

A STUDY ON THE TEACHING COMPARISON CONTRAST ESSAYS IN ESSAY WRITING CLASS

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Abstract:

Writing is an important part of language teaching as an essential tool for learning in which students expand their knowledge. Therefore, this research was conducted to describe the problems and obstacles of writing comparison contrast essays. The researcher analyzed the English students started from June 9th, 2021 until June 22nd, 2021. This research is descriptive qualitative research and for collecting the data, the researcher uses a questionnaire and interview the students. The data was analyzed through the steps of identifying and describing. Each questionnaire had different frequencies. The frequency of Data collecting easiness with the percentage was 42%. Ideas organization with the percentage of 46%. Starting the point with the percentage of 44%. Writing up the ideas with the percentage was 49%. For Mistakes correction with the percentage of 47%. Writing inspiration with the percentage 44%. The last is the Best paper in the classroom the percentage was 39. The problem and obstacles students are thesis statements, putting the right words, lack of vocabulary, and developing ideas. The most factors of problems and obstacles for students are lack of vocabulary and writing up the ideas.

Keywords: Comparison Contrast Essay, Students Problem, Teaching Writing.

1. INTRODUCTION

Writing is one of the important skills insignificance of the study, and definition of the key terms. Academic performance that should be mastered by students. Writing is one of the strategies that help students in developing their critical thinking skills. Paul, Richard, and Elder (2007) also stated that writing can communicate ideas into written form. There are three kinds of writing namely academic writing, job-related writing, and also personal writing. Brown (2004) stated that writing consists of three types including academic writing, job-related writing, and personal writing.

McMahan et al. (2016) claimed the purposes of writing are to express feeling, entertaining, informing, and persuading readers. Indeed, the messages should be written clearly and comprehensively. In an educational context, writing is needed to fulfill the varieties of academic situations, such as in composition classes and for essays tests, papers, laboratory reports, and project reports writing (Boardman & Frydenberg, 2002). Paszylk (2009) states that comparison contrast essay is an essay that comparing and contrasting two different topics focusing on the similarities and differences of the topics. Thus, the comparison contrast essay requires the students to find the similarities and the differences between two items are being compared. An essays is usually a short piece of writing which is quite often written from an author's point of view. Essays can consist of several elements, including literary criticism, political manifestos, learned arguments, observations of daily life, recollections, and reflections of the author.

Essays have become a major part of formal education. Students are taught structured essays formats to improve their writing skills, and admission essays are often used by universities in selecting applicants and, in the humanities and social sciences, as a way of assessing the performance of students during final exams. The concept of an "essays" has been extended to other mediums beyond writing.

Based on the RPS or Rencana Pembelajaran Semester for the Essays Writing course of the Faculty of Pedagogy and Psychology, PGRI Wiranegara University, it is hoped that students will acquire English writing in the form of essays of various types; description, narration, expository, and argumentation. And can write a three-paragraph essays (minimum 250 words) using different types of historical organization and using different types of paragraph organization.

A writing essays usually discusses the similarities, between things, while the contrast essays discusses the difference. In detail, Comparison essays tend to look for similarities in something compared. When comparing two things, the writer emphasizes the similarities between the things compared; however, when contrasting, the writer mentions the differences between them. The topic should be either compared or contrasted.

Some researchers conducted research related to writing comparison and contrast essays. The first one is Rostanti Toba (2019) entitled "The Current Issues of Indonesian EFL Students Writing Skills: Ability, Problem, and Reason in Writing Comparison and Contrast Essays". The analysis was to investigate issues of Indonesian EFL students writing skills, covering ability, problems. and reasons why they got problems in writing comparison and contrast essays. The convergent parallel of mixed methods was used to explore these issues by involving 52 EFL students of IAIN Samarinda who enrolled in the academic essays writing course. Some students experience problems in the aspects of writing, including content, organization, vocabulary, grammar, and mechanics. The second researcher is Rusni (2019) under the title "Improving the Fourth Semester Students Ability in Writing Essays through Comparison Contrast Essays in English Education Department of UIN Alauddin Makassar". There is a significant difference between before and after giving the treatment through a comparison contrast essays. Thus, it can be concluded the result of students' ability in essays writing also improved from average to good.

