

THE IMPACT OF PICTURE SERIES ON WRITING SKILL AMONG JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL EFL LEARNERS AT THE EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS OF SMPN 31 PURWOREJO IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR OF 2022/2023

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Abstract

This study aims to find out whether Picture Series can improve students' writing skill and also to find out the impact of using Picture Series on students' writing skill. This study used a quantitative research method with a pre-experiment design. The population of this study was the VIII grade students of SMP Negeri 31 Purworejo in the academic year 2022/2023 with a total of 187 students. The sample of this study was class VIII F consisting of 30 students. Data collection was conducted from February 2023 to March 2023. Data collection was carried out using questionnaires and observation checklists. The pre-test mean score is 51.00, while the post-test mean score is 64.40. The result of the two-tailed significance value is 0.00. Being compared to the 5% (0.05) significance level, the computation shows that the two-tailed significance value is lower than the 5% significance level ($0.00 < 0.05$). Consequently, the alternative hypothesis (H_a) is accepted. In addition, the results of the questionnaire also showed that students had a good perception of the use of Picture Series in teaching writing skill. Therefore, the results of this study indicate that the use of Picture Series has a significant effect that has a positive impact on teaching writing skill to eighth-grade students of SMP Negeri 31 Purworejo in the 2022/2023 academic year.

Keywords: Picture Series, Writing Skill

1 INTRODUCTION

English as a Foreign Language (EFL) has become an integral part of the education system in many countries, including Indonesia. EFL stands for English as a Foreign Language, which refers to the learning and use of English among non-native speakers when English is not their first language. English as a foreign language is the study of English in a non-English speaking country. For example, Chinese students who study English are considered EFL students because English is not the official language of the country. By using written English, English as a foreign language (EFL), students can convey messages to readers in different places and times [1],[2]. English language skills are important not only for individual development, but also for the country's competitiveness. Therefore, many students start learning English at a young age and continue throughout their studies. It is a compulsory subject for middle and high school, and a national exam is held every year.

In teaching English, it is necessary to teach students 4 language skills. Specifically, the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Writing skill means that an author can present thoughts, ideas, opinions, facts, stories, etc. mine. Writing is a subject that anyone can learn. Of the four skills taught at school, writing is the most difficult to master compared to reading, listening and speaking[3],[4],[5]. To learn English well, students must master these 4 aspects. As stated above, writing skills are important. Modern communication requires writing skills. We can see this in businesses, academic articles, email, social media and many other places. Everyone needs writing skills to communicate. Writing skill can encourage people to create written texts in the modern communication age. A study found that exposure to media violence increases aggressive behavior in young people [6]. Additionally, the spread of misinformation through social media has become a growing concern, with research by [7]. showing that false information spreads faster and farther than the truth Another study found that the use of picture books in the classroom can greatly improve students' reading comprehension and critical thinking skills [8]. They found that picture books provide students with a visual representation of the story and help them to understand complex concepts,

such as symbolism, character motivation, and themes. The use of picture books also fosters students' imagination and creativity and helps to foster a love of reading.

This is supported by researchers, who found that students improved their writing skill after being taught using a series of images [9]. In the field of art, picture series have been widely used to express personal and cultural perspectives. For instance, artists such as Ed Ruscha, Richard Prince, and Cindy Sherman are known for their picture series that comment on American culture and consumerism [10]. Similarly, artists such as Gillian Wearing and Sophie Calle are known for their pictures series that explore personal experiences and emotions [11]. Therefore, the background of the study highlights the significance of English as a foreign language and writing skill in the education system, the use of picture series as a visual aid in language teaching, and the need for research on the impact of picture series on writing skill among junior high school EFL learners.

2 METHODOLOGY

Research is "a set of processes used to gather and evaluate data to acquire a better understanding of a topic or situation." He claims that participating in educational research entails more than just taking part in the preliminary phases of the research process [12]. Pre-experimental research is not yet truly experimental [13]. Pre-experimental designs do not employ random group assignment or other strategies to account for extraneous influences. A similar set of participants is tested twice: once before the treatment begins (pre-test) and once after the treatment (post-test). It is to find out if adjustments to participant scores between the pre-test and post-test can be caused by the treatment. This study is quantitative experimental research.

