

# **TEACHING WRITING BY USING COW (COLLECT, ORGANIZE, WRITING) STRATEGY TO ENHANCE STUDENTS' WRITING SKILL**

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## **Abstract**

This research is aimed at finding out the effectiveness of COW (collect, Organize, writing) Strategy effective to enhance student's writing ability. This research used Pre-Experimental Research and it was conducted in ten meetings. The population of this research is the second year of SMPN. In determining the sample, the researcher used random sampling by taking fifteen students each class. The instruments were used in collecting the data through writing test. And then in calculating the data, the researcher used SPSS Program version 20. The findings of this research show that the use of COW (collect, Organize, writing) Strategy is effective in developing students' writing skill at the second year students of SMAN 1 Soe Kabupaten Timur Tengah Selatan (TTS) NTT. It was proven by there was a significant difference between the students' mean score of pretest and posttest. In pretest, the students' mean score is 26 and the students' score in posttest is 51. In addition, the result of statistical analysis for level of significance ( $p=0.05$ ) with degree of freedom ( $df$ )=  $N-1$ , where ( $N$ ) = 25,  $df$  = 24. The probability value was smaller than  $\alpha$  ( $0.00 < 0.05$ ). it indicated that the alternative hypothesis ( $H_1$ ) was accepted and the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) was rejected.

**Keywords:** COW strategy, Writing ability.

## **BACKGROUND**

Writing is one way to express our ideas, opinions, and feelings. When we are difficult or shy to say our ideas, opinions, or feelings to other people, we can do it by writing. In writing, we can express our mind freely, but writing is not an easy work because we

have to pay attention to the language use, content, organization, vocabulary and mechanic. In addition, Writing English is a skill which so compulsory. So we have to study how to write something. Sometimes, we cannot express our idea orally but we can do freely through writing. Writing is an activity to make a text (Pardiyono, 2006:56).

Teaching writing in classroom needs a method to make the students active and improve in writing English which are most important to the English teacher find solutions by creating effective technique in teaching writing ability. The teacher must be creative in selecting and preparing instructional materials and media.

One of the strategies that can be used in teaching writing is COW (collect, organize, write) strategy. This strategy will help the students in developing and arranging the ideas and also organizing the idea. By using this strategy the students are hoped to be more interesting in learning English and they are hoped not only know how to speak but also how to write English well especially in writing a paragraph.

Graham and Perin (2007:16) states that one of the strategy that can be used in teaching writing is COW (collect, organize, write) strategy. This strategy will help the students in developing and arranging the ideas and also organizing the idea. By using this strategy the students are hoped to be more interesting in learning English and they are hoped not only know how to speak but also how to write English well especially in writing a paragraph. In COW strategy, before the students write a paragraph, they collect and organize their ideas first. Beside that, they make a list of their ideas to make easy writing. This strategy can help the students in writing

because the students will be easy to memorize all steps in writing activities.

According to Harmer (1991:54), writing is productive skill. Writing is the process of inscribing characters on a medium, with the intention of forming words and other larger language constructs. The instrument or instruments used for recording, and the medium on which the recording is done can be almost infinite, and can be done by any instrument capable of making marks on any surface that will accept them. Writing can be done even on a grain of rice, and has been done as well with individual atoms (<http://www.foresight.org/Updates/Update09/Update09.3.htm> /). Most forms of writing are very durable, potentially lasting for centuries, while other forms of writing last only for a few hours or minutes, such as writing in the sand, or writing on a blackboard. Illegal writings are referred to as graffiti. (<http://www.wordiq.com/definition/Writing>)

Writing is also often used to describe the craft of creating a larger work of literature. This is an extension of the original meaning, which would include the act of writing longer texts. (Interestingly, if this is done on a typewriter, the physical act of making the marks on the paper in the typewriter would be called typing, whereas the intellectual activity involved in generating the letters, words and sentences would be called "writing," and there are similar situations, such as painting letters or words on a canvas or the like, in which the act of painting forms the letters, but the letters themselves are "writing".) Writing in this sense can refer to the production of fiction, non-fiction, poetry and letters. (<http://www.wordiq.com/definition/Writing>)

Writing is the mental work of inventing ideas, thinking about how to express them, and organizing them into statements and paragraphs that will be clear to a reader. Writing is a one way to develop our opinions, ideas or thoughts. According to Widdowson (2005:61) on describe that writing is the act of making up correct sentence and transmitting them through visual medium to manifest the graphology and grammatical system of the language. According to Manser (1995:480), writing is the activity or occupation of writing for instance books, stones, and article. Writing is a physical act of committing words or ideas, thinking about how to express them, and organizing them into statements and paragraphs. Writing skill is a key indicator of language ability and basic ability for studying various subject it influence to significance action nations, quality and educational performance.

Karen (1951) states that writing shifts the responsibility for learning away from the teacher toward their students. A good writing was done from a set of rule and principle, the teacher, duty was to relate these rules, and students then write in response to select this rule, and students then write in response to select written texts. In second language writing instruction, during this time as in native language instruction, the rules of writing were concerned more with correctness of form over function. But, in teaching writing, students spent a great deal of time in copying models rather than expressing their own ideas creatively.