In this study, the researcher focused on students' problems in essays writing, especially in Comparison Contrast essays. According to two previous researchers, the problem faced by students is a lack of confidence. The inability to believe in one's abilities and skills is one of the most common problems in writing essays that students have to face. Inadequate Knowledge, Many students will also have difficulty writing essays on the topics taken. Then students have difficulty comparing and contrasting the topic itself. In essence, develop a series of comparisons that show certain similarities and differences to make it easier to read. Therefore, in this study, the researcher wanted to show the problems and difficulties experienced by students in essays writing, especially on comparison contrast.

By this condition, this research will conducted to the fourth-semester students of the English Education Department in PGRI Wiranegara University through comparison contrast essays to know the students problem and obstacles. So the researcher focuses her attention on the teaching comparison contrast essays with the title "A Study On The Teaching Comparison Contrast Essays In Essays Writing Class In PGRI Wiranegara University".

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

The Definition of Teaching

Teaching as an activity or process to help someone getting knowlege and learn to do something, and it includes a tranmission of sciences, skill and attitudes. The transmission ia a process of systemizing, conditions, task material and opportunities in order to help students acquire and construct new knowledge conducted by organizing and managing someones potential source. Brown (2001) asserts that teaching is guiding and facilitating learning, enabling the learner to learn, and setting the conditions for learning. It means that the lecturers understanding of how the learners learn will determine lecturers philosophy of education, teaching style, approach, methods, and strategy.

The Definition of Writing

According to Thanh (2015), writing is one of the most important skills in studying English because not only is writing an academic skill, but it is also an important skill that translates into any career fields. Muthoharoh (2016), states that writing is the presentation of spoken language, written language is almost same with spoken language and the difference is the performance of written language is conveyed in graphical. Most lecturer assignments are written forms such as reporys, giving written opinion, reviews, etc. It means that writing is important skill that must be mastered by the student especially in order to make them able to do the task.

According to Grenville (2001), there are three purposes of writing:

1. To entertain

Writing to entertain generally takes the form of imaginary or creative writing. Meaning that the writer need to use his/her creativity. It must not make the readers laugh, but engage their feeling in some ways.

2. To inform

Writing to inform has purpose to tell the reader about something. This kind of informative writing can focus on objects, places, procedures, and events. It can be seen in newspaper and articles, scientific or business reports, instructions or procedures, and essays for school and university.

3. To persuade

The writer tries to convince the reader of something that a point of view is valid by presenting the fact/data so that readers follow writer's opinions and act upon it.

According to Richards and Renandya (2002) state that the process of teaching writing consists offour basic stages. They are planning, drafting, revising, and editing.

1) Planning

Planning or pre-writing is an activity of writing that aimed to encourage and stimulate the students to write. Since its function is to stimulate students ideas to write, the writing activities must be prepared to provide them learning experiences of writing, such as brain storming and etc.

2) Drafting

At this stage, the students will focus on the fluency of writing and write without having much attention to the accuracy of their works. During the process of writing, the students must also focus on the content and the meaning of the writing. Besides, the students may be encouraged to deliver their messages to different audience, such as peers, other classmates and etc.

3) Revising

The students review and reexamine the text to see how effectively they have communicated their ideas to the reader. Revising is not a simply activity of checking language errors but it is done to improve global content and organization of the ideas so the writer's intention is clearer for the reader.

4) Editing

At this stage, the students are focused on tidying up their works as they prepare the final draft to be evaluated by the lecturer. The main activity done by the students at this stage is editing their mistakes on grammar, spelling, punctuation, sentences, diction and etc.