The variable is a quality or trait of an individual or organization that (a) researchers can measure or see and (b) varies across individuals or organizations [12]. This study's variables are both independent and dependent. Independent variables are elements that have an impact on the origin of changes or the formation of dependent variables [13]. The picture series for teaching English is the research's independent variable. A dependent variable is a variable that has an impact on the outcome because of an independent variable [14]. The dependent variable of this study is students' English writing skill. As this research population, the researcher selects eighth-grade students from SMPN 31 Purworejo in the academic year 2022/2023. There are a total of 30 students in the class. The portion of the population that is chosen to be the subject of direct observation and is used as the foundation for concluding is referred to as a sample. The researcher got a suggestion from the headmaster and the English teacher to research class VIII F. The sample of the research consists of 30 students.

In gathering the data, the researcher used six main steps as follows:

1. Preparing the research instruments.
2. Consulting the instrument with an expert
3. Giving Pre-test
4. Giving post-test
5. Giving questionnaire
6. Scoring

Table 1. Brown's writing element criteria

No	The Element of Writing	Score
1	Content	1 - 30
2	Organization	1 - 20
3	Vocabulary	1 - 20
4	Syntax	1 - 25
5	Mechanics	1 - 5
	Total	100

3 FINDING AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Data Description

Writing skill is an important skill that affects one's communication and self-expression. Previous research has shown that the use of pictures can stimulate imagination and creativity, but not much is known about the impact of picture series on writing skill. Therefore, this study focuses on identifying the impact of picture series on writing skill. The researcher conducted this study at SMPN 31 Purworejo in the 2022/2023 school year. By using picture series, quantitative data provided answers to questions about students' interest in writing skill. The researcher took one class of eighth-grade students. The total number of students was 30. The researcher conducted the pre-test on February 7, 2023, and the post-test on March 17, 2023.

3.2 Descriptive Analysis

Descriptive statistics include measurement of central symptoms tendency (mean, median, mode) and measurement of variation group (range, variance, and standard deviation) [15]. In this stage, the researcher would thoroughly review the descriptive data from the respondents. The central symptoms tendency and measurement of the variation group were calculated using IBM SPSS 25. The results of the SPSS computation were described as follows:

Table 2. Descriptive Statistic

Descriptive Analysis											
	N	Range	Minimum	Maximum	Sum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Variance	Median	Mode	
	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic
Pre-Test	30	32	38	70	1530	51,00	1,453	7,96	63,38	50,00	52,00
Post-Test	30	34	48	82	1932	64,40	1,371	7,51	56,39	64,09	64,00
Valid N (Listwise)	30										

Based on Table 2, the pre-test mean score was 51,00, while the post-test mean score was 64,40. The pre-test median was 50,00, while the post-test median was 64,09. The pre-test mode was 52,00, and the post-test mode was 64,00. The pre-test standard deviation was 7,96, while the post-test standard deviation was 7,51. The pre-test variance was 63,38, and the post-test variance was 56,39. Furthermore, the pre-test range was 32 and the post-test range was 34. A normality test was used to see whether the distribution of the data was normal or not. In testing the normality of the data, the researcher used IBM SPSS 25 by applying the Kolmogorov-Smirnov normality test. The computation of the normality test using IBM SPSS 25 can be seen in Table 3

Table 3. Test of Normality Kolmogorov-Smirnov

One-Sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test		
		Unstandardized Residual
N		30
Normal Parameters ^b	Mean	0.0000000
	Std. Deviation	3.70438145
Most Extreme Differences	Absolute	0.100
	Positive	0.100
	Negative	-0.094
Test Statistic		0.100
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)		.200 ^{c,d}

a. Test distribution is Normal.

b. Calculated from data.

c. Lilliefors Significance Correction.

d. This is a lower bound of the true significance.

The data can be said normal if the significance value is higher than the significance level (> 0.05). Whereas, the data can be said abnormal if the significance value is lower than the significance level (< 0.05) [16]. The computation above showed in the Kolmogorov-Smirnov column that the significance value of the pre-test and post-test was 0.20. Therefore, the significance value was higher than 0.05. It can be concluded that the data distribution of the pre-test and post-test was normal. In this study, a hypothesis test is carried out to determine whether the use of Picture Series is having an impact on teaching English writing skill to eighth-grade students at SMPN 31 Purworejo in the academic year 2022/2023. If the data has a normal distribution, the researcher relies on SPSS Paired-Samples T-Test computation [16]. At the 5% (0.05) significance level, if the two-tailed significance value is lower than 0.05 ($0.000 < 0.05$), it means that the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternative hypothesis is accepted. In this section, the researcher will discuss the hypothesis testing result. The researcher calculates the pre-test - post-test mean and discovers 51,00 as the pre-test mean and 64,40 as the post-test mean. When the two means are compared, it is evident that the mean of the post-test is greater than the mean of the pre-test. The calculating paired-samples test formula to decide which hypothesis will be accepted or rejected, the result in Table 4.:

