THE EFFECT OF CONTEXTUAL TEACHING AND LEARNING METHOD IN WRITING ENGLISH PARAGRAPH AT ENGLISH DEPARTMENT FKIP NOMMENSEN PEMATANGSIANTAR

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Abstract

This study is aimed to describe the Effect of Contextual Teaching and Learning Method on the Students’ ability in Writing Paragraph at English Department of FKIP Nommensen Pematangsiantar. This is an experimental research which conducted in quantitative analysis. The population of this research was Group C and D students of English Department FKIP Nommensen Pematangsiantar academic year 2018/2019. There were two classes. The samples of this research were taken from two classes. They were group C that consists of 45 students stated as the experimental class, and group D that consist of 25 students stated as the control class. After analyzing the data, the writer found that there was a significant effect of using Contextual Teaching and Learning Method to the students’ ability in writing paragraph. The Mean Score was 11.72 and the value of t-test was higher than t-table (t-test > t-table), 5.208 > 1.966. Hα (Alternative Hypothesis) was accepted and H0 (Null Hypothesis) was rejected. It can be concluded that by using contextual teaching and learning method, the students were encouraged to do writing paragraph in their daily life. The students have abilities to identify their error in writing.

Abstrak

INTRODUCTION

Learning a language takes complex abilities (Hun and Ellis 2004; 289). In learning to write students operate their complex capabilities from exercising allocating words into sentences, then how to put sentences into a paragraph and putting of paragraph into a text are altogether a complex process.

Writing is a complex process that involves a range of skill and tasks. Although writing is often used to clarify and express personal thoughts and feelings, it is used primarily to communicate with others. Therefore, writing is a power full instrument part for students to use to express their thoughts, feelings, and judgments about what they have read, seen or experienced.

Based on the writer’s experience in teaching writing paragraph at the University, it is not easy for the students to write well in English. Most of them were not interested in writing and were not giving attention to process of teaching writing so that they had a lot of problems when writing. Students found some problems in writing a paragraph, for example difficult in inventing a main topic, inventing a controlling idea, formulating the topic sentence, collecting the data and formulating the concluding sentence.

One of the biggest problems in student writing paragraph is that student often fail to prove their points, with concrete details. And also some students have difficulty communicating ideas, events and experience because a limited repertoire of spoken and written English. The writer transfers his/her thought, opinion, or comment in written form, which is expected to be comprehended by the reader.

Consideration to the statement and the problems above, the are many method can be used by lecturer to teach writing subject. Such as, Students-Team Learning, Small Group Discussion, Students-Team Achievement-Division, Jigsaw, Contextual Teaching and Learning, etc. The Contextual Teaching and Learning is chosen and considered as the most appropriate technique to be applied to help students covering their problems in writing paragraph and develop the students ability in writing.

Actually, it is not easy to teach language especially wiring without using the suitable method because a large number of methods are based on ideas of how languages are learned. There are many methods of language teaching that may be selected for teaching writing paragraph. One of them which can be proved in writing skill is Contextual Teaching and Learning (CTL).

CTL is an educational process that aims to help student see meaning in the academic subject with the context of their daily lives, that is, with the context of their personal, social, and cultural circumstances. To achieve this aim, the system encompasses the following eight components: making meaningful connections, doing significant work, self-regulated learning, and collaborating, critical and creative thinking, nurturing the individual, reaching high standards, and using authentic assessment (Johnson, 2002:25).

From the statement, the writer says that CTL is the method that helps students relate subject matter content to the real world situations and motivate students to make connections between knowledge and its applications to their lives as family members, citizens, and workers and engage in the hard work that learning requires. In such an environment, student will discover meaningful relationship between abstract ideas and practical applications in the context of the real world.

The essence of CTL is to study by the concept to help teacher to relate between materials that teaching with the real situation of students and to motivate the students to make the correlation between their knowledge with its application. CTL also have the principles and the application will be done by involving seven
principle components in effective learning namely constructivism, inquiry, questioning, community, modeling, reflection, and authentic assessment.

