

**AN ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' ABILITY AND DIFFICULTIES IN  
WRITING DESCRIPTIVE TEXT IN THE EIGHTH GRADE  
OF MTSN 3 KOTA KEDIRI**

**THESIS**



**By:  
JORDAN ALAN NAUWFAN  
NIM. 20202041**

**ENGLISH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
TARBIYAH FACULTY  
STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF KEDIRI  
2025**

## **COVER**

# **AN ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' ABILITY AND DIFFICULTIES IN WRITING DESCRIPTIVE TEXT IN THE EIGHTH GRADE OF MTSN 3 KOTA KEDIRI**

## **THESIS**

Presented to  
State Islamic University of Kediri  
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement  
For the Degree of *Sarjana* in English Language Education

**By:**

**JORDAN ALAN NAUWFAN**  
**NIM. 20202041**

**ENGLISH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
TARBIYAH FACULTY  
STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF KEDIRI  
2025**

## DECLARATION OF AUTHENTICITY

Name : Jordan Alan Nauwfan  
Students' ID Number : 20202041  
Study Program : English Education Department  
Faculty : Tarbiyah  
Title of Thesis : An Analysis of Students' Ability and Difficulties in Writing Descriptive Text in The Eighth Grade of Mtsn 3 Kota Kediri

I hereby declare that I have prepared this thesis based on my research and that I do not plagiarize other people's research. I also include references from materials that I have quoted from previous researchers and authors. The work contained in this thesis has not been previously submitted for examination. I also agree that the thesis may be tested for plagiarized content with the help of plagiarism software. I make a statement that, as the only person who is responsible for the thesis, if there is any objection or claim from others.

This thesis is to fulfill the requirement for the degree of Sarjana (S1) in English Education Department Study Program, State Islamic University (UIN) of Kediri.

Kediri, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
The researcher,

Jordan Alan Nauwfan  
NIM. 20202041

## APPROVAL PAGE

This is to certify that the Sarjana's thesis titled

**AN ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' ABILITY AND DIFFICULTIES IN  
WRITING DESCRIPTIVE TEXT IN THE EIGHTH GRADE  
OF MTSN 3 KOTA KEDIRI**

**JORDAN ALAN NAUWFAN  
NIM. 20202041**

Has been approved by the thesis advisors for further approval by  
The board of examiners.

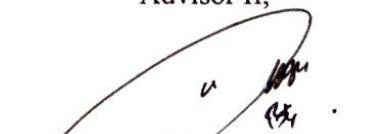
Approved by:

Advisor I,



Dr. Dewi Nur Suci, SS, M.Pd  
NIP. 198909142023212040

Advisor II,



Ossa Bodhi Tala Sumanto, M.A  
NIP. 199306032025212003

## NOTA KONSULTAN

Kediri, 28 Oktober 2025

Nomor : -  
Lampiran : 4 (empat)  
Hal : Bimbingan Skripsi

Kepada  
Yth. Dekan Fakultas Tarbiyah  
Institut Agama Islam Negeri Kediri  
Di  
Jl. Sunan Ampel No. 07, Ngronggo, Kediri

*Assalamu 'alaikum Wr. Wb.*

Memenuhi permintaan Dekan untuk membimbing penyusunan skripsi mahasiswa tersebut di bawah ini:

Name : Jordan Alan Nauwfani

NIM : 20202041

Judul : An Analysis of Students' Ability and Difficulties in Writing Descriptive Text in The Eighth Grade of Mtsn 3 Kota Kediri

Setelah diperbaiki materi dan susunannya, kami berpendapat bahwa skripsinya telah memenuhi syarat sebagai kelengkapan ujian akhir Sarjana Strata Satu (S-1).

Bersama ini terlampir satu berkas naskah skripsinya, dengan harapan dalam jangka waktu yang telah ditentukan dapat diajukan dalam Sidang Munaqasah.

Demikian agar maklum dan atas kesediaannya, kami ucapkan banyak terima kasih.

*Wassalamu 'alaikum Wr. Wb.*

Advisor I,



Dr. Dewi Nur Suci, SS, M.Pd  
NIP. 198909142023212040

Advisor II,



Ossa Bodhi Tala Sumanto, M.A  
NIP. 199306032025212003

## NOTA PEMBIMBING

Kediri, 25 November 2025

Nomor : -  
Lampiran : 4 (empat)  
Hal : Bimbingan Skripsi

Kepada  
Yth. Dekan Fakultas Tarbiyah  
Institut Agama Islam Negeri Kediri  
Di  
Jl. Sunan Ampel No. 07, Ngronggo, Kediri

*Assalamu 'alaikum Wr. Wb.*

Memenuhi permintaan Dekan untuk membimbing penyusunan skripsi mahasiswa tersebut di bawah ini:

Name : Jordan Alan Nauwfani

NIM : 20202041

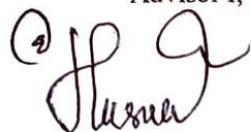
Judul : An Analysis of Students' Ability and Difficulties in Writing Descriptive Text in The Eighth Grade of Mtsn 3 Kota Kediri

Setelah diperbaiki materi dan susunannya sesuai dengan beberapa petunjuk yang telah diberikan dalam sidang munaqosah yang dilaksanakan pada 24 November 2025, kami dapat menerima dan menyetuji hasil perbaikannya.