The Definition of Essay Writing

Pharr and Buscemi (2005) state that the essays is only one form of writing practiced in the academic and business world. According to Reid (1988), essays can be defined as a series of paragraphs about one object that has some parts; a beginning, a thesis sentence, a middle, and an end. A beginning is also called the introduction. This paragraph is the first in the essays. A thesis sentence is generally located at the end of the introduction. This is the most important sentence in essays. It contains controlling ideas that limit and direct the rest of the essays. A middle called the body paragraph of the essays. These paragraphs explain, define, clarify and illustrate the thesis sentence. Each body paragraph consists of a topic sentence and several supporting sentences. The last, and end called conclusion. This is complete the essays.

There are many types of essays writing, as mentioned bellow :

1. Exposition

Exposition is writing that explains or informs, A problem and solution essays is a specific type of exposition that identifies a problem and presents one or more potential solutions.

2. Argumentation

Argumentation is writing that presents logical reasoning and solid evidence that will persuade the readers to accept the point of view.

3. Description

Description is writing that enables to create a word-picture of persons, places, objects, and emoticons, using a careful selection of details to make an impression to the reader.

4. Narration

Narration is writing that tells a story. A short story is a particular kind of narration. Using relatively few words in essays form, the writer of a short story aims to create a powerful impression on the reader.

The Definition of Comparison Contrast Essay

Paszyk (2009) states that comparison contrast essay is an essay that comparing and contrasting two different topics focusing on the similarities and differences of the topics. Comparison contrast is to compare the similarities and the differences between two items. In order to write a comparison contrast essays, we will need to first select the two items or concepts that you will write about. When selecting concepts or items to write about, be sure to pick topics that actually have similarities rather than those that are complete opposites.

Comparison Contrast Essays Structure

According to Zemach and Rumisek (2005), comparison/contrast essays has its own structures. Based on the functions, it is divided into two types of structures namely comparison structures and contrast structures. Boardman and Frydenberg mentioned that there are four

types of connectors used in writing comparison/contrast essays which are transitions, coordinating conjunctions, subordinating conjunctions, and prepositions.

3. METHOD

Research Design

The research employed qualitative descriptive method as the research methodology. This is because the researcher analyzed the data descriptively and the presentation of the result was in a form of explanation of words which would be supported by data presented in the form of tables.

Settings and Subjects (Object)

In this research, the subject of the research is student of English education study program in the academic years 2019 with 30 student. The object of this study was to describe the students' problems and obstacles in comparison contrast essays.

Research instrument

Instrument are all tools used to collect, examine, investigate a problem, or collect process, analyze and present data systemtically. According to Siyoto et al (2015) the successful of research is much decided by instrument used, because data which is need to answer research question and examine the hypothesis gained trough instrument itself.

Questionnaire

Questionnaire is the list of questions or statements that are given to participants. Sugiyono (2008) explained that questionnaire is a technique of collecting data that is done by giving some questions or statements to respondent. In this research, the researcher makes fifteen items statement relate to beliefs in vocabulary learning strategy. Meanwhile, in this research, the researcher increased the statements "Problems Comparison Contrast Essay" stands for 7 statements, and Likert scale was applied as one of the most fundamental and frequently tools in educational and social sciences research. Related with the statement, the researcher utilized a Likert scale ranging from 1 to 5 as follows: 1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Undecided, 4 = Agree, 5 = Strongly Agree

Interview

Interview is activity that involves interviewer and interviewee where the interviewer will give some questions to be answered by interview. Ary (1985) stated "In an interview, data are collected through face-to-face or telephone interaction between the interviewer and the respondent". Thus, in this case, the interviewer has to conduct collecting data with doing interaction or communication directly. But, it can be conducted face to face or through via electronic. Meanwhile, in this research, the researcher increased the statements "Obstacles Comparison Contrast Essays" stands for 3 statements.

Documentation

A valuable source of information in qualitative research can be documentation. Sugiyono (2008) stated that documentation can be written and picture by someone that can be used to obtain information. In conducting documentation method, the researcher can provide

magazines, books, documents, etc. The function of documentation method is to make credible the result of questionnaire or interview. Documentation is the procedures used by the researcher to collect the importance data by seeking and taking all the data in the forms of written word.

