IMPROVING STUDENTS’ WRITING ABILITY OF VIII A CLASS OF SMP MUHAMMADIYAH 8 YOGYAKARTA THROUGH THE USE OF MIND MAPPING SOFTWARE

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Abstract

This research was aimed at enhancing students’ writing ability of VIII A class of SMP Muhammadiyah 8 Yogyakarta through the use of mind mapping software. It was expected that mind mapping software can be used to improve the students’ writing ability in SMP Muhammadiyah 8 Yogyakarta, especially at VIII A class.

This research was an action research study that consisted of two cycles with four meetings in Cycle 1 and three meetings in Cycle 2. The subjects of the study were 28 students of VIII A class of SMP Muhammadiyah 8 Yogyakarta in the 2011/2012 academic year. In this research, there were two kinds of data in this research, namely qualitative and quantitative data. To obtain the qualitative data, the researcher conducted observation and interview. The instruments used in this research were interview guidelines, observation checklists, and students’ writing tasks. The qualitative data were obtained in the form of field notes and interview transcripts. Meanwhile, the quantitative data were presented in the mean score of students’ writing from Cycle 1 to Cycle 2.

The results of the research show that the use of mind mapping software can improve students’ writing ability. The characteristics of mind mapping make the students correct their writing especially in terms of writing aspects, namely content, organization, vocabulary, language use, and mechanics. The findings of the research are supported by the quantitative data. It can be seen from the improvement of students’ writing ability. The gain value of students’ mean score from Cycle 1 to Cycle 2 in the content aspect is 2.16; the organization aspect is 2.33; the vocabulary aspect is 2.2; the language use aspect is 2.43; and the mechanics aspect is 2.11. Besides, the application of ICT in classroom activities brings good effects on students’ interaction, cognition, and motivation in classroom activities. In conclusion, the implementation of mind mapping software is beneficial to improve the students’ writing ability.