In teaching learning theory, this method is based on constructivism ideology. In teaching and learning model, students construct their own knowledge by testing ideas based on prior knowledge and experience, applying these ideas to a new situation, and integrating the new knowledge gained with preexisting. Constructivism calls for active participation in problem solving and critical thinking regarding an authentic learning activity that the students find the relevant and engaging the intellect construct. In other word, this method is regarded as the effective method in teaching paragraph writing.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher hypothesized that the Contextual Teaching and Learning Method will be appropriate as the method in teaching writing paragraph. By using Contextual Teaching and Learning Method the students writing ability would be better. The writer proposed a research entitled: “The Effect of Contextual Teaching and Learning Method” in Writing English Paragraph. Therefore, in this research, the writer would like to know the effectiveness developing students’ writing ability.

In a relation to the background of the research mentioned before, the problem of this research proposal is formulated as: “Is there a significant Effect of Contextual Teaching and Learning Method in Writing English Paragraph for the first year students of English Department FKIP Nommensen Pematansiantar?”

The hypothesis of the research is proposed in terms of alternative hypothesis (Ha) and null hypothesis (Ho). They are:

a. Ha : Contextual Teaching and Learning Method significantly affects towards Writing English Paragraph at first year students at English department of FKIP Nommensen Pematansiantar.

b. Ho : Contextual Teaching and Learning Method does not significantly affect towards Writing English Paragraph at first year students at English department of FKIP Nommensen Pematansiantar.

To avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation, the research provides the explanation in respect to some important in the studies as follows:

a. Writing is productive language skill, it is the skill of a writer to communicate information to a reader or group of readers.

b. Contextual teaching and Learning Method is an educational process that aims to help students see meaning in the academic subject with the context of their daily life, that is with the context of their personal, social and cultural circumstances. (Johnson, 2002:25)

c. A paragraph is a piece of writing containing atopic sentence, some supporting sentence and concluding sentence.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

2.1 Definition of Writing

According to Westwood (2008: 56), “Writing is a process that involves lower-order transcription skills and higher-order composing skills and can be extremely demanding for students because it calls upon many experiential, cognitive, linguistic, affective and psycho-motor memories and abilities.” According to Lindstrom,
(in Peter Westwood, 2008 : 57). "Writing is a complex skill involving multiple processes and abilities that problems can arise for some students. There is reason to suppose that the number of students with writing difficulties is even greater than the number experiencing difficulties in reading with understanding."

2.2 The Elements of Writing Process

According to Harmer (2004 : 4), "Writing is used for a wide variety of purpose it is produced in many different form". There are four elements of the writing process. They are:

1. Planning
   Planning is the first step in doing writing. The writer plans what he is going to write or type in this step. It can be done by making detailed notes. When planning, the writer has to think three main issues: they are purposes, audience, content structure. So, planning is the first step that will guide to the next step.

2. Drafting
   Drafting is the second step in writing. It is an activity in which the writers will start their writing. This step refer to state your point in a topic of sentence, support your point, develop a single focus and organize sentences logically and add transition. They will write whatever in their mind. They will write as they know.

3. Editing (Reflecting and Revising)
   Editing is the third step in doing writing. Editing can be done after drafting has done. It means that after doing drafting, the writer will read what has written to see where is works and where is does not. It is to edit or to make about the writing, so that it can be easy to publish. It needs some corrections to some mistakes in the writing and to avoid the ambiguity in the writing.

4. Final Version
   Once the writers have edited their draft, making the changes they consider to be necessary, they produce their final version. They may look considerably from both the original plan and the first draft, because things have changed in the editing process. But the writer is now ready to send the written text to the intended audience. So, there are four elements in the process of writing. To produce a good writing is to make sure that the four elements have been done well.

2.3 Contextual Teaching and Learning

Basically, CTL is a respond to Behaviorism Approach which emphasizes on the concept of stimulus respond with mechanical drills. "CTL is an educational process that aims to help student see meaning in the academic subject with the context of their daily lives, that is, with the context of their personal, social, and cultural circumstances" (Johnson, 2002:25).

