

STUDENTS' PERCEPTION OF USING M-WRITE TO DEVELOP THEIR WRITING SKILL AT SMA N 10 MEDAN

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Abstract:

Nowadays, writing skill has become a very necessary skill among all of four skills in learning English. Through writing, one can express or tell the ideas, regulations, arts, and many more. It is no exception for students. It is crucial for students to be able to write because it is beneficial in the academic fields. This study aimed to investigate the students' perception of using M-Write since M-Write is a digital learning tool to develop the students' writing skill. The method used in this study was mixed-method, meaning that the data collection used quantitatively and then explained qualitatively. The instrument data were from questionnaire and interview. Twenty students of SMA N 10 Medan in 2022-2023 academic year were asked to give their answer on the questionnaire and five students were asked to do the interview. The result of this study indicated that the students' perception of using M-Write for their writing skill development is positive.

Keyword: M-Write, students' perception, writing skill, learning writing.

INTRODUCTION

Technology has been a very broad role for education. The utilization of technology in educational field has become one of the most frequently used as a learning media to enhance the students' English skill. Despite its flexibility, it also has the most practical and effective side when it comes to supporting the teaching and learning process. Technology enables the students to give their best learning outcomes because with technology, the learning process can be more fun and effective (Susanto et al., 2020). The use of technology can give the best solution for students who learn English because it contributes for the students' motivation and positive attitude that come with it Azmi (2017). This thing is correlated with the study of Hillson et al. (2019). In his study, he stated that education integrated with technology improves students' concentration and engagement to the learning process. Also, it can promote teaching and learning process that are meaningful for both teachers and students.

Although writing skill is important, many facts prove it that writing itself is still a problem, even among university students, especially at the elementary and senior high school levels (Fatimah, 2018; Alexander, 2018; Mirnawati & Firman, 2019; Mundziroh, Sumarwati and Saddhono, 2013; Tolibova, 2021; Wiranti, 2020). One of the factors is the low motivation to write the reason for this weak ability (Mirnawati & Firman, 2019). This is getting worse who have low reading motivation (Mundziroh et al., 2013). Several other obstacles can be the reason from lies in a lack of personal time to the process of writing activities (Aliweh, 2011; Moloudi, 2011), the ability to use learning resources (Holmes, Waterbury, Baltrinic and Davis, 2018), lack of media to facilitate writing practice (Bilal, Tariq, Din, Latif and Anjum, 2013) and the lack of involvement in cognitive processes to improve the quality of writing (Knox, 2017).

. Kharis et al. (2020) stated that students tend to have a positive attitude towards the use of technology in learning language. In addition, the integration between education for language learning and the use of technology are very beneficial for students. One of the technologies that the researcher is trying to elaborate is M-Write. M-Write is a digital learning tool for language learners, especially English language learners, to improve their writing skill. It is a free of charge application that enables both teachers and students to access whenever and wherever because it only requires internet connection.

M-Write was built by Sumarno, dkk in 2020. M-Write was based on improving writing skills by engaging students' metacognitive skills and a genre-driven procedural writing style aided by problematic scaffolding. The specialty of this application lies in the application of web-based technology can accommodate limited typing practice time, facilitating metacognition skills and implementation of process-based and genre-oriented writing approaches problem shelf. This application can be accessed via the website channel: <http://writing.devus-sby.com/>. This application can be used on personal smartphones computer or laptop.

Although in fact that there are still can be found some students that have a lack of writing skill nowadays, the researcher convinced that this application called M-Write can be the best solution to solve the problem faced by students to improve their writing skill. With M-Write, the students' difficulties in learning writing skill can be solved with its flexibility and easy access. The students do not need to pay more money to be the member of M-Write, they just need to sign up their M-Write account and get the class code from their teachers to start the lesson.

