



UTILIZATION OF BLOG AS A MEANS OF PUBLICATION OF STUDENT WRITING IN LEARNING NEWS TEXT WRITING

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Abstract

The background of this study is the tendency of low student interest in learning to write. This raises the interest of the author to make research on digital-based learning media on news text writing material. the purpose of this study was to determine the ability of students in writing news text and to know how the use of blog as a means of publication of Student News Text. The method used in this study is a qualitative descriptive method. Research Data were collected using performance tests, observation techniques, and survey techniques. The data sources used in this study were 53 students of Class XI who had studied news text material. The analysis unit looked at students ' ability to write news texts and the use of blog media as a means of publishing student news texts. The results showed that students have been able to write the text of the news by paying attention to the suitability of the theme and title of the news, the accuracy of the elements of the news, and the suitability of the structure of the news. In addition, the activity of writing news texts using blog media is going well. It is characterized by excellent student response during the learning process. As many as 73.6% of students said that they want to develop a blog that they have as a means of practicing and media publication of their works.

Keywords: *News; Blog; Digital Media; Learning*

INTRODUCTION

Writing skills are often underestimated nowadays. Some people think that writing is easy because it only involves putting ideas or opinions into text. Writing is an interaction of conveying ideas/opinions in written form to explain or engage someone in something (Darlana et al., 2022). Writing is not just a reasoning activity expressed in text but an activity that can develop creativity, critical thinking, and self-expression through writing. This aligns with the opinion of Daeng Warta & Riadi (Nufus et al., 2023), who stated that writing is a creative process to manifest opinions in written language with the aim of informing, convincing, or entertaining.

In the educational world, writing is packaged in Indonesian language learning. Students are often assigned to write as a final task on several materials. However, in practice, writing activities are considered boring for students. Rismayanti et al. (2023) stated that the low ability and tendency of students in writing material are due to the monotonous

methods or media used by teachers. This is because today's students belong to Generation Z, who grew up with technology. Therefore, educators are required to utilize technology in learning, which is in line with the foundation of 21st-century education.

21st-century learning is characterized by using technology in the learning process, enabling students to develop creative thinking and problem-solving skills (Syahputra, 2018; Warsita, 2017). An innovative learning medium that can be used by teachers to develop students' writing creativity is digital media, such as Blog. Blog is a platform for digital writing. Aprilia (Nufus et al., 2023) explained that a blog is an online media website that contains content in the form of articles, videos, and photos managed individually or in groups.

Blogs are generally known as pages that provide various writings like articles. Therefore, Blogger seems suitable as a learning medium for writing news. News is closely related to journalism. Conceptually, journalism is the knowledge related to searching, editing, and disseminating events in mass media (Bangun et al., 2019). The presentation of news must be considered to produce good and accurate news. Djawanto (Bangun et al., 2019) explained that news must meet the criteria consisting of news elements, accuracy, completeness, speed, objectivity, and a well-organized structure. The news elements are referred to as ADIKSIMBA, which stands for what, where, when, who, why, and how.

Several studies have been conducted on the use of digital media in writing material. Andriyani (2022) conducted a study on the Utilization of Google Sites Learning Media to Increase Interest in Learning Indonesian Language Writing News Material for Eighth Grade Students of SMP Negeri 1 Curahdami Bondowoso and concluded that using Google Sites, teacher strategies, and varied methods can create active, creative, and fun students. Another study by Nufus et al. (2023) on the Utilization of Blogs on the Ability to Write News in Indonesian Language Students concluded that the influence of blogs on news writing ability showed good results with a normality test value of $0.273 > 0.05$, indicating that both variables were normally distributed.

Based on the explanations and studies mentioned above, the authors are interested in examining the utilization of blog as a media in writing news texts. The difference between this study and previous studies is that the digital media used in this learning is blog, and the students' abilities to be examined are their skills in writing news texts. The research questions in this study are: How are students' abilities in writing news texts? and How is blog utilized as a means of publishing student news texts? This study aims to explain the utilization of blog media and students' abilities in writing news texts.