Johnson (2001:25) defines CTL is an educational process that aims to help student see meaning in the academic subject with the context of their daily lives, that is, with the context of their personal, social, and cultural circumstances. To achieve this aim, the system encompasses the following eight characteristics: making meaningful connections, doing significant work, self-regulated learning, and collaborating, critical and creative thinking, nurturing the individual, reaching high standards, and using authentic assessments"
In addition, Berns and Erickson (2001:5) stated that “Contextual teaching and learning is a conception of teaching and learning that helps teachers relate subject matter content to real world situations and motivates students to make connections between knowledge and its applications to their lives as family members, citizens, and workers and engage in the hard work that learning requires”.

Meanwhile, The Washington State Consortium for Contextual Teaching and Learning, as cited in Nurhadi, Dkk. (2003:8), formulate the definition of CTL as “Contextual teaching is teaching that enables students to reinforce, expand, and apply their academic knowledge and skills in a variety of in-school and out-of school settings in order to solve the stimulated or real-world problems”.

Based on the previous four definitions, the writer concludes that CTL is the way or the concept of teaching that help teacher and students to relate subject matter to the real life situation and motivate student to connect and apply all aspect of learning into their role in real life. When we talked about context, most people say that it related to their social life. In the classroom teaching, CTL means teacher should present the student real world inside the classroom.

2.4 The Components of CTL

Nurhadi, Dkk (2003:34-51) explains seven components of CTL. These components underlying the implementation of the learning process by using CTL (contextual teaching and learning). The seven components include:

1. Constructivism

Constructivism is the foundation of CTL. The basic premise is that an individual learner must actively build knowledge and skills. Constructivism is the process of build or develops new knowledge in students’ cognitive structure based on experience. “According to constructivism, the experience is met by the outside, but constructed by and from within oneself. Therefore, the experience is formed by two important factors i.e. the object becomes the subject of observation and ability to interpret the object” (Sanjaya, 2010:265). With those basic, learning have to be package become constructing process not only getting knowledge. In learning process, learners create their own knowledge by active at the teaching process. Learners are the center of activity not the teacher.

According to Nurhadi (2003:34) in constructivism, the most important thing is getting strategy more than how many knowledge that they can get or memorize. So teachers have duty to facilitate those processes by:

a. Make the knowledge more relevant and meaningful for learners
b. Give opportunities for learners to find out and apply their own idea
c. Make the learners to apply their own strategy in learning

2. Inquiry

In inquiry, the learning process is based on a search and discovery through a process of thinking systematically. Knowledge is not the result of considering a number of facts, but the outcome of the process of finding itself. Thus in the planning process, teachers are not preparing a number of materials to be memorized, but stimulate learning that allows students to find their own materials to be understood.
The activities of inquiry are sickles, they are: 1) Define the problem, 2) Collecting data by observation, 3) Analyzing and presenting the data, writing, picture, report, scheme, and tables, 4) Communicating the data to the reader, classmates or another audience (Nurhadi Okk, 2003:43).

3. Questioning

Learning is basically asking and answering questions. Questioning can be regarded as a reflection of the curiosity of every individual, while answering the questions reflects a person’s ability in thinking. In the learning process, teacher does not submit the information for granted, but the lure for students to find themselves. Since questioning has very important role, because through the questions teachers can guide and lead students to find any material that is learned. Sometimes, the teacher asks to the students before, during and after the lesson. At other times, they are posed effectively by the students to focus their own lesson, keep them engaged and help them monitor their understanding of what was learned. In a productive teaching learning, questioning activity are useful for checking students comprehension, solving problem faced by students, stimulating responses to the students, measuring students curiosity, focusing student attention, and refreshing students prior knowledge.

According to Orlich in Nurhadi, Okk (2002:46) there are some importance questions in learning process in CTL method, they are:

a. Questioning is a general learning strategy and be able to applied to various learning.
b. Using and developing a systematic technique of question is believed tend to make learners’ quality in learning better.
c. By classifying questions, teacher can determine the cognitive and affective levels which have to be had by learners.
d. By systematic techniques of questioning, teacher can determine the first knowledge level of the learners.
e. There are several questions for teacher to be given to the learners.

