

Influence of Punctuation Understanding towards Narrative Essay Writing Skill

Nova Lina Sari Habeahan*, Wahyuniar, Nurdiansah

Indonesian Language and Literatue Education, University of Musamus, Merauke, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to establish the influence of punctuation understanding towards narrative essay writing skill of on Senior High School student, particularly SMA Hati Suci Central Jakarta. Quantitative approach in this research uses survey method. The used sample in this research is 85 students taken with random sampling method. Moreover, the used data analysis is correlation test, t test, and coefficient of determination. The result of this research shows that: 1) There are positive relationship in understanding punctuation towards writing skill of narrative essay proven by calculated r value $>$ r table ($0,283 > 0,213$). 2) There are significant influence in understanding punctuation towards writing skill of narrative essay proven by the existence of calculated t value $>$ t table ($2,687 > 1,666$). The amount of influence of punctuation understanding towards narrative essay writing skill is to the value of 8%.

KEYWORDS: punctuation understanding, writing skill, narrative essay.

1. INTRODUCTION

Basically, Indonesian language lesson aims to give students skill of efficient and effective communication either directly, indirectly, spoken or written. In each curriculum change or substitution, obviously there will be problem or confusion for all the involved parties, especially teachers. Meanwhile, curriculum which becomes Indonesian language teacher guidance must remain hold onto Indonesian language learning purpose.

In the prevailing curriculum, teacher is demanded to be creative and independent. Teacher must choose learning material in accordance with school curriculum. Teacher may use learning lesson from various sources (newspaper, magazine, radio, television, internet, and etc). Learning material is must be correlated with local, regional, or national problems or event until understanding and responding to various problems as well as situation of live.

Given by the fact, the author is really excited to establish skill of Private Junior High School Central Jakarta to use punctuation and create narration. In this case, the author emphasizes more on punctuation of narrative essay since punctuation cannot be separated from a writing.

Problem faced by students in writing narrative essay is lack of ability to use the right punctuation, such as period (.) comma (,), double quote (“...”), exclamation (!), question mark (?), and hyphen (-). If punctuations are not correctly used, a sentence will not have effect or influence. Therefore, incorrect punctuation use will influence the meaning of sentence. For example, the most frequent incorrect punctuation use is the use of period and comma. Sentence Example:

Nonetheless now the committee draws around 17,500 tickets allocated by UFA.

In the sentence above, after the word *nonetheless*, it should be followed by comma as connector and period after *number 17* to separate thousands and so on. Hence, it will be, *nonetheless, now the committee draws around 17.500 tickets allocated by UFA.*

The most emerged problems from punctuation use in narrative essay made by student is lack of accuracy and understanding. Therefore, the meaning from a sentence made by students often interpreted different by the teacher. The teacher will find difficulty in understanding students' message in a paragraph and misunderstanding will arise. [1] Compose a paragraph is not only a writing but also pay attention to symbols in form of words and arrange those words into a sentence based on certain regulation. Moreover, relating to such matter, the author tries to conduct a research on punctuation use in Private Junior High School Hati Suci Central Jakarta and its implication on Indonesia language lesson. Result of this research is expected to be used as reference for further research. Furthermore, by understanding the punctuation use, a good teaching can be adjusted.

Writing is an activity of delivering a message in written by using good language and in accordance with the applicable rules. In writing process, using precise spelling greatly influences a writing quality. Long writing or narrative essay will not be understood without rules in good writing and in accordance with PU-EBI (General

Guide to Indonesian Spelling). As it is suggested by experts “Writing is used by scholars to record, convince, report/inform, and influence. The aim and purpose of writing only can be achieved well by people who can organize their thought very well and express it clearly. This clarity depends on thought, organization, diction, and sentence structure”. [2] Writing is an activity which has many advantages that can be applied by the writer. Write can help to feel or enjoy relationships, deepen response or perception, solve problems, and arranging order of experience. Morsey, [3] explains advantages of writing namely to record, convince, report, and influence other people if the writer can deliver the message clearly and easily to understand. The clarity depends on thought, organization, diction, and clear sentence structure. Based on the matters, the writer does not only need to deliver idea, thought, and opinion to the reader in form of writing. Nevertheless, the writer is also demanded to convince readers, report, and possess information relating the written topic.

