Descriptive paragraph serves providing a comprehensive background to any essential elements of one's subject of writing. To helps to define, exemplify, and situate thoughts, objects, or ideas in proper contexts and, even more importantly, attribute their crucial functions to the context in which they appear (Przybyla, 2009).

Furthermore, (Przybyla, 2009) adds that preferably, descriptive paragraph should concentrate on action (verb), rather than sensations (adverbs and adjectives) writer should assume the role of readers whose idea of the described events is, in entirety, constructed by the paragraph content. Descriptive paragraph should be detailed, clear, and render the represented reality chronologically. Rather than providing advice, descriptive paragraph ought to focus on essential information that is presented in a step by step manner.

In short, descriptive paragraph describes ideas and things; it describes ideas or things as real as possible. The readers read the paragraph as if they come to real thing. They can touch the thing or situation. They get actively involved into the paragraph as the actor being described.

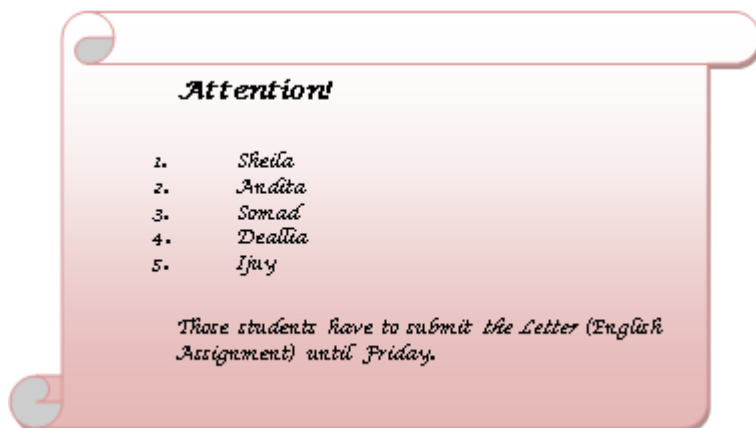
Announcement

Hornby (1984:31) states that announcement is something is said, written, or printed to make known what has happened or (more often) will happened. Announcement is aimed at informing something to a group of intended people directly (sound through microphone) and indirectly (written or printed materials).

Then, Merriam (1987:37) writes that announcement is a declaration, advertisement, broadcast, proclamation, promulgation, pronouncement, and publication. It is to announce something that had been got agreement together to the public.

Announcement is familiar in economic field as way to promote a product to the consumers. It is always called advertisement. There is a unique strategy when a product wants to advertise. The producers always combine to proclaim direct and indirect way at the same time. It means, while they introduce their product they advertise through sound and they directly demonstrate the product in front of audience.

An announcement is usually done to announce formally something that has been decided together by decision maker(s) and necessitate to be informed to the people. It is temporary done and put on the board in certain place that easily read and accessed. It let everybody knows the information. Below one of the examples and a type of school teacher announcements is usually found at school.



The announcement tells the readers whose name is stated on the board to who has to meet by submitting the letter. If they do not bring the letter they are not allowed to see her. It is simply understood and caught the point to what has happened that intended to share. If the school members read this, they will be easy referred to the name of the students' intended who the announcement maker called on. At point they will easily able to give details description in order to make the information as clear as possible.

In short, announcement is something to be said or broadcasted, written, or printed to make known what has happened or to what will happened. It is used to announce something to the people, a group, or individual that needs special attention. It is set in the form of short and simple sentence (s), so it is easy to catch the idea.

DISCUSSION

As it is explained above, that as an English teacher we are asked for searching out a technique of making students interesting to write down idea into printed or written form. To appear the interest, it should be found familiar and interesting teaching material or strategy. Below it will be discussed one of interesting and familiar teaching materials to bear students motivation to write. It is announcement.

Teaching Preparation

It is essential for the teacher to prepare his/her teaching material before coming to the class. It is important to guide and lead him/her to the teaching goal. It also eases him/her to conduct the class in order to create atmosphere of the class become motivated. The preparation that should be accounted for is explained in the following action.

a. Selecting material: in selecting material, the teacher pays attention to the familiarity and interesting of the material. The teacher should also consider students background knowledge. It is to make sure that the materials will be understood by the students easily.

b. Complexity : the complexity of the material should be adjusted to the students' level mastery. It will enhance them follow and get involvement to learning-teaching activity.

c. Time allocation : The materials chosen should be fit to time schedule available. The available time must be able to accommodate all teaching activity that had been plain.

Procedure

According to the curriculum 2004 about teaching language skill, there are three general stages that should be applied in the classroom. Each stage has some activities that should be operated in order to get teaching goal. It is familiarly known as lesson plan. The general stages are explained as follows:

a) Pre-teaching

In this stage, the teacher prepares the students ready to learn. Here, the teacher can start the class with various activities, they are:

- The teacher can check students through students' attendance.
- The teacher can also set the class as enjoyable as possible through arrange students' seat. It is to enhance balance distribution of weak and smart students in the class.