Demikian agar maklum dan atas kesediaannya, kami ucapkan banyak terima kasih.

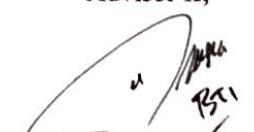
*Wassalamu 'alaikum Wr. Wb.*

Advisor I,



Dr. Dewi Nur Suci, SS, M.Pd  
NIP. 198909142023212040

Advisor II,



Ossa Bodhi Tala Sumanto, M.A  
NIP. 199306032025212003

## RATRIFICATION SHEET

### AN ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' ABILITY AND DIFFICULTIES IN WRITING DESCRIPTIVE TEXT IN THE EIGHTH GRADE OF MTSN 3 KOTA KEDIRI

JORDAN ALAN NAUWFAN

NIM. 20202041

Has been examined by the board of examiners of State Islamic Institute of Kediri

on November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025

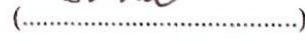
1. Main Examiner

Prof. Dr. Fathor Rasyid, M.Pd.  
NIP. 196908312000031001



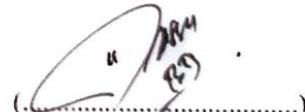
2. Examiner I

Dr. Dewi Nur Suci, SS, M.Pd.  
NIP. 198909142023212040



3. Examiner II

Ossa Bodhi Tala Sumanto, M.A.  
NIP. 199306032025212003



Kediri, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Acknowledged by Dean of Faculty of Tarbiyah  
State Islamic University of Kediri



## **MOTTO**

I ain't lazy, just on my saving-energy mode.

## **DEDICATION**

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to Allah SWT who has always bestowed his grace upon me, so that I can complete this thesis.

I dedicated this thesis to :

1. Myself and my good mood. Which still has intention to finish this thesis.
2. My mom also dad. Thank you so much for the prayers and financing my life.
3. My advisors Dr. Dewi Nur Suci, SS, M.Pd and Ossa Bodhi Tala Sumanto, M.A. Thank you for guiding me in completing this thesis.
4. A whole of my shitty close friends. Who are still willing to give their time to have coffee and hang out with me.
5. All UIN Syekh Wasil lecturers who have provided knowledge and guidance.
6. Mr. Rojidah Kholiq who has helping me and giving me directions during data collection in complete my research at MTsN 3 Kota Kediri.
7. UKM FOSTER. An organization that has become the researcher's second home during college.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Alhamdulillahirobbilalamin, all praise be to Allah SWT who has given His guidance and grace so that the author can complete this thesis. Blessings and greetings are always bestowed upon the last Prophet Muhammad SAW.

Furthermore, I would like to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude to :

1. Dr. Wahidul Anam, M.Ag as the Rector of the State Islamic Institute Kediri.
2. Prof. Dr. Hj. Munifah, M.Pd as the Dean of the Faculty of Tarbiyah, State Islamic Institute (IAIN) Kediri.
3. Nur Afifi, M. App. Ling., Ph.D as the Head of the English Language Education Study Program.
4. Dr. Dewi Nur Suci, SS, M.Pd and Ossa Bodhi Tala Sumanto, M.A as supervisors who always provide guidance.
5. All lecturers at the State Islamic Institute (IAIN) Kediri
6. All administrative staff, academic division, SLC, and library of IAIN Kediri who have provided facilities in the process of completing this thesis.

Hopefully this thesis is useful and can contribute to the readers. May Allah SWT always bless them all. Aamiin.

Kediri, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
The researcher,

Jordan Alan Nauwfan  
NIM. 20202041

## ABSTRACT

**Nauwfan, Jordan Alan.** (2025). *An Analysis of Students' Ability and Difficulties in Writing Descriptive Text in The Eighth Grade of MTsN 3 Kota Kediri*. Thesis, Department of English Language Education, Faculty of Tarbiyah State Islamic University (UIN Syekh Wasil) of Kediri. Advisors (I) Dr. Dewi Nur Suci, SS, M.Pd, (II) Ossa Bodhi Tala Sumanto, M.A.

### **Keywords: Students' Writing Difficulties, Writing Skill, Descriptive Text**

Writing skill is one of the most essential aspects of learning English, as it helps students express their ideas clearly and accurately. However, many students still face struggles in writing the text. This research aims to find out the students' ability and explain their difficulties in writing descriptive texts at MTsN 3 Kota Kediri. The study used a descriptive qualitative design with 30 students from class VIII-G as participants.