METHOD

This research is qualitative using a descriptive method. Descriptive research is basic research used to describe the phenomena occurring. Isnaniah (in Tutik et al., 2020) explained that descriptive qualitative research is a research method useful for describing the form of a language and interpreting its functions and meanings. This research was conducted at SMA Negeri 5 Cirebon. The data source used was 53 students from two classes of eleventh grade who had studied news text material. The data in this study were news texts written by students uploaded on blog regarding the themes of "UMKM Go Digital" and "Dance Robot."

Data collection techniques used in this research include performance tests, reading and note-taking techniques, and surveys using Google Forms. The performance test was used

to collect data in the form of news texts written by students on their respective blogs. The reading and note-taking technique were used to analyze students' abilities in writing news texts. The survey technique was used to collect data on students' responses to the learning activities conducted. The survey was used to collect data from many respondents over a wide scope (Sugiyono, 2013:199). The authors also used observation techniques to directly observe students' activities in following the learning process of writing news texts, documented in the form of images.

The instruments used in this study are test questions, observation guidelines and questionnaires which are the primary data in the study. The Data obtained is the text of Student News uploaded on bog media. Data analysis related to the use of media bloggers as a means of publication of student writing in learning to write news texts, as well as the results of students ' ability to write news. Secondary Data is used in this study only as a complement, in the form of sources of literature or a variety of literature relevant to the problem or object of research. Data analysis techniques are carried out interactively, Miles & Hubberman (Hartono, et al, 2018:49) said that interactive data analysis techniques are carried out in three stages, namely data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion/verification.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The results and discussion in this study include the ability of students in writing news texts and the use of blog in learning to write news texts. The results of the study based on performance tests and questionnaire dissemination, will be described by the author in accordance with the formulation of the problem used. The discussion on this research will be presented as follows.

1. Students ' Ability To Write News Text

According to Suciati (Nufus, et al:2023), writing news is a skill that requires thought and reasoning due to the need to develop the 5W+1H elements into a complete paragraph. This ensures the news is comprehensive, accurate, and meets journalistic standards. The completeness of these elements affects the overall quality of the news content. Therefore, it's essential for journalists or news writers to ensure the news elements are complete and structured properly. Additionally, the title should reflect the content accurately to avoid clickbait.

A performance test was conducted with Class XI students, who were tasked with writing news texts on blogs. The students watched and chose between two videos as sources for their news articles. They were given two class hours to write their news texts using digital media (bloggers). Afterward, they submitted their blog links for review. The analysis of students' ability to write news texts is based on the appropriateness of the theme and title, the completeness of the news elements, and the structure of the news.

1.1. News Theme and Headline

The theme is the topic or source of the news, which is developed into the entire news story. The theme and content are reflected in the news title. The Indonesian dictionary (KBBI) defines a headline as the main news printed in bold letters. Thus, we can understand that the title of the news is a series of words that briefly imply the content of the news.

Keraf (Karengga:2013) outlines three criteria for a good news headline: (1) it must be relevant to the theme; (2) it should be provocative, arousing readers' curiosity; and (3) it

must be concise and free of ambiguous words. Based on these criteria, students' ability to write headlines is excellent. They can align the headlines with their chosen themes. However, some students still struggle to create provocative headlines. Despite this, their headlines are well-constructed, being neither too long nor ambiguous.

Examples of headlines created by students include: (1) "Go Digital MSME Strategy to Survive During the Pandemic," (2) "Business Strategy During the Pandemic," (3) "Go Digital MSME," (4) "Beautiful Robot Skilled at Dancing Jaipong," and (5) "Beautiful Robot by Students." Students created news texts based on two themes: the impact of the pandemic on MSMEs and student-level robot contests. The titles indicate that students can create appropriate, short, and easy-to-understand headlines.

