

ABSTRACT

AINUN NURMALA SARI: The Use of Problem-Based Learning to Improve Students' Grammar Ability in Writing Descriptive Text: (A Pre-Experimental Study at SMPN 1 Cikarang Timur).

English is an international language used for communication by people around the world. The use of the English language requires several components, one of them is Grammar. Grammar is one of the essential abilities that most English foreign learners have. By learning grammar, people can understand a message contained in writing or spoken without misunderstanding. More of students assumed that learning grammar is bored and difficult. Furthermore, to eliminate the assumptions, the teachers need an interesting and enjoyable method in learning grammar. One of the methods is by using PBL (Problem-based Learning) which helps teachers to get students interested and make the teaching process more active. Furthermore, the purposes of this research are: 1) to find out students' grammar ability in writing descriptive text before using the PBL method, 2) to find out students' grammar ability in writing descriptive text after using the PBL method, 3) to find out the significance of the difference between students' grammar ability in writing descriptive text before and after using the PBL method.

This research used a quantitative method with the pre-experimental designs and *one-group pre-test post-test* designs. The data was collected by a test. This research used *Convenience sampling* as a sampling technique. Furthermore, the participants of this research were 30 students of seventh-grade in Junior High School. This research was conducted at SMPN 1 Cikarang Timur, which is located in Jl. Sertajaya No. 1, Cikarang Timur, Bekasi, West Java. The participant was given a pre-test before treatments and post-test after the treatments. The participants were given three treatments to implement the Problem-Based Learning method during the teaching and learning process.

The result of the data statistical analysis shows that the mean scores of students' grammar ability before being taught by PBL method is 47.93 with the low category, while the mean scores of students' grammar ability after being taught by PBL method is 80.73 with the medium category. Therefore, there was an increased in students' grammar ability provided by 0.63 of N-Gain result. It means that the students' grammar ability scores got improvement by using Problem-Based Learning as a teaching method. Furthermore, based on the calculating with paired T-test, t_{count} (12.997) is higher than t_{table} (2.045) with the Sig. 0.000, which is lower than 0.05. In the other words, it indicates that the alternative hypothesis (H_a) is accepted while the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected. It shows there are significance improvement of students' grammar ability in writing descriptive text after being taught by using PBL method for the seventh-grade students at SMPN 1 Cikarang Timur.

In conclusion, this research shows that the PBL method gives improvement to students' grammar scores. It is required for the teacher to implement PBL method in the learning process as a teaching method. Also, this method is recommended to make students more active and understandable in learning grammar.

Keyword: *grammar, problem-based learning, descriptive text.*