Based on the previous explanation above, the researcher would like to investigate the research question for this research, that is What is the students' perception of using M-Write to develop their writing skill at SMA N 10 Medan? The use of M-Write hopefully can be the new

sophisticated learning media for schools in order to facilitate the learning writing skill process as well as the utilization of technology to increase digital literacy for students.

METHODOLOGY

The method used in this study is mixed method. Meaning that the data is calculated quantitatively and then the findings and the result are explained qualitatively. This study was carried out in one classroom that is from X IPA 3 of SMA N 10 Medan and consisted of 25 students in total as the respondents. The instrument of the data using questionnaire as the primary data and interview as the secondary data. The questionnaire was divided into three parts, the first one is about the students' perception of using M-Write as a digital tool for English writing skill, the second is the students' perception of the benefits of M-Write to improve their writing skill, and the third is the students' perception of the challenges using M-Write to improve their writing skill. There are 15 items in total from the questionnaire. The calculation is using the Likert scale method that are Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Neutral (N), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD) with the scale is 5-4-3-2-1. Then, all of 20 students were asked to give their answers in the questionnaires given. For the interview, the researcher chose 5 students to be involved. The interview is about their perception whether it is corresponded to the answers they have given in the questionnaire.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

The findings in this study have been compiled and categorized into two main themes of this research; the first, the students' perception of using M-Write as a digital tool for English writing skill.

Table 1. The Students' Perception of Using M-Write as a digital tool for English Writing Skill

NO	ITEM	SA	A	N	D	SD
1.	I think M-Write can be a proper digital tool to improve writing skill.	12 (60%)	5 (25%)	2 (10%)	0 (0%)	1 (5%)
2.	M-Write keeps me motivated during the writing skill	8 (40%)	6 (30%)	2 (10%)	4 (20%)	0 (0%)

	learning process.					
3.	M-Write is user-friendly.	10 (50%)	6 (30%)	4 (20%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
4.	Ideas always come whenever I use M-Write.	1 (5%)	14 (70%)	5 (25%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
5.	M-Write really helps me to learn the English writing skill	6 (30%)	11 (55%)	3 (15%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

Based on Table 1. Table 1. The Students' Perception of Using M-Write as a digital tool for English Writing Skill. As we can see that all the answers tend to be strongly agree and agree. It is suggested that the students' perception of using M-Write as a digital tool for english writing skill are positive. The students think that M-Write can be a proper digital tool to improve their writing skill as well as their motivation. The other students think that M-Write is user-friendly, meaning that this application is easy to use. The other students think that they always get ideas when they use M-Write as their digital tool to improve their writing skill. The last item, the other students think that M-Write is a helpful digital tool that contributes their learning process in improving English writing skill.

Table 2. The Students' Perception of The Benefits of M-Write to Improve Their Writing Skill

NO	ITEM	SA	A	N	D	SD
1.	I learn new things from M-Write	2 (10%)	7 (35%)	5 (25%)	3 (15%)	3 (15%)
2.	M-Write makes me lose my energy to write.	3 (15%)	3 (15%)	2 (10%)	7 (35%)	5 (25%)
3.	M-Write gets me to stay	6 (30%)	8 (40%)	2 (10%)	3 (15%)	1 (5%)

	focused when learning writing skill.					
4.	I cannot make plans for writing when using M-Write.	2 (11%)	3 (15%)	2 (10%)	8 (40%)	5 (25%)
5.	M-Write lets me know how to develop my writing skill.	7 (35%)	8 (40%)	1 (5%)	2 (10%)	2 (10%)

Based on Table 2. The Students' Perception of The Benefits of M-Write to Improve Their Writing Skill. We can draw some conclusions that the students' perception is positive. It seems that the students agree if M-Write can make them learn new things. The students think that they disagree if M-Write makes them lose their energy to write. They think that M-Write is fun to learn from. M-Write makes them stay focused when learning writing skill. Next, they disagree if M-Write makes them unable to make plans for writing. And the last is, the students agree that M-Write lets them know how to develop their writing skill.

