

ABSTRACT

Sugiarti, Dwi Wahyu. 2012. *The Effectiveness of Clustering Technique in Teaching Writing at The Eighth Grade of MTs Raudlatul Ulum*. Thesis, Surabaya: English Education Department, Faculty of Tarbiyah, State Institute of Islamic Studies Sunan Ampel. Advisor: Prof. H. Arief Furqan, M.A., Ph.D.

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As the compulsory subject in Indonesia, English writing may be considered as the most difficult and complicated skill among the four language skills. Nowadays, the use of traditional technique happens in the teaching of English writing. Hence, what to write about often becomes the first problem for students when they compose a text. Nevertheless, it should be mastered by junior high school students as the first step to learn composition. This study was conducted to find whether the use of clustering technique as pre-writing stage is more effective than the traditional technique. The 2010 English curriculum, the most recent curriculum used in schools in Indonesia takes genre approach. One of the genres introduced in junior high school is English descriptive text. Hence, this research also focuses on English descriptive text.

The setting of the research was MTs Radlatul Ulum as a representative school of the other rural schools in Besuki - Situbondo area that merely uses Madura language as first language (L1) while Indonesia as second language (L2) in their communication in which this problem is the cause of students. The VIII C and VIII D were chosen as the sample of this study. The experiment research was conducted by using *t*-test as the instrument of the research. The tests were administered to know the effectiveness of both clustering and traditional technique in teaching English descriptive text.

The result of the research shows that clustering technique is effectively improving the students' writing ability. To find the improvement of students' writing ability, post-test scores were as the determinant of the result of students' English writing descriptive text. The calculation result was on both experimental and control classes. In experimental class, the score was 2520 with 84 mean while the control class was 2315 with 77.1 mean

Based on the research finding, it is suggested for English teachers to use clustering as a way to asses teaching and learning process. Teachers can make the students be the active learners by implementing clustering. Meanwhile, students will find that the use of clustering as a fun way where they can collect all ideas that they have produce into composition.