Improving Students' Writing Skills on Recount Text Using Wattpad for Class VIII SMP N 5 Pati

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Abstract

This research was conducted to investigate the application of Wattpad media in improving the ability of class VIII-A students of SMP N 5 Pati in writing recount texts. This study used a quantitative method with a one group design. The sample of this research is students of class VIII-A, amounting to 30 people. This research was conducted through the following procedures: giving a pre-test, followed by treatment using the Wattpad application, and finally doing a post-test. The results of the study show that there is a significant difference between the pre-test and post-test values. This can be seen from the data analysis using a paired sample T-Test with a sig. (2-tailed) < 0.05. The hypothesis result is 0.000, which indicates that it is less than 0.05 (0.000 <0.05). So, H0 is rejected and H1 is accepted. The average score of the students' pre-test was 62.67, and the average score of the students' post-test was 79.33. So, it can be concluded that there is a significant difference between students' ability to write recount texts, especially between those who are taught using Wattpad and those who are not taught using Wattpad.

Keywords: writing, recount text, Wattpad app

Introduction

English is one of the international languages (Mukrimaa et al., 2016). It is used all over the world. Therefore, the Indonesian government decided to use English as a foreign language in Indonesia. There are four linguistic skills that should be taught when teaching English. The four skills are speaking, reading, writing, and listening. One of the language skills that requires students to think carefully and express their ideas in the form of sentences is writing (Dumanauw et al., 2018). Therefore, writing is one of the important skills that must be learned. Recount texts have been known to students since junior high school and are considered as a fairly easy text to create. Because they write based on true stories or their past experiences. So they should be able to write recount text correctly. They cannot provide proper punctuation and inappropriate capitalization. This makes most students fail or cannot reach the minimum criteria standard. In this study, the researcher tried to teach students how to write recount text using Wattpad media to improve their writing skills. based on the background of the study, the researcher formulated the problem formulation as follows 1). How is the level of students' ability in writing recount text in class VIII SMP N 5 Pati, both for those without using Wattpad and those using Wattpad? 2). What are the students' perceptions of the use of wattpad media to write recount texts in class VIII SMP N 5 Pati? 3).What are there significant differences between students' ability before and after using the

wattpad media to write recount text? It is anticipated that students will write their ideas more imaginatively by using wattpad media in recount writing lessons.

Literature Review
Writing
Writing is one of the four abilities that has thus far been covered in academic settings. Writing is a challenging subject to master and teach since it necessitates a wide range of abilities (Ningrum & Rita, 2013). Writing is not a simple task to perform. There are procedures to follow when writing, as well. The writing process is as follows 1). Pre-writing, 2). Drafting, 3). Revising, 4). Editing. Purpose of Writing to develop their self-expression in their surroundings can be reflected in their writing. Because writing also necessitates a command of sentence structure and the capacity to select the appropriate words to convey ideas. Readers will understand your ideas or information more clearly if you write with a purpose (Tarbiya, 2020). As can be inferred from the definition of writing provided above, writing is a sophisticated human activity that entails coming up with, considering, and organizing ideas before putting them into written form.

Teaching Writing
According to (Wahyudi et al., 2022), the process of teaching and learning is significantly influenced by teachers.In order to help students to learn to write English, a teacher often uses the method of teaching writing. Students have to be able to write texts with the same topic, and teachers ought to choose texts for writing lessons that match the syllabus.

Recount Text
Recount text is a type of text used to inform the audience of events from the past based on (Sitorus & Sipayung, 2018). Recount texts are a type of written text that focus on the chronological order of the experience while retelling th researcher past experience. Past experiences such as vacation experiences, accidents, activities, and others. Generic Structure of Recount Text as follows 1). Orientation, 2). Events, 3). Re-orientation.

Wattpad
Wattpad was founded in 2006 by Allen Lau and Ivan Yuen. The blog site and application wattpad enables users to write their own short stories, novels, essays, poems, and other types of writing. Wattpad, according to (Ramdarshan Bold, 2018) is a platform that allows new and experienced writers to publish their work, so writers can connect with other readers and get feedback on their work. It is possible for readers to access Wattpad on a laptop, computer, mobile phone, or tablet for free and it offers content in a variety of genres. Writing on electronic media is very important in terms of developing writing skills (Aytan, 2017). This explanation leads to the conclusion that Wattpad is a fun platform that students can use. The Wattpad app is made to help readers and writers expand their imaginations. For the writers themselves, this is a place where they can share their ideas and use all of their imagination.

Method
Research Design
Research design is all the necessary process of planning and conducting research. According to (Mutiara et al., 2022) Research methodologies are a way of approaching the study of topics and the comprehension of concepts through the use of logical and reasonable procedures and the accurate collection of data. This study employed a quantitative approach with a one group

and pre-post test design to ascertain the effect of using Wattpad media on students' comprehension when writing recount texts. Data-driven research that starts with theory and ends with theory is known as quantitative research.

