

ABSTRACT

Mawadah, L. 2009. *The Effectiveness of Mind Mapping Strategy in Teaching the Students to Write Descriptive Text: An Experimental Research of the Eighth Grade Students of SMP N I Pegandon Kendal in the Academic Year of 2008/ 2009.* A Final Project. English Department, Faculty of Languages and Arts, Semarang State University. Advisor: I. Dra. C. Murni Wahyanti, M.A., II. Rohani, S.Pd, M.A.

Keywords: Text, descriptive, mind mapping strategy, experimental design.

The study is about The Effectiveness of Mind Mapping Strategy in Teaching the Students to Write Descriptive Text. The purpose of this research is to compare whether teaching descriptive text to junior high school students of SMP Negeri I Pegandon by using mind mapping strategy is more effective than teaching descriptive text by using the conventional strategy (the strategy which the teacher usually applies).

In this research, the writer chose two classes as the sample of the research. They are class VIII 4 (the experimental group) and class VIII 5 (the control group). The experimental group was taught by using mind mapping strategy and the control group was taught by using the conventional strategy. The writer used writing test to gather the data. Before giving the writing test, the writer gave some activities to the students. Those activities are giving the glossary, making the simple sentences, describing the familiar people by using picture and applying mind mapping strategy in writing descriptive text (just for the experimental group). The main purpose of the activities above was to help the students in creating a text. After that the writer scored the students' work by using the analytical scoring. This score was based on the five criteria; they are organization, content, grammar, punctuation and vocabulary. In addition, the t-test formula was also applied to determine whether there was a significant difference between the means of the experimental group and the control group. The mean of post-test of the experimental group is 78.50 and the control group is 75.53. The obtained t-test (t_{value}) is 4.57672, whereas the t_{table} is 1.99 for $\alpha = 5\%$. The t-test value is higher than the t-table ($4.57672 > 1.99$).

The result proved that mind mapping is more effective as the teaching strategy in teaching descriptive text than the conventional strategy. Finally, the writer suggests to the teachers to use mind mapping strategy in teaching descriptive text.