

A STUDY ON THE ABILITY OF THE FOURTH SEMESTER STUDENTS OF ENGLISH STUDY PROGRAM FKIP RIAU UNIVERSITY IN SUPPLYING CAPITALIZATIONS IN ESSAY WRITING

Hasnawati,Erni,Maisrul

(hasnawati87@gmail.com)

Student of English Language Education Department
Faculty of Teacher's Training and Education
Riau University

Abstract

The purpose of this research is to know how good is the ability of the fourth semester students of FKIP Riau University Pekanbaru in supplying capitalizations in Essay writing. This is a descriptive research. The students were given writing test. The test consisted of 50 items of capital letters. The procedures of this research are as the following: the writer quotes some paragraphs containing capital letters from English essay writing. The students have to write the correctly the capitalized words correctly. The test done by the students, the writer calculate the scores of classified the levels of the of students' mastery on the use of capital letter. The Classification of students' mastery level in English capitalization are the only 12 students get good to excellent scores, 6 students have average to good scores, 2 students get poor to average scores and 5 students get poor scores. There are 25 students who were taking the writing test. The writer found that the classification of the fourth semester students of English Study Program at FKIP Riau University in supplying capitalization in essay writing is average to good category.

Keyword: descriptive research, Supplying capitalizations, Essay, Writing.

INTRODUCTION

Writing involves the way to express the ideas, feelings, opinion and thought in written form. The students should be master in component of writing such as choice of words (diction), vocabulary, grammar, spelling, coherence, and many others to express their ideas clearly and efficiently in written form. These should be involved integrated to produce meaningful and good coherence writing. According to Heaton (1975:135) in Sri Rahayu (2009) writing is a complex skill. There are five components of good writing. They are language use (the ability to write correct and appropriate sentences), mechanical skills (the ability to use correctly those conventions to written language, treatment of content (the ability to think creative and develop thoughts) stylistic skills (the ability to manipulate

sentences and paragraph and use language effectively), and judgment skills(the ability to write in appropriate manner of particular purpose with a particular audience in mind).In this study the writer want to see the ability of the students in using capital letter words in paragraph. Because Capitalization is very important in any writing, and the rules of using it quite complicated, the students are mostly confused to use it in acceptable ways in line with the standard of rules of English writing. Therefore the title of the study is *a study on the ability of the fourth semester students of English Study Program of FKIP Riau University in Supplying Capitalizations in Essay Writing*.

We realize that writing is a complex skill. Therefore, writing skill is very hard for the students to mastered. It is complex because it consist of many other skills: language use, treatment of content, stylistic skill, and judgment skills. A good writing should be include these five skills. If less one of them can be not perfect. One of the skills that has to be mastered by language student is the mechanical skill. This skill is important because it help the writer to convey, transmit meaning, and to follow the manner of written discourse. It will give good impression to the reader. The four skills is got by students in English Study Program in Riau University. Based on the an explanation above, the writer is interested to conduct this study in order to answer the following question “how the fourth semester students’ ability of FKIP UR Pekanbaru in supplying capitalization?”

Writing skill include five other supporting skills. They are language use, mechanical skills, treatment of content, stylistic skills, and judgment skills. According of Taft et al (1996) in Sri Rahayu (2009) mechanical skills consist of seven kinds; appearance, documentation, spelling, hyphenation, capitalization, abbreviation, an numbers. The skills which will be investigated in this study is limited to the students’ ability in capitalizing the English wordsBased on the limitation of the problem above, the problem is the paper can be formulated as in the following; “question “how good is the ability of the fourth semester students of FKIP UR Pekanbaru in supplying capitalization?”

Writing is most difficult for some students because they should be master grammar and vocabulary or diction before they write something. Because of that the students should be practice more intensively. As William Grabe Robert B. Kaplen says writing ability are not naturally acquired, they must be culturally (other than biologically) transmitted in every generation whether in schools or in other assisting environments. Instead Oshima and Hoque (1991) say writing is a process not a product. This means that a peace of writing is never complete. It is always to review and revise again.

Besides of them, Hughes (1989:91-93) also says there are five factor to make good writing. They are:

➤ Grammar

Nunan (1995:153) says that grammar exists to enable us to “mean” and without grammar it is impossible to communicate. Mckay in Nunan (1995) suggest that grammar help our students to use English correctly and appropriately. Therefore,

in writing we need pay attention to our grammar built appropriate sentences and paragraph.

➤ Vocabulary or diction

Based on Saraka (1988:2) Vocabulary or diction is a basic language either in spoken or in written. Choosing and using appropriate vocabulary are important to express the idea properly, so it can give clear information about the ideas of writing.

➤ Mechanics

It include some matters such as spelling, punctuation and capitalization.