Table 3. The Students' Perception of The Challenges Using M-Write to Improve Their Writing Skill

NO	ITEM	SA	A	N	D	SD
1.	The internet connection makes it difficult to access M-Write.	1 (5%)	3 (15%)	4 (20%)	9 (45%)	3 (15%)
2.	My facilities are enough to access M-Write.	5 (25%)	7 (35%)	4 (20%)	3 (15%)	1 (5%)
3.	The website is hard to operate.	3 (15%)	3 (15%)	1 (5%)	7 (35%)	6 (30%)
4.	M-Write is digital tool that	4 (20%)	9 (44%)	2 (10%)	4 (20%)	1 (5%)

	is flexible to learn from.					
5.	I always got distracted by the design of M-Write application.	2 (10%)	2 (10%)	1 (5%)	8 (40%)	7 (35%)

Based on Table 3. The Students' Perception of The Challenges Using M-Write to Improve Their Writing Skill. We can see that students do not have a bad internet connection so they can access M-Write. The other students have enough facilities to access M-Write such as laptop, phone and personal computer. The other students disagree that the website of M-Write is hard to operate. The other students agree that M-Write is a digital tool that is flexible to learn from. The other students think that they disagree that they always got distracted by the design of M-Write application.

Discussion

From the answers of the questionnaires given by the students, the use of M-Write has been perceived positively by students. The majority of students found that M-Write is a proper digital tool to improve their writing skill. They love using M-Write because it is easy to use and is user-friendly. M-Write also keeps them motivated in learning English writing skill. Ideas always come in their mind when using M-Write, this makes the learning process seem more fun for students. They learn new things from M-Write, especially vocabularies. M-Write gets them to stay focused when learning writing skill. M-Write is a fun learning digital tool that makes the student focus on the learning process of English writing skill. This boosts their attraction towards the learning material as well. This thing also makes them know how to develop their writing skill.

From the challenges using M-Write, the students also give the positive attitudes towards it. It seems like the students do not have a lack of internet connection to access M-Write since M-Write only requires stable internet connection. They have enough facilities such as laptop, phone or personal computer to access M-Write so we can conclude that there is no difficulty faced by the students for this. The students disagree if the website is hard to operate. Meaning that the website is easy to operate instead. M-Write is a flexible digital tool to learn from based on what the students' answer in the questionnaire. Next, the students disagree if they always got distracted by the design of M-Write application. It means that the design of the application is designed well and proper for students and teachers.

The data from interviews show us that the answers the students have given are corresponded to the answers they have given in the questionnaire. They also have the same positive perception towards the use of M-Write to develop their writing skill.

Integrating M-Write with learning writing skill can be beneficial for students. With using M-Write, the students not only be able to learn new vocabularies to enrich their writings but also learn to write effectively. Which can be led to the improvement of writing skill for the students. By integrating M-Write as the digital tool, the students can learn new things, develop, make plans for their writings as it can improve their writing skill as well. The integration of M-Write in the classroom is proven to give the best impact on the students' writing skill improvement.

M-Write has the best potential to support the process of English writing skill teaching and learning. But unfortunately, M-Write also has disadvantage that it cannot be accessed if the

internet connection is bad, meaning that the students who have no internet connection will not be able to learn from M-Write. It is burdensome and ineffective for them.

CONCLUSION

Finally, we have come to the last chapter of this study. Based on the previous findings and discussions above, the researcher would like to draw some conclusions that the students' perception of using M-Write to develop their writing skill is positive. They also gave the corresponded answers for questionnaires with their answers in the interview. In addition, M-Write is a proper digital tool to be used as the new learning media to develop the students' English writing skill.

The researcher convinced that M-Write can be the new learning media to learn English writing skill to develop the students' writing skill. M-Write is flexible learning tool that enables everyone to access. It is user-friendly and easy to operate. The students are having fun learning from M-Write. This can build the students' interest and engagement to the learning writing skill material given by their teachers from that application.

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