The Use of Clustering Technique in Teaching Writing Narrative Text
(A Quasi-Experimental Study of Tenth-Graders in One Senior High School in Bandung)

ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to investigate the use of clustering technique in teaching writing narrative text. Thus its specific objective was to find out: (1) whether the use of clustering technique is effective in teaching writing narrative text, and (2) the response of the students to this technique. The research method used in this study was quasi-experimental and it was conducted in one senior high school in Bandung. The data in this study were collected by using pre-test, post-test, and interview. They were then analyzed by using the independent t-test to see if there was significant difference in the mean of both groups' score and the dependent t-test to see if clustering technique significantly affected students' achievement in writing narrative text.

The findings showed that clustering technique was effective in improving students' score in writing narrative text (post-test score of experimental group, M=57.57, of control group M=54.00; the result of the dependent t-test: $t_{obt} > t_{crit}$, (-13.422 > 2.045); $r = 0.621$). In addition, this technique was very helpful as it became the 'savings' of words which were needed in writing the narrative text, eased the plot construction, made a new alternative to writing with/without other brainstorming technique, empowered imagination, and created fun atmosphere in learning. On the other hand, the technique had three weaknesses including making the grammatical aspects ignored, taking longer time than students' usual writing routine, and its tendency to occupy students' focus so distract them from the task of writing. Finally, some suggestions are proposed in order to improve the implementation of clustering in teaching writing, such as paying the equal attention to the aspect of accuracy as to the fluency and assigning students to make journal or portfolio that contained their writing from time to time.

Keyword: Clustering technique, narrative text