4. Learning Community

In the contextual teaching and learning (CTL) implementation of learning communities can be done by applying learning through study groups. “Students are divided into groups whose members are heterogeneous good views of learning ability and speed of learning” (Baker, et al., 2009:2). Let each other learn in their group, who quickly pushed to help the slow learners. Actually, learning community has the meaning that stated by Nurhadi, Okk (2003:47) as follows:

a. Group of learning which communicate to share the idea and experience
b. Working together to solve the problem
c. The member of the group has the same responsibility
d. Create better situation and condition. So, child is able to learn with others

5. Modeling

“Modeling is a learning process as an example to demonstrate something that can be emulated by every student” (Nurhadi, Okk, 2003:49). For example, the teacher gives examples of how to pronounce a foreign phrase. Gym teacher gave examples on how to throw a ball and so forth. Modeling activity also can be summarized into demonstrates the teacher’s opinion and demonstrates how does the teacher want the student
to learn. Model also come from outside, for example in learning English using native speakers. They become model in the classroom, how to pronounce when they are talking.

6. Reflection

“Reflection is the ways of thinking about what the students have learned and thinking about what the students have done in the past. Reflection is figureation of activity and knowledge that just have received” (Nurhadi, Dkk, 2003:51). Teacher need to do the reflections in the end of teaching learning process. In the end of teaching learning process, teacher spends a little time and ask student to do the reflection. The realization of reflection can be done by giving direct statement about the information that acquired in the lesson, some notes or journal on student book, some impression and suggestion from students about the learning process and discussion.

7. Authentic Assessment

Authentic assessment is the process by the teacher to gather information about the students learning progress. This assessment is needed to determine whether students are actually learning or not. Does knowledge of student learning has a positive influence on both the intellectual and mental development of students.

“What have they already known?” So, the students are assessed through many ways, not only assessed their

2.5 CTL Strategy

Contextual Teaching and Learning (CTL) helps us relate subject matter content to real world situations and motivate students to make connections between knowledge and its applications to their lives as family members, citizens, and workers and engage in the hard work that learning requires. Hersh (1945:10) emphasizes six strategies of Contextual Teaching and Learning, they are:

1. Problem-based Learning

“Problem-based Learning is an instructional approach that uses real-world problems as a context for students to learn critical thinking and problem-solved skills and to acquire knowledge of the essential concepts of a course” Smith (2009:9). It means that CTL can begin with a simulated or real problem. Students use critical thinking skills and a systemic approach to inquiry to address the problem or issue. Students may also draw upon multiple content areas to solve these problems. Worthwhile problems that are relevant to students’ families, school experiences, workplaces, and communities hold greater personal meaning for students. In addition, Baker et al. (2009:2) says “the problem-based learning can helps students the usefulness of certain skills because they are connected to a real-life problem-solving situation”.

2. Using Multiple Contexts

According to Herhs (2009:10) says that “recognize the need for teaching and learning to occur in a variety of contexts such as home, community, and works sites”. Theories of situated cognition suggest that knowledge can not be separated from the physical and social context in which it develops. How and where a person acquires and creates knowledge is therefore very important. CTL experiences are enriched when students learn skills in multiple contexts (i.e. school, community, workplace, family).

3. Drawing upon Student Diversity
According to Hersh (2009:10) “drawing upon student diversity is anchor teaching in students’ diverse life-context”. On the whole, our student population is becoming more diverse, and with increased diversity comes differences in values, social mores, and perspectives. These differences can be the impetus for learning and can add complexity to the CTL experience. Team collaboration and group learning activities respect students’ diverse histories, broaden perspectives, and build inter-personal skills.


