

Chapter II

Theoretical review

A. Writing

1. Definition of writing

Writing is one of the important language skills which is used in indirect communication. Learning to write needs knowledge and creativity. Writing is an act of forming the symbols: making marks on a float surface of some kind, but writing is clearly much more than the production of graphic symbols, just as speech is more than the production as sounds. There are several definitions of writing. Arif Sodikin says (2009: 6), writing is the expression of language in the form of letters, symbols, or word.

In a definition by Nunan, (2003: 88)*writing is both a physical and mental act. It is Physical because someone has to move his hand and fingers or ideas to some medium. It is Mental work because someone has to invent ideas, think about how to express them, and organize them into statements and paragraphs that will be clear to a reader.

According to Lamb: 2009 writing is act or art of forming letter and characters on a paper, wood, or other materials for the purpose of recording the ideas which characters and word express or of communicating them to others by visible signs.

Harmer (2007:323) states that the term creative writing suggest imaginative task, such as imagination, memory and tell back students in writing stories can improve students writing skills need a continue training. When the activity of writing is continually, students habit to explore their ides support them to have a good command of writing. The teachers task is to guide them in the form question answer activity to explore their ideas in the writing practices.

Based on the statement above the researcher conclude that writing is a process that allows writers to explore their ideas, and make their writing easy to understand by others. Writing also has to follow a certain rule in making each sentence to be a good paragraph.

2. The importance of writing

Harmer (2004:31-33) states that there are some importance of learning writing. There are:

- a. Writing encourage students to focus on accurate language use.
- b. Writing is often used as means of reinforcing language that has been thought.
- c. Writing is frequently useful as preparation for some other activities.
- d. Writing can also be used as an integral part of a larger activity where the focus is on something else.
- e. Writing is also used in questionnaire test.

3. Elements of writing

According to Heaton (1988:135), the writing skill are complex and difficult to each, requiring mastery not only of grammatically and rhetorical device but also of conceptual and judgmental elements.

There are five elements of writing as follows:

- a. Language Use: the ability to write correct and appropriate sentence.
- b. Mechanical Skills: the ability to use correctly those conventions peculiar to the written language – e.g. punctuation and spelling.
- c. Treatment of content: the ability to think creatively and develop thoughts, excluding all irrelevant information.
- d. Stylistic skill: the ability to, manipulate sentences and paragraph, and use language effectively.
- e. Judgment skills: the ability to write in an appropriate manner for a particular purpose with a particular purpose with a particular audience in mind, together with an ability to select, organize and order relevant information.

From the explanation above, it can be defined that a good writing should obtain the element of writing such as language use, mechanical skills, treatment of content, stylistic, and judgment skills in writing process.

B. Narrative Text

1. Description of Narrative Text

Narrative is a spoken or written account of a story (Hornby, 1995:772). It means that narrative is a kind of text that tells about sequence of events in the past. On the other hand, Mark and Kathy Anderson (1997:1) state that the narrative text are constructed to appeal to our emotical and imagination that can make us laugh or cry think about our life or consider our benefit. The narrative can be communicated using radio, television, computer files, film, videos, books, newspaper and magazine. This gives the idea that the narrative text can influence the feeling of reader or listener after they read the text. The reader and listener not only understand the event in the text but they can also feel it happen for them.

Mark and Kathy Anderson (1997:14) state that a good narrative uses words to paint a picture in our minds of:

- a. What the characters look like (their appearance)
- b. Where the action is taking place (the setting)
- c. How things are happening (the action)

From statement above we can conclude that in making a good narrative text the narrator has to describe about someone's appearance, setting and the action so that the audience have a picture about the text in their mind and they understand about content of the text.

2. Structures of Narrative Text

Mark and Kathy Anderson (1997:8) state there are five steps or structures in constructing a narrative text. They are:

- a. First is Orientation (can be a paragraph, a picture or opening chapter) in which the narrator tells the audience about who is in the story, when the story is taking place and where the action is happening.
- b. Second is a complication of event chain or action that influence what will happend in the story.
- c. Third is sequence of events, it is the step where the characters reach to complication. It can be called the action of the character to complication.
- d. Fourth is a resolution, it is the step which the characters finally short out the complication.
- e. And the last is Coda, it is the step that provides a comment or moral value based on what has been learned from the story.

3. Language features on Narrative

According to Mark and Kathy Anderson (1997:8), the narrative text usually has the following language features:

- a. Time words that connect events to tell when they occur.
- b. Verbs to show the actions that occur in the story,
- c. Descriptive word to potray the characters and setting.

4. Types of Narrative

According to Mark and Kathy Anderson (1997:18-30) there are several different types (or genres) or narrative text.

- a. Humor : a humorous narrative is one that aims to make the audience laugh as part of telling story. Humor consist of some features, they are Orientation, Complication, Sequence of events and Resolution.
- b. Romance : the romance narrative typical tells of two lovers who overcome difficulties to end up together. Romance tells about a couple that has problem in their relationship and their battle for happy life. Romance has the same features with humor.
- c. Historical fiction : tells about chracteristic of history and takes events of that time, reconstructed from an event, custom, or style in the past. The features of historical fiction are like the previous two genres.
- d. Diary novel : this type of narrative has the text presented like diary entries. It means that diary novel is the diary entries about the writers experience, feelings, hopes, and happenings. It has the same features with historical fiction.
- e. Science Fiction : science fiction uses a setting involving science and technology. The features of science fiction are

orientation, complication, sequence of event, resolution and coda.