➤ Fluency

A paragraph is said fluent when the choice of structure and vocabulary consistently appropriate. Each sentence is clear and has an obvious emphasis. Fluency can be stated as the using of consistent and appropriate vocabulary to make the writing product to easy to understand.

➤ Organization

It is important for a paragraph to have form organization, arrangement of the idea which all sentence in it discuss only one idea.

Capitalization is one of mechanics in writing. Besides spelling and punctuation. So that it will give influence for good writing. As Hughes (1989) says there are five factors to make good writing; grammar, vocabulary, mechanics, and fluency. According to Hornby(2000:184), capitalization is a letter of alphahabet as a capital. Others meaning of Capitalization is the use of upper case letter at the beginning of a word or words to point up to the meaning of the words because of their functions.

Mary Fitzpatrick (2005:313) says that capital letters can use in nine situations;

1. The first word in a sentence or a quotation

For example:

He said , “**D**inner is ready.”

2. Proper names of people, places, and things

For example:

Gustave **E**iffel designed the **E**iffel **T**ower in **P**aris.

3. The names of organizations and people’s official titles when used with their names.

For example :

The speech was given by **S**ecretary-**G**eneral of the **U**nited **N**ations **K**ofi **A**nnan to the **I**nternational **A**tom**E**nergy **A**gency.

4. The names of companies and their products

For example:

Microsoft developed a computer operating system called **W**indows.

5. Days of the week, months, and holidays

For example:

Sunday **S**eptember 16 will be **I**ndependence **D**ay.

6. Countries, nationalities, races, and languages.

For example:

The **K**urds in Iraq, Iran, Syria, Turkey, and other countries speak **K**urdish.

7. The names of school classes.

For example: I took **S**ociology 101, **S**peech 150, and **M**ath 155.

8. The title of books, magazines, essays, short stories, movies, television programs, songs, etc.

For example:

In my English class, we studied Gothic works: We read Edgar Allen Poe's short story "The **T**ell-**T**ale **H**earth" and Bram Stoker's novel ***D**racula*, and we watch the movie ***F**rankenstein* and an episode of the TV series ***M**ystery*.

9. The names of relatives only if they are not preceded by possessive adjective such as *my*.

For example:

This photograph, which was taken by **G**randpa, shows **G**randma with my mother and her sister.

METHODOLOGY

This research is a descriptive research that tries to analyze the four semester students ability in mastery capitalizing words in short paragraph. According to Gay (1987:183) descriptive research involves collecting data in order to test hypothesis or to answer questions concerning the current status of the subject or study. This study was conducted to the four semester students (2011/2012 academic years) of English Study Program of FKIP Riau University. The time of the research is in Mei 2012.

The population of this study is the fourth semester students (2011/20012) academic year) of English Study Program of FKIP RiauUniversity.. The writer chooses these students as the population of this study because they have already studied the subject of writing. The total number is 25 students. All of the students become the sample of the research. Gay (1987:101) says that sampling is the process of selecting for study. Every member of population has an equal and independent chance of being selected for the sample. Since the number of the students is not large and same characteristic, the wrier uses random sampling. Based on Gay (2000:123), random sampling is the process of selecting a sample in such a way that all individuals in the defined population have an equal and independent chance of being selected for the sample.

The purpose of this research is to know the abisility of the students in using capitalization in paragraphs. There is one variable of test for the students. Based on Harris(1974:76), capitalization is one of the mechanics of writing is tested objectively with simple adaptations of the correction items. In this study, the instrument of the research is a test of using capitalization. The writer calculates the scores of the students and then classified into several levels in mastering and using capitalization from the result of the test. The writer

calculate this scores of the students and then classify the students ability into several levels in using capitalization.

This research to describe and interpret as objectively as possible the mastery level of English university of Riau. In other words, this research only has one variable. There will no be special treatment and control to be given to a certain variable like those done in an experiment method (see Nunan, 1992). The data of this research were take from the four semester students of English Study Program of Language and Arts Department of FKIP Riau University. The students were given a set of writing test. The test consisted of 50 items of capital letters. Each items is scored 2 points.

The procedures are as the following;

- The writer quotes some paragraphs containing capital letters from English reading texts.
- The students had to write the correctly the capitalized words.
From the test done by the students, the writer calculate the scores classified the levels of the of students' mastery on the use of capital letter.