Subject of the research

The population of this study consisted of all of the eight-class, VIII-grade students at SMP N 5 Pati during the 2023–2024 academic year. One class VIII-A of 30 students served as the research sample for the researcher.

Instrument of the research

Research instruments are forms that will be used to collect data. Tests were used as instruments by the researcher in this study. Pre-test, post-test, and quiz were the instruments used.

1). Pre-test

Before starting treatment, a pre-test is administered. Prior to teaching and explaining how to write recount texts using Wattpad media, students will have their writing abilities evaluated.

2). Post-test

A test administered following a researcher's explanation of how to write a recount text using Wattpad media is known as a post-test. The researcher explained the process of writing recount texts using Wattpad media before administering the post-test.

3). Questionnaire

According to (Cahyo et al., 2019), a questionnaire is a method for gathering data or information in which questions are posed to an individual or group in order to elicit responses or responses that will be examined for a particular purpose. Based on respondents' responses to a questionnaire, researchers gathered data.

Methods of Data Collection

Tests are used as the research's primary data collection method. Data was gathered by the researchers using written tests. The following are the organized steps for gathering data 1). Making research preparations, 2). Finding documents, 3). Giving pre-test, 4). Giving care, 5). Giving a post-test, 6). Questionnaire.

Methods of Data Analysis

The goal of this action was to ascertain students' progress in writing recount texts using wattpad media. The researcher employed statistical methods (SPSS) to gain insights from the collected data. Descriptive statistics and paired sample t-test were used to analyze the data further and draw meaningful conclusions.

1). Descriptive statistics

In this study, descriptive statistics were used to provide an overview of the students' scores on the pre-test and post-test. Common descriptive measures include measures of central tendency such as the mean (average), median (middle value), and mode (most frequent value), as well as measures of variability like the range and standard deviation. These statistics help to understand the distribution and variability of scores, providing a clearer picture of how the students performed.

2). Paired sample t-test

Using the paired sample t-test, the researcher can assess whether the wattpad media treatment had a significant impact on the students' progress in writing recount texts.

Finding and Discussion

In this chapter, the researcher presents the research results and the discussions conducted on the students of class VIII-A (8A) at SMP N 5 Pati. The sample for this study consisted of 30 students. Data were processed using SPSS version 27.0.

1). Pre-Test Data Description (Descriptive Statistics)

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Pre-Test Score	30	50	75	62.67	7.279
Valid N (listwise)	30				

Based on tables, it can be observed that the scores or abilities of the 8A grade students in writing recount texts before being taught using Wattpad as a medium are presented. The results indicate that the highest score obtained in the pre-test was 75, which is above the school's minimum passing grade, while the lowest score was 50. The average score for the 8A grade students was 62.67, indicating that the mean score is below the Minimum Mastery Criteria (KKM).

2). Post-Test Data Description (Descriptive Statistics)

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Post-Test Scores	30	70	90	79.33	5.529
Valid N (listwise)	30				

In tables, the post-test scores of the ability to write recount texts for class VIII-A students after being taught using Wattpad were shown. The results indicate that the highest score obtained by students after using Wattpad is 90, which exceeds the minimum school passing criteria. The lowest score is 70, and the average score is 79.33, which reaches the KKM.

3). Paired Sample T-Test

| | | Paired Differences | | | | | T | df | Sig. (2-tailed) |
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference Lower	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference Upper			
Pair 1	Pre-Test - Post-Test	-16.667	6.205	1.133	-18.984	-14.350	-14.711	29	.000

The results from SPSS version 27.0 in tables above show that the Paired Sample T-Test can answer the existing hypothesis. The decision-making guideline in this case is if the significance value (Sig.) or Sig. (2-tailed) < 0.05, then H0 is rejected and H1 is accepted; conversely, if Sig. (2-tailed) > 0.05, then H0 is accepted and H1 is rejected. In table, the Sig. (2-tailed) value is 0.000, which is smaller than 0.05 (0.000 < 0.05). Therefore, it can be concluded that H0 is rejected and H1 is accepted. This means that there is a significant difference in the students' ability to write recount texts, specifically between those taught using Wattpad and those not taught using Wattpad.