- f. Fantasy fiction : in fantasy fiction there is a good and evil characters in every story. The features of fantasy fiction are orientation, complication, sequence of event, and resolution.

Fantasy tells about impossible events and is full of imaginations, for example s hero who has magical powers to defeat evil force. The fantasy narrative has the aim of entertaining the readers or listeners.

C. Simple Past Tense

1. The definition

Simple past tense is a verb which explains activities or situation that began and ended in the past.. It can refer to short, quickly finished actions and events, to longer actions and happenings (Swan, 1980:469).

Azar says that Simple past tense (1993:18) is used to talk about activities or situations that began and ended in the past, for instance *I bought an English dictionary yesterday*. The verb *bought* is a past verb and the word *yesterday* is the past time, signal that both of them indicates the past tense.

The simple past tense is used for an action that is known. We use simple past tense for a past action and situations, when we use definite

points of the time such as *yesterday*, *last week*, *last night*, etc. Learners will know the tenses used in the sentence by noticing the given verb.

2. The form of simple past tense

According to Suroso (2006;38) the pattern of simple past tense can be illustrated as follow:

Simple past tense pattern 1

Positive sentence

Subject	verb 2	(object adverb).
I	Bought	a magazine yesterday
They	Found	a book
She	Finished	the report in one hour

Negative sentence

Subject	did not	verb 1	object adverb
I	did not	come	here yesterday
He	did not	buy	anything there
She	did not	leave	anything to me
They	did not	go	out last night

Verbal question (yes no question)

Did	Subject	verb 1	object adverb
Did	You	sleep	here last night?
Did	You	send	your letter?
Did	They	work	last week?
Did	You	choose	this school?

Question sentence with interrogative

Asking for subject

who/what, etc	verb 2	object adverb
Who	Drew	this ball?
What	caused	the Diponegoro war?
How many students	followed	this competition?
Which colour	Gave	new situation?
Which team	Won	the last world cup?

Asking for non subject

quest word	Did	Subject	verb 1	object adverb
What	Did	We	write	last week?
Why	Did	You	forbid	me?
When	Did	Bayu	die?	

If the sentence use noun, adjective, adverb etc, as the predicate, in Indonesia its called nominal sentences, we use auxiliary verb be. The form be of simple past tense are "*was* or *were*". We use *was* to first and third person singular and *were* to the other persons.

S	to be (was/were)
I	
He	
She	was
It	
You	
We	were
They	

Patterns

(+) S + was/were + C

(-) S + was/were + not + C

(?) Was/were + S + C

Examples:

- I was angry yesterday.
- I was not angry yesterday.
- Was I angry yesterday?

3. Regular and irregular verb in simple past tense

a. Regular verb

Regular verb is changeable verb which depends on tense form and the change of the verb in regular (Mas'ud, 1992:118). Some verbs, which do not change in regular ways are classified as irregular.

Generally the regular verb ending for the simple past tense for all persons are in -ed. There are some rules dealing with the changing of regular verb forms (Mas'ud, 1998:36)

Here are ways verb changes from regular verb forms:

- 1) When the simple form of a verb ends in -e, only -d is added, for example, *change* becomes *changed*, *erase* becomes *erased*
- 2) When a one syllable verb ends in a single consonant (except c, w, x or y) preceded by a single vowel, the final consonant is doubled and -ed is added, such as *rub* becomes *rubbed*, *stop* becomes *stopped*.

b. Irregular Verb

Irregular verb is verb which has the some functions as regular verb, but the change is not regular (Mas'ud, 1992:18). The past form of irregular is formed by an internal vowel changes of those verb take different forms, for example the simple past tense of verb speak is spoke for all person (as well as the negative and interrogative rule).

Examples:

- 1) They bought a magazine last night.
- 2) I did not meet her two days ago.
- 3) Did Andi go to Jakarta?

4. The Uses of simple past tense:

- a. The simple past tense is used to write about action and situation that exist or occur at a definite or specific time in the past (often indicated by time expressions such as yesterday, last week, ten years ago, etc).

Examples:

- I saw movie last night.
- I did not see her yesterday.
- Did you have dinner last week?

- b. The simple past tense can be used with a duration which starts and stops in the past. A duration is a long actions often used with the expressions like *for two years, for five minutes, etc.*

Examples:

- I lived in England for three years.
- They did not stay at the party the entire time.
- How long did you wait for them?

c. An interval the past (customary or habitual) the simple past tense can also be used to describe a habit that stopped in the past. To make it clear that the writers are talking about a habit the writers often use expression such as: always, often, usually, never, when I was child, when I was younger, etc.

Examples:

- I studied French when I was child.
- She always carried Barbie doll whenever she want.

d. The researcher use simple past tense to list series of completed action in the past.

Examples:

- I finished work, walked to the beach and found a nice place to swim.
- I called my sister, took up her, and went to the cinema.

Consequently, a series of complete action in the past is used to state simple past tense and usually the time or action happen continuously.

e. When writing about something which is hypothetical, imaginary or in real, it is common to use past tense even though the imaginary is

going on the present. In this case, the auxiliary verb “were” is used. Even for singular subject or in other words the simple past tense is used in conditional sentence typed 2.

Examples:

- If I were rich, I would buy a car.
- If she were much money, I would go to Japan.
- If they patient, I would give this book.

(Mas’ud, 1998:36)