- The teacher has to make sure that the blackboard or whiteboard are already clean before starting the lesson. It uses to focus students' attention and mind so that they are ready to study.

b) While-teaching

After the teacher is really sure that his/her students are ready, he/she can start to teach. In this stage, the teacher has to apply to teach writing by using announcement into three levels of writing process.

1. Pre-writing

- The teacher greets his/her students friendly
- In this activity, the teacher start to introduce the topic that he/she has already prepared by writing it on the top of whiteboard in this activity related to the an announcement.
- Next, the teacher explores the topic by brainstorming to catch students' attention.
- He/she gives probing questions to recall students' background knowledge.
- The more opinions produce, the better atmosphere of the class will be reached.
- The teacher him/herself can write students' opinion on board or he/she can ask the students' opinions to write them on board.

2. While-writing

- Then, the teacher can ask the students to write their own perception on a paper.
- The teacher allows the students to write as much as description about the announcement based on their point of view.
- It is good if the teacher reminds the students to make outline or draft first, and then asks them to edit or revise the written text.
- It is also wise if the teacher gives enough time to the students, so that they will feel free to explore ideas.

3. Post-writing

- Before collecting the text, it better for the teacher asks the students rechecking their writing. It is useful for the students to make sure that their written is good enough to be collected.
- If the time is still enough to discuss the topic, the teacher can use the time to brush it up together.
- The teacher can gives more announcement or topic that needed to be developed into descriptive paragraph as homework.

c) Post-teaching

In this stage, the teacher can check the atmosphere of the class in the activity of teaching writing through announcement. Any comment may appear in order to see the weakness and strength. If it is done the teacher can make some innovation to make the situation better.

Teaching Application of the Announcement

In this part, the writer only discusses about the three teaching stages in the process of teaching writing through announcement. The three stages will be discussed in the following explanation.

a. Pre-writing

- The teacher greets the students friendly by saying Good morning! Good afternoon! etc.
- Next, He/she can check students' attendance.
- Then, he/she can continue the next step by introducing the topic. He/she can write the topic on board.

“Independence Day”

- He/she can ask some questions related to the topic.
- What is Independence Day?
- When did we have independence?
- Why should we independence?
- Who declared our independence?
- Did we struggle to get our independence? Why did we do that?
- What competition did you join when last Independence Day? Or other competitions, mention! Etc.
- The teacher, then, invites as many as possible opinions from the students.

b. While-writing

- Now, the teacher can stick the announcement on board that he/she brought to the class. (The announcement should be clear and easy to read, so the students from the back can read)



- The teacher can ask the students to describe in details the above announcement freely as if it is their school's announcement.

- After they have finished, the teacher ask them to edit or revise their text.

Independence Day

We will hold a Flag Ceremony in morning at our school. Then, the day after tomorrow, our school will hold some competition in term of the day of Independence Day ceremony. So, we have to come to our school at 07.30. Because our school is one of the schools from our district participate at the festival. The principal will take us to the site of Imam Bonjol before 08.00., the festival will be held by then. There are also many contests in our school too. We are free to join any contests with full of prize, because there is no fee registration. It is a great day!

- It is assumed that the students' writing text is based on the announcement.
- The teacher can give any comment about students' work.

Whatever you make, you have done your best.

You can make it better if you make any editing or revision to make your text perfect.

c. Post-writing

- In this stage, the teacher can give one more written announcement.



- The announcement above can be homework for the students.

- Then, the teacher can end the lesson

Okay, everybody thank you for your attention. See you next meeting. Bye-bye

CONCLUSION

From the chapter above it can be concluded that teaching descriptive paragraph by using announcement can improve students writing ability. It is because the students are familiar with announcement and they can easily describe information in it. Announcement is also content some related ideas in which written with simple sentences. The sentences will be an outlined that guides the

students to explore and describe ideas based on their perception into paragraph. Because each sentence in announcement are fact and related, in developing it the students can describe the idea as informative as possible. This fact motivates the students to able to describe what information available and write them into written form.

Announcements are popular and dynamic information. They can change every single day. Each new product will need to be informed to the consumers. To catch the attention, the creative and innovative information are necessary to be explored. Every new announcement has widely opportunity taken to the class and possibly going to be useful as an authentic material in teaching English especially writing. As authentic materials, announcement is easy to be understood and generated into other forms of teaching material. The English teacher can implement it in various ways of teaching language skills, such as listening, speaking and reading.

Based on the conclusion above, it is suggested that announcement can be one of the good teaching aids to help the English teacher to teach descriptive paragraph. It also can help the students to develop their writing ability, because it is stated in some simple sentences. As a result, the students are easy to understand some information given. Then, they can rewrite and describe them into descriptive paragraph. Further more students are able to write essay

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