Table 4. Result of Paired Samples Test

		Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
					Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	Pre-Test - Post-Test	-13.400	3.971	0.725	-14.883	-11.917	-18.485	29	0.000

From the SPSS computation, the difference across the two means was 13,40. It shows that the treatment is effective. Furthermore, the result of SPSS shows the Sig. (2- tailed) is $0.000 < 0.05$. According to [16], if the Sig. (2- tailed) is less than .05, the data is significantly different.

It can be concluded that there is a significant difference between the pre-test and post-test data. It means that the hypothesis null (HO) is rejected, and the alternative hypothesis (Ha) is accepted. Therefore, the researcher concluded that using Picture Series is having a significant impact on teaching English writing skill the eighth-grade students in the academic year of 2022/2023.

3.3 Discussion

The results of the findings from this study support the hypothesis that the use of picture series can contribute to the improvement of individual writing skill. Picture series influenced participants' imagination and creativity, which in turn improved their ability to convey ideas in writing. The results of this study have important implications in the educational context, where the use of pictures can be used as an effective tool to improve students' writing skill.

From the pre-test result of the eighth - grade of SMPN 31 Purworejo, in addition to the previous statement, from 30 samples of pre-test, no student (0%) belonged to the excellent level, two students (7%) belonged to a good level, seven students (23%) belonged to a sufficient level, 19 students (63%) belonged to a fairly sufficient level, and two students (7%) belonged to poor level. It means that the majority of the students were on the level of fairly sufficient in their English-writing skill before using picture series in the teaching-learning process. On the other side, from 30 samples of post-test, there were two students (7%) belonged to an excellent level, 11 students (37%) belonged to a good level, 15 students (50%) belonged to a sufficient level, two students (7%) belonged to a fairly sufficient level, and no students (0%) belonged to poor level. It means that the majority of the students had a significant increase in their English writing skill after using picture series in the teaching-learning process.

Furthermore, the result of the computation of a two-tailed significance value was 0.00, if the Sig. (2-tailed) is less than 0.05, the data is significantly different. It can be concluded that there is a significant difference between the pre-test and post-test data [16]. It means that the null hypothesis (Ho) is rejected, and the alternative hypothesis (Ha) is accepted. Overall, students' perception of using picture series on their writing skill tends to be positive. The visuals provide a scaffolding mechanism that supports their writing process, stimulates their creativity, and enhances their overall writing skill. By

incorporating visual stimuli, educators can create a dynamic and engaging learning environment that promotes students' motivation, critical thinking, and language development.

4 CONCLUSIONS

Based on the data analysis and hypothesis discussion in the previous chapter, the researcher concludes that the use of picture series has an impact on teaching writing skill to eighth-grade students at SMP Negeri 31 Purworejo in the 2022/2023 academic year. There are several reasons why the use of picture series has a good impact on teaching writing:

1. The result of students' English writing skill pre-test and post-test done by VIII F. In the pre-test, no student (0%) belongs to an excellent level, two students (7%) belong to a good level, seven students (23%) belong to a sufficient level, 19 students (63%) belong to a fairly sufficient level, and 2 students (7%) belong to poor level. In the post-test, two students (7%) belong to an excellent level, 11 students (37%) belong to a good level, 15 students (50%) belong to a sufficient level, two students (7%) belong to a fairly sufficient level, and no student (0%) belongs to poor level. This shows that, after several treatments, the post-test results are higher than the pre-test results before treatment. This means that this study has a positive and significant impact.
2. From the paired test computation, the result of the two-tailed significance value is 0.00. Being compared to the 5% (0.05) significance level, the computation shows that the two-tailed significance value is lower than the 5% significance level ($0.00 < 0.05$). Consequently, the alternative hypothesis (H_a) is accepted. It means that there is a significant impact of using Picture Series in teaching English-writing skill towards the eighth-grade students of SMPN 31 Purworejo in the academic year of 2022/2023.

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