Data were collected through writing tasks and interviews. These data on the writing task were analyzed based on Brown's scoring rubric included five aspects such as content, organization, grammar, vocabulary, and mechanics. Additionally, the data of interview was taken based on three main types of problems from Byrne's theory included psychological problems, linguistic problems, and cognitive problems. Both data collections were used to find out the students' ability and the reason why they had difficulty writing descriptive text.

The findings revealed that while students performed well in content and organization, most struggled with grammar, vocabulary, and mechanics. Specifically, 21 out of 30 students showed low writing proficiency, with frequent errors in sentence structure, word choice, and capitalization. The interviews indicated that the difficulties came from psychological problems (low motivation and confidence), linguistic problems (limited grammar and vocabulary mastery), and cognitive problems (lack of knowledge about organization and mechanics). Additionally, the lack of learning media, such as dictionaries, also made it harder for students to progress.

It was concluded that students' overall ability in writing descriptive texts was still below the expected standard. The study suggests that students should practice more frequently and enrich their vocabulary, while teachers are encouraged to apply more effective teaching strategies and provide supportive learning resources.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

COVER .....	i
DECLARATION OF AUTHENTICITY .....	ii
APPROVAL PAGE .....	iii
NOTA KONSULTAN .....	iv
NOTA PEMBIMBING .....	v
RATRIFICATION SHEET.....	vi
MOTTO .....	vii
DEDICATION .....	viii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	ix
ABSTRACT .....	x
TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	xi
LIST OF TABLES .....	xiv
LIST OF APPENDICES .....	xv
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION .....	1
1.1 Background of the Study.....	1
1.2 Problems of the Study .....	6
1.3 Purposes of the Study .....	6
1.4 Significances of the Study.....	6
1.5 The Scope and Limitation of the Problem .....	7
1.6 Definition of Key Terms .....	8
CHAPTER II REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE .....	9
2.1 Writing .....	9
2.1.1 Definition of Writing .....	9
2.1.2 Purpose of Writing.....	10
2.1.3 Elements of Writing.....	11
2.2 Types of Texts.....	15
2.2.1 Descriptive Text.....	15
2.2.2 Narrative Text.....	16
2.2.3 Report Text .....	16
2.2.4 Recount Text.....	16

2.3 Descriptive Text.....	17
2.3.1 Definition of Descriptive Text.....	17
2.3.2 Purpose of Descriptive Text .....	18
2.3.3 Generic Structure of Descriptive Text.....	18
2.3.4 Language Features of Descriptive Text.....	19
2.4 Students' Difficulties in Writing .....	19
2.4.1 Factors of Students Difficulties in Writing.....	21
2.5 Students' Ability in Writing.....	23
2.6 Previous Studies .....	24
<b>CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHODOLOGY .....</b>	<b>27</b>
3.1 Research Design.....	27
3.2 Research Participants .....	28
3.3 Research Instruments .....	29
3.3.1 Writing tasks.....	29
3.3.2 Interview .....	29
3.4 Data Collection.....	30
3.4.1 Observation to students.....	30
3.4.2 Writing tasks process.....	31
3.4.3 Interviewing students about writing difficulties .....	32
3.5 Data Analysis .....	32
3.5.1 Writing tasks.....	33
3.5.2 Interview .....	34
3.6 Triangulation.....	34
<b>CHAPTER IV RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION .....</b>	<b>36</b>
4.1 Research Findings .....	36
4.1.1 Analysis of The Students' Ability in Writing	
Descriptive Text.....	36
4.1.2 Analysis of The Students' Difficulties in Writing	
Descriptive Text.....	41
4.2 Research Discussion .....	45

CHAPTER V CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION .....	50
5.1 Conclusion .....	50
5.2 Suggestion.....	51
REFERENCES.....	52
APPENDICES .....	56

## **LIST OF TABLES**

Tabel 3.1 Table of Writing Score Criteria (Brown, 2007) .....	34
Tabel 4.1 Students' Writing Ability in Content Category .....	37
Tabel 4.2 Students' Writing Ability in Organization Category.....	37
Tabel 4.3 Students' Writing Ability in Grammar Category .....	38
Tabel 4.4 Students' Writing Ability in Vocabulary Category.....	39
Tabel 4.5 Students' Writing Ability in Mechanic Category.....	40
Tabel 4.6 Students' Descriptive Text Writing Score .....	41

## **LIST OF APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 Modul Ajar Bahasa Inggris.....	56
Appendix 2 Table - Scoring the students' ability in writing (Brown, 2007).....	61
Appendix 3 Students' Writing Task Results .....	62
Appendix 4 Students' Score .....	78
Appendix 5 Blueprint of Interview.....	80
Appendix 6 Interview Questions for Students.....	81
Appendix 7 Students Interview Results.....	82
Appendix 8 Field Note .....	99
Appendix 9 Documentation.....	100
Appendix 10 Research Permit Letter.....	101
Appendix 11 Biography.....	103