

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF NARRATIVE
WRITING ABILITY AMONG ESL STUDENTS
IN A SARAWAK SECONDARY SCHOOL**

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Dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree of

Master in Education (Teaching English as Second Language)

Faculty of Education

March 2012

ABSTRACT

Narrative writing is a difficult ESL classroom task in Malaysia, especially among Sarawakian students. Many language teachers, however, assume that students are well versed and creative in producing desired writing, because it is personal experience based. A good piece of narrative writing should portray the right point of view, the proper use of dialogue, tagging, organization pattern and text organization. All of these characteristics require the appropriate and relevant use of AOQ (adjectives of quality) and AOM (adverbs of manner) in producing an interesting and lively narrative writing. Due to the importance of these two word classes, they have become the focus of the analysis of students' narrative writing ability development. This study aims to investigate the development of 203 randomly selected ESL students' narrative writing ability. The writing exercise uses prescribed picture series as writing stimuli to find out the students' syntactic maturity in the use of AOQ and AOM, and complexity of sentences in their writing at three age levels (namely, Form One, Form Two and Form Four), using the T-unit index, namely, the total number of T-units and the mean T-unit lengths (1977). The respondents were required to write an essay within sixty minutes. To examine the students' development of narrative writing, the total number of T-units, the mean T-unit length and the use of AOM (adverb of manner) and AOQ (adjective of quality) were identified manually and analysed using SPSS. The results showed that there was a strong correlation between the total number of AOQ and the mean T-unit length used in the narrative writing at the three different age groups. This shows that as the use of AOQ increases in the narrative writing, the sentence becomes more complex. On the contrary, there was no statistical difference among the three different age groups with regards to the mean T-unit length and the use of AOM. At individual levels, there were indications that some students showed a gradual increase in the use of AOM. The study concluded that there was a positive development in the students' ability in narrative writing based on the T-unit index and the use of AOQ and AOM.

ABSTRAK

Penulisan karangan naratif dalam bahasa Inggeris merupakan satu tugas bilik darjah yang agak sukar di Malaysia khususnya di kalangan pelajar dari Sarawak. Kebanyakan guru bahasa, sebaliknya, menganggapkan bahawa pelajar-pelajar fasih dan kreatif dalam menghasilkan satu karangan naratif yang diinginkan sebab ianya adalah berdasarkan kepada pengalaman individu. Sebuah penulisan yang baik haruslah mencerminkan pemilihan penggunaan sudut pemerhatian, perbualan, tagging, pengstrukturkan karangan dan teks yang sesuai dan betul. Semua ciri-ciri ini memerlukan penggunaan kata-kata sifat dan sikap yang sesuai dan relevan untuk menghasilkan sebuah karangan naratif yang menarik dan penuh tenaga. Oleh kerana kepentingan kedua-dua kelas kata-kata ini dalam penulisan karangan naratif, maka, ianya menjadi tumpuan analisis perkembangan penulisan karangan naratif di kalangan pelajar-pelajar. Kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji perkembangan 203 orang pelajar bahasa Inggeris yang dipilih secara rawak dalam kebolehan menulis karangan naratif. Latihan penulisan ini menggunakan gambar bersiri sebagai bahan perangsang untuk mengkaji kematangan penulisan karangan naratif di kalangan pelajar-pelajar dalam penggunaan kata sifat dan dan sikap dan ayat kompleks dalam penulisan mereka untuk tiga peringkat umur yang berbeza, iaitu, tingkatan-tingkatan 1, 2 dan 4 menggunakan indek unit-T iaitu jumlah T-unit, purata T-unit dalam ayat (Hunt, 1977). Respoden diminta menyiapkan satu karangan dalam tempoh 60 minit. Untuk mengkaji perkembangan pelajar-pelajar dan penulisan karangan naratif, jumlah T-unit, purata T-unit, penggunaan kata-kata sikap dan sikap dikenalpasti secara manual dan dianalisiskan menggunakan SPSS. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa terdapat korelasi yang kukuh di antara jumlah T-unit dan purata T-unit di dalam karangan-karangan pelajar di ketiga-tiga peringkat umur. Ini menunjukkan bahawa apabila penggunaan kata-kata sifat meningkat, ayat-ayat yang dihasilkan menjadi lebih kompleks. Sebaliknya, tidak ada perbezaan yang ketara di kalangan pelajar dari ketiga-tiga peringkat umur dalam penggunaan kata-kata sikap dan purat T-unit. Di peringkat individu, terdapat tanda-tanda beberapa pelajar yang menunjukka peningkatan dalam penggunaan kata-kata sikap. Kajian ini boleh disimpulkan bahawa terdapat perkembangan positif di kalangan pelajar dalam penulisan karangan naratif berdasarkan indek T-unit dan kata-kata sifat dan sikap.

AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this thesis/dessertation was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the result of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This thesis has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any degree or qualification.

I hereby, acknowledge that I have been supplied with the Academic Rules and Regulations for Post Graduates, Universiti MARA, regulating the conduct of my study and research.

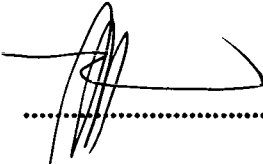
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Faculty : Education

Thesis/Dissertation Title : The Development of Narrative
Writing Ability Among ESL students
in a Sarawak Secondary School

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Date : 29 February, 2012

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express my gratitude to everyone who contributed to my studies until its completion. First and foremost, I would like to praise God the Almighty for giving me the determination, encouragement and endurance in the course of completing my Master of Education (TESL) at Universiti Teknologi MARA Sarawak at Samarahan campus.

My heartfelt grateful acknowledgement and appreciation goes to Assoc. Professor Dr. Simon Philip Botley @ Faizal Hakim, my supervisor, for his continuous constructive ideas, guidance, encouragement and assistance in the preparation and completion of this research paper. You have made this project meaningful and significant in my academic life.

To all my lecturers of this course, thank you very much for the abundance knowledge you all have showered, it was a great exposure and insights for this project.

Not to forget, too, , the principals of SMK Serian, Mr Matno Hj Minan, ex-principal and Rambli Hi Zainuddin, the present principal, all the teachers and students who had directly and indirectly assisted me in the collection of data useful and crucial for my study.

To my coursemates and friends wherever they may be, thank you for your unfailing support and encouragement. Many times I had almost given up but you kept pushing me, encouraging me to keep paddling no matter at what cost.