One of the strategies that can be used in teaching writing is COW strategy. This strategy will help the students in developing and arranging the ideas and also organizing the idea. By using this

strategy the students are hoped to be more interesting in learning English and they are hoped not only know how to speak but also how to write English well especially in writing a paragraph.

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Then, based on the preliminary observation that the researcher has already done last time, the students' ability in writing at Senior High School is very low, especially at SMAN 1 Soe Kabupaten Timur Tengah Selatan (TTS) NTT. So related to the description above the researcher is interested to conduct a research about Teaching Writing by Using COW Strategy to enhance students' writing Skill at the second year of SMAN 1 Soe Kabupaten Timur Tengah Selatan (TTS) NTT.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

The method that was applied in this research was pre experimental research which consisted of pre-test, treatment, and post-test. This research was conducted at SMAN 1 Soe Kabupaten Timur Tengah Selatan (TTS) NTT. The population of this research was consisting of the eleventh year students. The total populations

at the eleventh year students was 119 students that consisted of 4 classes.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

This part deals with finding about the result of research that is obtained from the data analysis. The finding is based on the research the question that have been formulated this research. This research applied pre experimental research that is analyzed statistically. The method that used to describe the result of analysis was quantitative method the result of research was obtained by using "t" test analysis.

After calculating the result of the students' pretest, the mean score and standard deviation of both groups are presented in following table:

**Table The mean score and standard deviation of the students in the pretest and the posttest**

Type of Test	Mean Score	Standard deviation
Pretest	26.88	8.30
Posttest	51.64	10.49

The table above shows the mean score of the students pretest was 36 and the mean score of posttest was 56. Standard deviation of pretest was 8.22 and the standard deviation of posttest was 11.27. It means that using COW (collect, Organize, writing) Strategy in teaching writing can enhance the students' achievement.

The hypothesis was tested by using inferential statistics. In this case, the researcher used t-test (testing of significance) for

paired sample t-test, that is, a test to know the significance difference between the result of students' mean score in pretest and posttest.

Assuming that the level of significance  $(\alpha) = 0.05$ , the only thing which is needed; the degree of freedom  $(df) = N - 1$ , where  $N = 25$ , then the t-test is presented in the following table.

**Table 11: The Probability Value of T-Test of The Students' Achievement**

Variable	P-Value	$(\alpha)$
X2 - X1	0.00	0.05

From the analysis, the researcher concluded that there was a significant difference between pretest and posttest in enhancing the students' writing ability through COW (collect, Organize, writing) Strategy as a way to deliver learning material. The result of statistical analysis for level of significance  $(p=0.05)$  with degree of freedom  $(df)= N-1$ , where  $(N) = 25$ ,  $df = 24$ . The probability value was smaller than  $\alpha$   $(0.00 < 0.05)$ . It indicated that the alternative hypothesis  $(H1)$  was accepted and the null hypothesis  $(H0)$  was rejected. It means that COW (collect, Organize, writing) Strategy is effective in enhancing the students' writing ability.

Based on the result of data analysis, the researcher found out that the use of COW (collect, Organize, writing) Strategy is effective in developing students' writing skill at the second year students of SMAN 1 Soe Kabupaten Timur Tengah Selatan (TTS) NTT.

From the result data analysis, shows that the mean score of the students pretest was 26 and the mean score of posttest was 51.

Standard deviation of pretest was 8.30 and the standard deviation of posttest was 10.49. It means that using COW (collect, Organize, writing) Strategy in teaching writing can enhance the students' achievement

From the statistical analysis, the researcher concludes that there is a significant difference between pretest and posttest in enhancing the students' writing ability through COW (collect, Organize, writing) Strategy as a way to deliver learning material. The result of statistical analysis for level of significance ( $p=0.05$ ) with degree of freedom ( $df$ )=  $N-1$ , where ( $N$ ) = 25,  $df$  = 24. The probability value was smaller than  $\alpha$  ( $0.00 < 0.05$ ). It indicated that the alternative hypothesis ( $H_1$ ) was accepted and the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) was rejected. It means that COW (collect, Organize, writing) Strategy is effective in enhancing the students' writing ability. Based on the describing above, the researcher concludes that one of important point that teacher should accommodate he/she should give full the attention especially in writing skill. Therefore, in teaching writing one of technique that the teacher may use this technique in teaching, especially in writing or constructing ideas is greatly expected to make the students easier in generating and expressing their idea in different mode and sense. Actually, there some technique that we can use to teach speaking but the researcher using COW strategy, moreover the application of COW strategy gave good effect in enhancing the students' ability in writing.

## **CONCLUSION**



Using COW strategy in teaching writing can enhance the students' writing skill toward five components focused: content, organization, language use, vocabulary and mechanics. It was proved by students' score on each components focused. All students' score was enhanced for each component after conducting treatment.

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