[4] As in an essay, essay is a part of writing and as the result of writing. One of the essay forms is narrative essay. Narrative essay is a form of discourse that tries to depict very clearly an occurred event to the readers. Story or narrative presents a set of event that usually arranged on the time basis. Writing an essay is not an easy thing. People who can read essay not necessarily can write a well essay as well. An essay can be said effective if it is achieved its purpose precisely as means of communication. Writing an essay means to pour thought or idea into writing.

In this time, we will find many students who write but avoiding perfected Indonesian spelling rule, especially on punctuation. [5] Punctuation understanding is a depiction of language structure where linguistics units such as words and phrases are combined to produce sentences with thorough systems in language. From the total of Private Junior High School Hati Suci Central Jakarta students, there are 54 students who are writing not subject to the right spelling rule. One of which is the mistake in using capital letters and punctuation that are not in accordance with PU-EBI. The use of right capital letters and punctuation will help the readers to understand the writing perfectly. In contrast, the use of incorrect capital letters and punctuation will confuse the readers or even causes different perception.

According to the author’s experience, there are students who are not yet mastering capital letter and punctuation use. Therefore, it is exactly right to examine punctuation use on narrative essay of Private Junior High School (SMP Swasta) Hati Suci Central Jakarta. Based on research background, the author conducts a research entitled “Punctuation Understanding on Narrative Essay of SMP Swasta Hati Suci Central Jakarta Students”

As for problem formulation in this research is, how is the use of punctuation on narrative essay of SMP Swasta Hati Suci Central Jakarta students?. This research aims to describe the use of capital letter and punctuation on narrative essay of SMP Swasta Hati Suci Central Jakarta students. The advantage of this research is to provide information on capital letter and punctuation use in narrative essay, either for school or all interested parties. This research is also expected to be a fundamental to draw a conclusion whether SMP Swasta Hati Suci Central Jakarta students have used capital letters and punctuation well in their narrative essay. In addition, as evaluation to be followed up by SMP Swasta Hati Suci parties by considering or accepting the suggestion by author.

Punctuation is an important element in written language, especially in formal writing such as scientific works. The use of punctuation will help readers to identify intention of a writing. In this case, punctuation holds important role in a sentence.

The referred understanding upon punctuation is a depiction of language structure where linguistics unit such as words and phrases are combined to produce sentences. Generally, it considers the number of meaning and function of sentences that have thorough system in a language. Understanding of punctuation also can include language sounds (phonology, morphology, semantics, and syntax).

Narrative writing skill, in this research, is an ability or competence of student in pouring their idea orderly and completed by fictitious (imaginary) or non-fictitious (fact) information in written by considering background, problem, climax, and problem solution to arrange characters, action, space and time. Competency in writing narrative essay is acquired through continuous practice and training either formally (learning lesson in class) or informally through individual trainings outside school teaching.

Understanding upon punctuation has many meanings technically or in its excellence. Therefore, by the purpose of this research, the author will consider two types understanding which will be guide to discussion. In a writing—unpublished one, [6] states that underlying definitions of language use also underlie speaker skill to speak and understanding language.

Hence, there is also a meaning of punctuation understanding which clearly suggest that punctuation understanding is not only an ability in a question but also appearance of a question, it means, someone ability to effectively use international knowledge to achieve communication influence and the famous understanding of punctuation at that time is discussed in context of university works. It must be performed by build sentence and model [7]. For this reason, the author discusses this matter. Firstly, appearance does not always represent ability. Secondly, writing is the basic appearance and in other words in the understanding of punctuation very well here.

Relating to the discussion title on punctuation understanding towards writing skill, within narrative definition, the referred narrative writing skill in this research is an ability or competence of students in pouring idea orderly with fictitious (imaginary) or non-fictitious (fact) information in written by considering background, problem, climax, problem solving by arranging characteristic, action, space and time elements [8]. Competency in writing narrative essay is acquired through continuous practice and training wither formally (learning lesson in class) or informally through individual trainings outside school teaching.