Ultimately, students must become lifelong learners. Lifelong learners are able to seek out, analyze, and use information with little to no supervision. To do so, students must become more aware how they process information, employ problem-solving strategies, and use background knowledge. Hersh (2009:10) says “teach students to monitor and direct their own learning so they become self-regulated learning”. It means that, CTL experiences should allow for trial and error; provide time and structure for reflection; and provide adequate support to assist students to move from dependent to independent learning.

5. Using Interdependent Learning Groups

Students will be influenced by and will contribute to the knowledge and beliefs of others. Learning groups, or learning communities, are established in workplaces and schools in an effort to share knowledge, focus on goals, and allow all to teach and learn from each other. When learning communities are established in schools, educators act as coaches, facilitators, and mentors. “Students have different prior knowledge and experience, motivational factors, and personalities. These elements affect the ways in which students learn most effectively. CTL reaches a variety of learning styles in the classroom because the instructor can use different approaches within the experiential context, such as hands-on learning and collaborative learning” (Baker et al., 2009:2).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

This study was carried out by applying a quantitative approach with experimental design. There are two independent variable; the first is Contextual Teaching and Learning Method, the second is Conventional Method. Dependent variable is Students’ writing paragraph.

3.2 Population and Sample

The population of this research is choose English Department students of FKIP Nommensen Pematangsiantar Academic Year 2018/2019 consist of 70 students. In this research proposal, the researcher choose two group from the first year academic 2018/2019 of English department FKIP Nommensen Pematangsiantar.


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<th>Group</th>
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3.3 Research Instrument

In this research, the writer uses a test as the instrument. The type of test that is used is a free writing test. In this assessment, the teacher asked the students to write a paragraph based on the topic given which consist of 150 sentences. They are free to express their ideas based on what they have seen. After giving the test and classifying the test item, the writer analyzes the writing based on the component of writing.

3.4 Techniques of Collecting Data

There were some steps in order to get data in this research; they are:

a. Pre Test
The students are given a pre test because pre test is used for matching the group experiment and control class. This test is given before the classes are regarded to have some ability.

b. Treatment
After test is given to the both groups, the treatment is started. Each group is treated with different writing method. The experimental group is taught by using contextual teaching and learning method and the control group is taught without using contextual teaching and learning method.

c. Post Test
The test is also a writing a paragraph. Post test is conducted after treatment. Here, for the experimental group, pictures are used in teaching writing paragraph to the students. For the control group, a conventional method is used post test to measure the students' ability after treatment.

3.5 Technique of Analyzing Data

In analyzing the data, the researcher used the result of pre-test and post-test. Then, they are analyzed to show the achievement of the data. After the research have finish done then here the steps to be taken in analyzing the data are below:

1. To Determine the mean of each group
2. \( F_{test} (F) \)

FINDINGS

Findings

After analyzing the data, the problem statement mentioned in the previous chapter were successfully testified. The findings of research is: There is a significant effect of using Contextual Teaching and Learning Method to students' ability in writing Paragraph. The alternative hypothesis (\(H_a\)) was accepted and the Null Hypothesis (\(H_0\)) was rejected. The value \(t\)-table was 1.996 while the value of \(t\)-test was 5.208, it means that \(t\)-test (5.208) was higher than \(t\)-table at the level of significant of 0.05 (1.996) or 5.208 > 1.996. Teaching and Learning Method on students Writing English Paragraph at first year students at English Department of FKIP Nommensen Pematang Siantar

CONCLUSIONS

After conducting and analyzing the data, result showed that there is a significant effect of using Contextual Teaching and Learning Method to students’ ability in writing Paragraph. The alternative Hypothesis
(Ha) was accepted and the Null Hypothesis (Ho) was rejected. The value t-table was 1.996 while the value of t-test was 5.208. It means that t-test (5.208) was higher than t-table at the level of significant of 0.05 (1.996) or 5.208 > 1.996. Using Contextual Teaching and Learning method is one of alternative ways that can be chosen by the teacher in teaching writing. Since Contextual Teaching and Learning provides opportunities to the students to be active in the class because they can write their ideas freely. By writing their materials, they can help their self to understand more about the materials.

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