1.2. News Elements

Sumadiria (Bangun, et al:2019) explained that news is the fastest report of an interesting and important event for the public to know that is published in the mass media. The report in question is a report on an event that is prepared based on the element Adiksimba/5W+1H. Good news must be able to meet all the elements of the news. This is because, the completeness of the news element is also related to the completeness and even the truth of the news content. Therefore, the news agency Associated Press (AP) describes the elements of news, including: (1) What (what) is used to explain the events that occurred; (2) where (where) is used to indicate the location of the event; (3) when (when) is used to explain the time of the event; (4) who (who) used to describe the people involved in the event. can be perpetrators, victims, or eyewitnesses; (5) Why (why) is used to explain the cause, reason, or background of the occurrence of events; and (6) How (how) is used to explain the process of occurrence of events and current conditions in order of time.

Based on the six elements of the news, almost all students have been able to write news with attention to the elements. News elements that they contain can be seen on the head/terrace of the news as well as throughout the body of the news. On the head / terrace of the average student news contains elements of what, where, when, and who. The four elements are written briefly but still pay attention to the content conveyed. However, there are some students who pay less attention to the element of "why and how" so that the content of the news becomes less complete. Some students are confused about why and how. They think they are the same because they are related. Apart from that, overall students have been able to put the information they get into the elements of the news they create.

1.3. News Structure

Similar to other texts, the news text is also prepared by following the systematic structure of the news. The structure of the news consists of three parts, namely: (1) the head/core of the news, contains all the elements of the news; (2) the body of the news, contains an explanation and development of the elements of "why and how"; and (3) the tail of the news, contains conclusions or things that are considered less important.

When viewed in terms of structure, students have been able to write news systematically. There are only a few students whose news structure is less clear because the paragraphs are less cohesive. However, overall it can be said that they understand and are able to write news systematically in accordance with the structure.

Based on the results of the test writing news text on a blog conducted by 53 students, the category of students' ability to write news text is based on the suitability of the theme and title of the news, the accuracy of the news elements, and the suitability of the news structure. Based on the analysis, it can be said that students have been able to write news by paying attention to the suitability of the theme and title of the news, the accuracy of the elements, and the suitability of the news structure. Only a small number of students are still unable to write news based on the suitability of the theme and title of the news, the accuracy of the elements, and the suitability of the news structure.

Students in the underprivileged category have errors in presenting elements of why and how. Most of them do not provide a coherent explanation of the background or chronology/impact of the events reported. Therefore, learning to write should be more concerned because it is related to the ability to think of students. Rosidi Yusuf, et al, 2017:11) suggests that writing is one of the tools that can be used to make others (readers) think too. Thus it can be said that the ability of students in writing news texts, high. It is based on the results of performance tests conducted by students in writing news texts with a predetermined theme.

2. Utilization of Blog as a Media Publication of Student News Text

Based on questionnaire results from 53 students, 67.9% reported feeling bored with traditional writing tasks and desired more innovative, modern media. When introduced to Blog, 75% were initially unfamiliar with it. Taskiah (Rismayanti, et al:2023) notes that blogs allow individuals to share writings, photos, and videos, making them an interesting tool for learning. Through blogs, students can publish their writings.

Blogger is user-friendly, and students did not face significant difficulties using it. They responded positively, feeling more engaged and excited about learning. Rahayu (Mahtum, et al:2022) states that blog can boost students' motivation and interest in learning, especially writing. As technology-based media, blogs appeal to Generation Z students.

Additionally, blog allows customization of writing styles, making it more appealing (Mahtum, et al:2022). Students not only learned to write news texts but also about plagiarism. Understanding plagiarism helps them develop original thoughts in their writings.

Overall, the activity of writing news texts using blog was successful, with excellent performance test results and positive student responses. Additionally, 73.6% of students expressed a desire to develop their blogs further for practice and publication. Thus, Blogger can be a valuable digital learning tool for 21st-century education.

CONCLUSION

In the discussion that has been done, it can be concluded that based on the results of performance tests results showed that 74% of students could write news texts with appropriate themes and titles, accurate news elements, and suitable structures. The use of Blogger for writing news texts was successful, with high student engagement and interest. Additionally, 73.6% of students expressed a desire to continue developing their blogs.

Based on the results of the analysis and discussion that has been done, future researchers are encouraged to expand their studies with larger sample sizes and to explore broader topics and newer publication media, such as YouTube, TikTok, Google Sites, Instagram, and other accessible digital platforms.

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