2. RESEARCH METHODS

This research was performed by using survey method [9-10]. This research was conducted in SMA Hati Suci Central Jakarta with 85 respondents as sample. Variable in this research is independent variable of understanding punctuation and dependent variable of narrative writing skill. The data were collected by using questionnaires consisted of structured question which were spread to the respondent. Moreover, analysis data used correlation test, t-test, and coefficient of determination. Correlation test was performed to establish the relation between punctuation understanding influence on essay writing skill. Whereas, t-test was performed to establish the influence of punctuation understanding on narrative essay writing skill. Meanwhile, coefficient of determination was performed to establish how big the influence of punctuation understanding on narrative essay writing skill. Furthermore, data analysis was performed by using assistance program of SPSS version 21.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Correlation Test

Correlation test is used to establish how close the relationship between punctuation understandings on narrative essay writing skill is. Criteria of decision making is if calculated $r > r$ table, so it can be concluded as positive relation between punctuation understanding on narrative essay writing skill. It is known that r table is on significance level of 5% (0,05) with $N= 85$ to the value of 0,213. The result obtained of correlation test is presented in the table bellow.

Table 1. Result of Correlation Test

		X	Y
X	Pearson Correlation	1	.283**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.009
	N	85	85
Y	Pearson Correlation	.283**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.009	
	N	85	85

Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)

Based on the table above, it obtains calculated r to the value of 0, 283. If it is compared with r table value of 0,213, thus calculated r value $> r$ table ($0,283 > 0,213$). Therefore, punctuation understanding has positive relationship on narrative essay writing skill. The correlation level is on weak category (coefficient interval 0,200–0,399 = weak).

2. T-test

T-test is performed to establish the existence of punctuation understanding influence on narrative essay writing skill. T-test value is on the significance level of 5% (0,05) with $N= 85$ to the value of 1,666. Criteria of decision making is if calculated t value $> t$ table so that H_0 will be rejected and H_a is accepted. It means that there is significant influence of punctuation understanding on narrative essay writing skill. Result of t-test through simple regression analysis obtains the following result.

Table 2. Simple Regression Analysis of Coefficient^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
	(Constant)	56.761	8.590		.608	.000
	X	1.347	.501	.283	2.687	.009

a. Dependent Variable: Y

According to simple regression analysis result, it obtains calculated t value of 2,687. If it is compared with t table value of 1,666, so that calculated t value > t table (2,687 > 1,666). This result of calculation shows that there is significant influence of punctuation understanding on narrative essay writing skill.

3. Coefficient of Determination

Coefficient of determination performed to establish how big the influence of punctuation understanding on narrative writing skill is. Coefficient of determination value can be known on output of Model Summary column R Square. If coefficient value made into percentage, it uses formulation of: $KD = r^2 \times 100\%$. Result of coefficient of determination can be seen in the following table.

Table 1. Coefficient of Determination Model Summary

Model		R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics		
					R Square Change	F Change	df1
1	283 ^a	.080	.069	9.92497	.080	7.220	1

Based on the above table, it obtains coefficient of determination value R Square of 0,080. It shows that the big influence of punctuation mastery on essay writing skill is 8%. Meanwhile, the remaining amount, namely $100\% - 8\% = 92\%$, is influenced by external factor or variable of punctuation mastery.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the result of this research, it can be concluded that there are positive and significant influence of punctuation understanding towards narrative essay on SMA Hati Suci Central Jakarta students. Correction value obtains calculated r value > r table ($0,283 > 0,213$). It means that there is positive influence on punctuation understanding on narrative essay writing skill. Moreover, from simple regression test, it obtains calculated t value > t table ($2,687 > 1,666$) which means there is significant influence on punctuation understanding on narrative essay writing skill. The big influence of punctuation understanding on narrative essay writing skill is to the value of 8%. Meanwhile the other 92% is influenced by other factors outside this research.

5. SUGGESTION

Based on the result of this analysis, several suggestions from this research are:

1. Indonesian language teacher, in teaching, should trains student to use well and correct punctuation in writing narrative essay.
2. Besides, the school must pay attention to learning process quality so that its purpose may be achieved.
3. For book writers, if you want to publish book relating to school or Indonesian language learning materials; please pay attention to punctuation in narrative essay or other essays in such Indonesian language book.

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