

ABSTRACT

Oktafiani, Ika S. 2011. *Comparison of the English Writing Achievement between SD-Background and MI-Background Students of MTs N 1 Semarang*. Final Project. English Department. Languages and Arts Faculty. Semarang State University. First Advisor: Dr. Abdurrachman Faridi, M. Pd. Second Advisor: Sri Wahyuni, S. Pd., M. Pd.

Key words: writing achievement, writing ability

This study aims at comparing the writing achievement of SD-background and MI-background students in writing a descriptive text. The population of this study is 267 seventh year students of MTs N 1 Semarang from both SD and MI programs. There are 32 SD-background students that are grouped into two classes and 32 MI-background students that are grouped into two classes. To take the sample, I used the purposive sampling technique. I took one SD class as the sample of SD-background and one MI class as the sample of MI-background.

To collect the required data, I conducted a writing test that consisted of a descriptive text entitled "Kimono". Before the test was applied to the respondents, I had justified its content validity and tried out to seventh year students to measure its reliability. After I was sure of its validity and reliability, I administered the actual test to the respondents. After getting the required data, I compared this score of the two groups by using a t-test formula.

The result of the study shows that: 1) There is a significant difference of the ability of SD-background and MI-background students in writing the descriptive text; 2) The mean of SD-background students is 46,6 and the mean of MI background students is 27.5, so it means that SD-background students have higher ability than MI-background students in writing the descriptive text. 3) The average of SD-background students' grades is satisfactory (C); it means that their achievement is at the average level (75 – 84% of correct answer), since their means is 46.6 (80.3% correct writing). Meanwhile, the average of MI-background students grades is (D); it means that their achievements are still below average level (60 – 74 % of correct answer) since their mean is only 27.5 (47.0% correct writing).

The results of the study show that the students' achievements are still at and below average level. It means that their ability in writing a descriptive text is not satisfactory.

To improve students' ability in writing a descriptive text, I suggest that teachers should give intensive drills of writing descriptive text.