The obtained data from the test technique were analyzed as follows;

- Every data of English capitalization test that was given to the research subjects will be checked and scored.
- The scoring technique was calculated in the from of percentage which will be obtained using the following formula;

$$RS = \frac{NC}{NI} \times 100$$

Where:

NC = Number of Correct Answers

NI = Number of Items Tested

RS = Raw Score of Each Individual

- The means score of all research subjects will be calculated using the following formula;

$$X = \frac{\sum X}{N}$$

Where:

X = Means,

$\sum X$ = Total score

N = Number of chases

- To interpret the mastery level of the English capitalization of all students qualitatively, this research will refer to Harris (1973). Based on the scale, the information on the mastery level of the English capitalization of every research subject can be interpreted. The scale is as follows;

Table.1.The Scale of the Students' Mastery Level of the English Capitalization

NO	SCORES	Category
1.	80 - 100	Good to Exellent
2.	60 - 79	Avarage to Good
3.	50 - 59	Poor to Avarage
4.	00 - 49	Poor

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The criteria for the students' mastery in terms of the items is given.

Table.2.The table of the test result

NO	Number of Item (X)	Correct answers (N)	Scores	Category
1.	50	49	98	Good toExcellent
2.	50	48	96	Good to Excellent
3.	50	47	94	Good to Excellent

4.	50	45	90	Good to Excellent
5.	50	45	90	Good to Excellent
6.	50	45	90	Good to Excellent
7.	50	44	88	Good to Excellent
8	50	43	86	Good to Excellent
9	50	41	82	Good to Excellent
10	50	41	82	Good to Excellent
11	50	40	80	Good to Excellent
12	50	40	80	Good to Excellent
13	50	38	76	Average to Good
14	50	37	74	Average to Good
15	50	37	74	Average to Good
16	50	34	68	Average to Good
17	50	34	68	Average to Good
18	50	30	60	Average to Good
19	50	29	58	Poor to Average
20	50	26	52	Poor to Average
21	50	23	46	Poor
22	50	16	32	Poor
23	50	15	30	Poor
24	50	15	30	Poor
25	50	15	30	Poor

Having computed and classified the students' scores, the writer puts them into tables that will be used as a reference to the students' mastery capitalization. From the table we can see the result of the test given to the respondents. The table shows that twelve

students belong to good to excellent category, they get different scores: one students get scores 98, 96, 94, 88, 86, and three students get scores 90, two students get scores 82, two students get scores 80. In other words 48 % belong to good to excellent score categories. Six students belong to average to good categories. To be clear one students get score 76, 60, and two students get score 74 and 68. In other words 24 % belong to the average to good score categories. Two students belong to poor to average categories. They are one students get score 58 and 52. In other words 8 % belong to the poor to average category. Five students belong to poor scores category. They are one students get score 46 and 32. And also three students get scores 30. In other words 20 % belong to the poor category.

Table.4. Classification of students ‘ mastery level in English capitalization

No	Classification		Frequency	Percentage
	Rank(%)	Mastery Level	Personal	(%)
1	80 - 100	Good to Excellent	12	48
2	60 – 79	Average to Good	6	24
3	50 – 59	Poor to Average	2	8
4	0 - 49	Poor	5	20

The table shows that 12 students get good to excellent scores, 6 students average to good scores, 2 students get scores poor to average and 5 students get scores poor. It can be shown in the following graph:

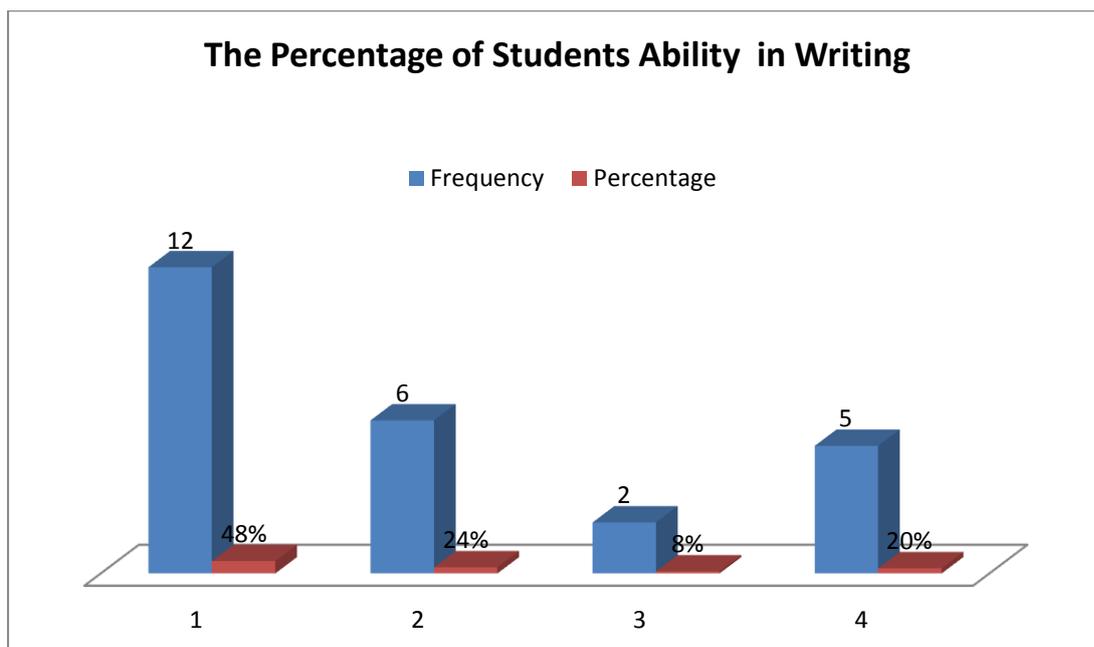


Table4.3.The average score of the students' mastery of English Capitalization

NO	X 1	F1	F1 . X1
1.	98	1	98
2.	96	1	96
3.	94	1	94
4	90	3	270
5	88	1	88
6	86	1	86
7	82	2	164
8	80	2	160
9	76	1	76
10	74	2	148
11	68	2	136
12	60	1	60
13	58	1	58
14	52	1	52
15	46	1	46
16	32	1	32
17	30	3	90
	Total	ΣF1=25	ΣF1.X1=1754

$$X = \frac{F1.X1}{\sum F1}$$

$$X = \frac{1754}{25}$$

$$X = 70.16$$

The table shows the total frequency of achievement ranges of the respondents in mastery of English capitalizations. The students mastery in capital letters is good category

CONCLUSSIONS

The title of this reseach is a study on the Ability of the Fourth Semester Students at English study Program in supplying Capitalizations in paragraph. This study was

conducted to find out how good the fourth semester students at English Program in using it. Following the data analysis in chapter IV, the conclusions can be drawn as follows. There are 25 students taking the test. The writer found that the classification of the fourth semester students of English Study Program at FKIP Riau University in supplying capitalization is good category. Following the data analysis in chapter IV, the conclusions can be drawn as follows. There are 25 students taking the test. The writer found that the classification of the fourth semester students of English Study Program at FKIP Riau University in using capitalization in paragraph is average to good category.

SUGGESTIONS

The researcher looked the ability of the fourth semester students in supplying the capitalizations words in essay writing was good. It means the fourth semester students (2011/2012) in FKIP Riau University can apply their knowledge about capitalization in essay writing. Besides that the students should be add their knowledge not only only in capitalizations but also in many aspect in writing even mastery in writing.

However, motivation of the lecturer is also will give much motivate the students in mastery English subject, especially writing subject. Besides, the good strategy of the lecturers in teaching writing will give good influences to the students. Even the strategy of lecturers will be example of the students in teaching writing after they graduate from university.

Finally, the researcher expects that all findings, conclusions and suggestions in this research will be use full for lectures and students of English Department FKIP UNRI, the reader generally and the writer especially.

REFERENCES

- Azhar, Fadly. Fakhri Ras, Indah Tri Purwanti, Supriusman. 2006. *Panduan Penulisan dan Pelaksanaan Ujian Skripsi pada Program Study Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris Jurusan Pendidikan Bahasa dan Seni, FKIP UNRI*. Pekanbaru
- Fitzpatrick, Mary. 2005. *Engaging Writing: Paragraph and Essays*. USA: Longman.
- Harmer, Jeremy. 2007. *How to teach Writing*. England: Pearson Longman
- Heaton, J.B. 1988. *Writing Language Tests (New Edition)*. London: Longman Group UK limited.

Hornby,1987. *Oxford Advance Learner's Dictionary of Current English Third Edition*.
Oxford University.

Hornby, 1987. A.S.1975. *Writing English Language Test Practice: Guide for Teaching of English as Second Language*. London Group Limited.

[http.wikipedia.org/wiki/capitalization](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/capitalization).

Jaderstrom, Susan and Joanne Miller, 2003. *Business English at Work. Secon Edition*. USA:
Glencoe Mc Graw Hill

Leo, Sutanto and Cheryl Groth. *English for Academic Purpose: Essay Writing*. Andy
Yogyakarta

Nurfaidah, 2000. *A study on The Ability of the Third Year Students in Capitalizing Words in Paragraph of the English Study Program of Language and Arts Department of FKIP-UR*. Unpublished.

Oxford Learner's pocket Dictionary. 1989. New York: Oxford University Press.

Oshima, A and Hogue, A 1991, *Writing Academic English(second edition)*. Singapura

Rahayu, Sri.2009. *A Study on The Ability of the Second Semester Students at English Study Program in Using Capitalization in Paragraph*. Unpublished.

Tompkins, Gail E. 2008. *Teaching Writing: Balancing Process and Product*. USA: Pearson
Merrill Prentice Hall.

