ABSTRACT

ZULKARNAIN, DANANG MUHAMMAD. Advisor: (1) Drs.H. Nur Akhlis, M.Pd. (2) Bahruddin,S.S.,M.Pd., *Improving Students' Ability in Writing Descriptive Text Using Clustering Technique in SMPN 3 Blitar*, English Department, Faculty of Education, State College for Islamic Studies (STAIN) Kediri, 2014.

Key words: Clustering Technique, Descriptive Text

This research was conducted at the eighth grade students of SMPN 3 Blitar in the academic year 2014-2015. The purpose of this research was to know how the clustering technique can improve students' ability in writing descriptive text. Based on the writer's observation in SMPN 3 Blitar, he found students' problem in writing skill especially in writing descriptive paragraph. When the writer gave exercises to students to make descriptive paragraph, they were still confused about how to make it. The result was that all of the students got scores under 75, under the Minimum Mastery Criterion (Kriteria Ketuntasan Minimum-KKM). To solve the problems, the researcher applied clustering technique in teaching writing.

The research design used in this study is Classroom Action Research (CAR). This action research was conducted in cycle. The research procedure was preliminary study, which was followed by cycle comprising a numbers of steps. Those are planning, acting, observing, and reflecting. There are three meeting in cycle. In collecting data, the researcher used questionnaire, interview, observation checklists, field notes, and writing test.

The criterion of success is made by the researcher by considering the minimum mastery criterion or *kriteria ketuntasan minimum* at the school. The minimum mastery criterion or *kriteria ketuntasan minimum* was 75. This study is considered success if $\geq$ 75% students of the class achieved the score greater than or equal to 75 in the students' writing result. The analysis of this study shows that in one cycle the research was successful and there was an improvement from students' ability. It can be seen from the different mean in the preliminary study and the result of cycle. In preliminary study, the mean score was 47 and the mean score of the cycle was 85. It means that there was 38 points of mean score improvement. The result shows that clustering technique can improve the students' ability in writing descriptive paragraph.

Based on the result of the study, the researcher concludes that using clustering technique could improve the eighth grade J students' writing ability in writing the descriptive paragraph at SMPN 3 Blitar in academic year 2014/2015. It is suggested that English teacher should implement the clustering technique as an alternative strategy in writing subject.