Data collection

The process of collecting the data is the most important thing in doing a research. The data were obtained from English education study program in the academic year 2019. To collecting the data have a process there are : first, conducting a interview to the object of the study, The result of research is recorded and then analyzed. Second, taking or using a whole or the part of the recorded or the reported data from various sources. Third, arranging a questionnaire, that is the way of collecting the data using a list of questionnaires which has been prepared.

Questionnaire

In questionnaire, the researcher given questionnaire according to Mustafa Akcaoglu (2011) to the English student 2019 after the student got the comparison contrast essays material. The researcher shared questionnaires to all English students 2019 via the google form which was shared the link in 2019 telegram class.

Documentations

In taking documentation, the researcher collected the data by seeing the student respons when the lecturer given comparison contrast material.

Interview

In interview, the researcher given seven questions to English student 2019 PGRI Wiranegara University . The researcher interviews asking questions and recording the answers from eight participant in the study at a time by using telegram chat.

4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The Students' Problem in Teaching Comparison Contrast Essays in Writing Class

In students' problem in teaching comparison contrast essays, there were seven statements. These were the list of the statements as follow: (1) *It is easy for me to get ideas;* (2) *It is hard for me to organize my ideas;* (3) *It is easy for me to get started;* (4) *It is easy to me to write my ideas into good sentences;* (5) *It is hard for me to correct my mistakes;* (6) *It is hard for me to have inspiration;* (7) *I always believe that my paper is the best in my class.*

Based on question number one, 33,3% students answered undecided to easily get idea, questionnaire number two, 43,3% students answered undecided to difficult to organize ideas, questionnaire number three, 40% students answered undecided to be easy to starting point , questionnaire number four, 33,3% students answered disagreed to be easy in writing ideas, questionnaire number five, 50% students who answered agreed to be difficult in correction mistakes, questionnaire number six, 43,3% students answered undecided for difficult in writing up ideas, questionnaire number seven, 43,3% students answered undecided the easy to best paper in the class.

The questionnaire means that 50% of students have problems in writing compare contrast essays. it is known that students problems and obstacles in this form are writing inspiration, organizing ideas, and correction mistakes. According to the researcher, in writing contrast comparison essays, they need inspiration in writing so that what is the topic of the problem can

be resolved, and organize the ideas we have and do not forget to correct the results of the writings that have been written. so that there is no mistake in giving the difference between two things.

The Students' Obstacles in Teaching Comparison Contrast Essays in Writing Class

In students' obstacles in teaching comparison contrast essays, there were three statements. These were the list of the statements as follow: (1) *Obstacles in organizing and developing ideas and get over it*; (2) *Obstacles in vocabulary*; (3) *Confusion of the usage of transition signal or linking word*.

The results of students' obstacles by interview, it is known that students obstacles in this form are related to students ability to find a basis for comparison to ensure that the two things have enough similarities, and identify differences. Barriers to organizing and developing ideas and vocabulary. The ability of students in the form of vocabulary, tenses, the ability to connect sentences with other sentences is still lacking. This is what causes the learning process to write compare and contrast that is less precise. Similar to the opinion of the researcher, a comparison contrast essays cannot be separated from vocabulary, tenses and linking words. In writing a comparison contrast essays, they need the right words to describe two things. And also no linking word is needed so that the word becomes a sentence that can be understood.

Conclusion

As stated in the formulation of the problems in the previous chapter, this study aims at finding out whether there is a problem and obstacle in writing comparison contrast essays.

Based on the research findings and the discussion in the previous chapter, the researcher proposes conclusions, the problems in comparison contrast essays faced by NHF and LVR English students 2019 were thesis statement, put the right words, compiling and developing ideas. The obstacles in comparison contrast essays faced by YIM and FII English student 2029 were lack of vocabulary and usages linking word. 50% of students answered that it was difficult to mistakes correction and get inspiration in writing comparison contrast essays. 50% of students considered having the best writing in the class had good writing skills, and they things comparison contrast essays are easy to learn. 43% of students answered that it was difficult to ideas organization in writing coparison contrast essays. 40% of students answered that it was easily to starting the point in writing comparison contrast essays.

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