4). Questionnaire Results on Students' Perception of Using Wattpad Media in Teaching Recount Text Writing for Class VIII A Students

No	Questions	SD (1) F	SD (1) S	D (2) F	D (2) S	N (3) F	N (3) S	A (4) F	A (4) S	SA (5) F	SA (5) S	Total Score	Mean	Desc
1.	Using Wattpad for writing recount texts made the writing process more engaging.	1	1	0	0	3	9	10	40	16	80	130	4,30	Effective
2.	Wattpad helped me better understand the structure of recount texts.	0	0	0	0	3	9	11	44	16	80	133	4,40	Effective
3.	The use of Wattpad	0	0	1	2	1	3	9	36	19	95	136	4,50	Effective

No	Question	F	S	F	S	F	S	F	S	F	S	Skor Total	Mean	Desc
	improved my creativity in writing recount texts.													
4.	Wattpad motivated me to write recount texts more frequently	0	0	1	2	1	3	11	44	17	85	134	4,50	Effective
5.	I found it easier to express my ideas in recount texts through the use of Wattpad.	0	0	1	2	4	12	9	36	16	80	130	4,30	Effective

It is evident that students' responses to the questionnaire showed a positive perception of the effectiveness of using Wattpad media in teaching recount text writing. All responses fell within the 'Effective' category, indicating that the use of Wattpad media has captured students' attention and improved their writing skills. From the questionnaire's five questions, three questions received the highest scores and mean scores: Question 3 ("The use of Wattpad improved my creativity in writing recount texts"), Question 4 ("Wattpad motivated me to write recount texts more frequently"), and Question 2 ("Wattpad helped me better understand the structure of recount texts"). These results further reinforce the positive impact of using Wattpad media in teaching recount text writing.

5). Questionnaire Results on the Correlation Between Involvement in Using Wattpad Media and the Improvement of Recount Text Writing Skills for Class VIII A Students

No	Question	SD (1)		D (2)		N (3)		A (4)		SA (5)		Skor Total	Mean	Desc
		F	S	F	S	F	S	F	S	F	S			
1.	I regularly used Wattpad to read various types of stories	0	0	0	0	3	9	16	64	11	55	129	4,30	Good
2.	I spent a significant amount of time exploring recount texts on Wattpad	0	0	1	2	4	12	12	48	13	65	128	4,30	Good
3.	Engaging with Wattpad enhanced my familiarity with different writing styles	0	0	0	0	3	9	14	56	13	65	130	4,30	Good
4.	Interacting with Wattpad's features improved my overall writing skills.	0	0	1	2	5	15	11	44	13	65	128	4,30	Good
5.	The more I engaged with Wattpad, the more confident I became in writing recount texts	1	1	0	0	3	15	13	52	13	65	130	4,30	Good

It can be observed that the answer scores for each category, derived from the questionnaire conducted among Grade VIII A students regarding the use of Wattpad for learning recount text writing, fall within the "Good" category. This indicates that for Grade VIII A students, the use of Wattpad in learning recount text writing is perceived as effective, and there is a correlation between using Wattpad and improving their recount text writing skills. Overall, the questionnaire received positive responses. Based on the provided questions, there are no highest or lowest results; all outcomes are consistent and fall within the "Good" category.

Discussion

The research has three findings. The first finding showed a significant improvement in the students' ability to write recount texts after the implementation of Wattpad media. The pre-test scores revealed that most students were not proficient in recount text writing, as only 2 out of 30 students achieved proficiency. However, the post-test scores demonstrated a positive change, with 27 out of 30 students achieving proficiency. The Paired Sample T-Test confirmed the significant difference between the pre-test and post-test scores, indicating that the use of Wattpad media indeed led to enhanced writing skills.

The second finding revealed that students had a positive perception of using Wattpad media to learn recount text writing. The majority of responses fell within the "Effective" category, indicating that students found Wattpad engaging and helpful in understanding the structure of recount texts.

The third finding demonstrated a strong correlation between students' engagement with Wattpad media and their improvement in writing skills. The positive responses from students in the questionnaire indicated that regular usage of Wattpad for reading various stories, exploring recount texts, engaging with different writing styles, and interacting with Wattpad's features contributed to enhancing their familiarity with recount text writing. The correlation coefficient of 0.560 supported this finding, suggesting a significant positive relationship between students' engagement with Wattpad and their improvement in recount text writing skills.

Conclusion

Based on the research about "Improving Students' Writing Skills on recount Text Using wattpad for Class VIII SMP N 5 Pati" the researchers conclude, The purpose of this study is to ascertain whether class VIII students at SMP N 5 Pati can create recount texts both with and without the use of Wattpad. The pre-test results from this study revealed that the initial recount text writing skills of the eighth grade students were below the Minimum Completion Criteria (KKM), with only a tiny percentage achieving competency. The post-test results, however, significantly improved following the introduction of Wattpad material. Results from the post-test revealed a significant rise in the mean score, demonstrating that students not only met but also exceeded the KKM. The paired sample t-test, which revealed a significant difference between the pre-test and post-test scores and demonstrated the effectiveness of utilizing Wattpad. The students' perceptions regarding the use of Wattpad media were overwhelmingly positive. Through the questionnaire responses, it was evident that students found Wattpad to be an engaging and effective tool for improving their writing abilities. This research has shown that the implementation of Wattpad media in teaching recount text writing to eighth-grade students has led to significant improvements in their writing abilities.

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