



THE USE OF FREE WRITING TECHNIQUE TO DEVELOPED STUDENTS' WRITING SKILL AT UIN PROF. K.H SAIFUDDIN ZUHRI PURWOKERTO: STUDENTS' PERCEPTION

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ABSTRACT

In this era, developing writing skills is crucial for the students. Because they can make any types of writing text that will be necessary for their future career. In fact, every student and teacher in a writing class may be facing unique challenges. A rangesof writing strategies are necessary for an effective teaching and learning process. Without the appropriate writing strategies, the students will always face the difficulties in their learning process. The free writing technique is one of the appropriate instructional strategies for writing. This study aims to find out the students' perception about the use of free writing technique. The data were collected through questionnaires which were distributed to 33 English students of UIN Prof.K.H Saifuddin Zuhri Purwokerto. This research used quantitative method to describe the research result. According to the data, the majority of students believe that by including the free writing technique into their learning process, they may improve their writing skills.

Keywords: Free Writing; Writing Skill; Student's Perception

INTRODUCTION

English is an International language, this language has been taught in all over the word. However, English is quite challenging for students because it was not their first language. According to Richards & Renandya (2002), mastering writing is the most difficult skill for foreign learners. It can be happened because writing is considered as a complex process in writing class, because students have to set their ideas then write it on the paper to alter their ideas. In the academic realm, writing is one of the crucial abilities that students need to learn and be proficient in order to accomplish the goals of the academic aspect, which include running errands and gathering knowledge. In line with Harmer (1998) writing fundamentally need to be erudite. As one of the basic skills that students must have in learning English, students' writing abilities actually has an essential role in their academic lives, because it can help them to form their feelings and ideas. So, the students can pour their ideas through their writing.

Unfortunately, there are many students who still feel anxiety if they get the instructions to write. The majority of them believe that learning to write is incredibly challenging and complex. Typically, they struggle to come up with a concept, are hesitant to write for extended periods of time, and lack inspiration to create. Students avoid writing practice for several reasons, including the lengthy writing process, which they find unpleasant during the learning process. It is in line with Rahmatunisa in Rosiana & Yasmin (2017)

stated that, Students in Indonesia typically believe that writing is a tough ability to learn since it requires a lengthy process that includes planning, drafting, re-drafting, editing, re-editing, re-planning. In line with the previous statement by Richards and Renandya in Wibowo (2013) they identified that the most challenging skill for second or foreign language learners to be attained is writing. Actually, the problem and the challenges that students feel and face are not only about emerging and organizing the ideas, but also about how they can make their writing product into an understandable English writing. This mindset sometimes make the students indolent and lazy to write in writing class.

In teaching learning process, teachers must have an interesting technique to make the students enjoy, feel comfort, and understand about the matter. As Gerlach & Ely (1980) claim that the active teachers have many techniques and they have to prepare to select which will be the most well-organized in order to achieve the terminal behavior. One of the appropriate techniques in teaching writing to achieve the final goal of the course is free writing technique. This statement is supported by Elbow (1998), he stated that the greatest way to increase our writing skill is to do the free writing exercises routinely. It is also very suitable for beginner to express their knowledge and ideas in the form of writing. Some writers discuss that free writing technique has several advantages, such as to promoting writing fluency, improve students' English Proficiency, and minimize writing anxiety (Stover, 1998; Belanoff, et al, 2019; Penn and Lim, 2016).

Based on the explanation above, the writers can conclude that Indonesian students need some easy methods or strategies to make the students feel confident and enjoy writing process. The comfortable feeling can affect the students' motivation to write. Due to the fact that there are so many students feel afraid to write something in English. So, the teacher should have an appropriate writing technique in writing class. It is in line with Cantrikawaty (2008) who argued that it is very important to be solved by the teachers because writing is one of the ways to express the students' idea and opinion. Some researcher found that free writing technique is one of the most effective teaching writing technique that can be used in writing class. Therefore, the writer found the importance in investigating the students' perception about free writing technique that is commonly used by the teachers in teaching writing. This writing paper, sourced from journals and e-book. Then the researcher used quantitative method through questionnaires to get the data.

METHOD

All of the steps required to plan and carry out the research are included in the research design. This study is a descriptive research with quantitative approach. Because of the facts and features of a certain population or field, descriptive research seeks to accurately and methodically characterize something (Azwar, 2012:7). Given that the data in this study include percentages and numbers, the researcher's methodology was quantitative. The data came from the second-grade of English department students at UIN Prof. K.H. Saifuddin Zuhri Purwokerto which consist of 33 students, 26 were girls and 7 were boys, these students practiced free writing style during the second semester. Questionnaires are one of the data gathering methods employed in this study. Next, both open-ended and closed-ended questions are used in the interview design. There are 20 closed-ended questions on the questionnaire that are related to the elements impacting students' perceptions, and there are 3 open-ended questions. In order to process and interpret the data from the questionnaire, statistical techniques and quantitative descriptive analysis were used in this study.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A. Students' Perceptions about Free writing Technique

Based on the data, we have found that talking about the topic and topic arrangement of the positive perception are dominant.

TABLE 1/ Students' Perceptions about Free writing Technique

Statement	Percentage			
	Agree	Strongly Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. By using free writing technique, you can write in variety topic, so you will be more confident in writing.	72,7% (24)	27,3% (9)	0% (0)	0% (0)
2. You feel that you can get the topic easily when your writing class using free writing technique.	84,8% (28)	9,1% (3)	6,1% (2)	0% (0)
3. Free writing technique helped you address the writing task well and not stray from the topic.	81,8% (27)	18,2% (6)	0% (0)	0% (0)
4. You think that free writing is one of appropriate technique to generating the ideas.	81,8% (27)	18,2% (6)	0% (0)	0% (0)
5. Free writing technique was help you for developing your writing fluency.	72,7% (24)	27,3% (9)	0% (0)	0% (0)
6. Free writing techniques make you feel that you have the ability to write in English.	72,7% (24)	12,1% (4)	15,2% (5)	0% (0)
7. Free writing technique can be implemented before you get	81,8% (27)	9,1% (3)	9,1% (3)	0% (0)

	academic writing course.				
8.	Free writing technique is very suitable to be used by teachers to teach the students.	84,8% (28)	12,1% (4)	3,1% (1)	0% (0)
9.	Free writing technique can enhances your attention and concentrate in writing class.	81,8% (27)	15,2% (5)	3% (1)	0% (0)
10.	Free writing is an interested writing technique in teaching learning process.	78,8% (26)	15,2% (5)	6,1% (2)	0% (0)
11.	Free writing technique can help you to develop your writing habits.	75,8% (25)	15,2% (5)	9,1% (3)	0% (0)
12.	The implementation of free writing technique can you're your fearful mindset when you write in English.	78,8% (26)	9,1% (3)	12,1% (4)	0% (0)
13.	Free writing is an interested writing technique in teaching learning process.	78,8% (26)	15,2% (5)	6,1% (2)	0% (0)
14.	Free writing technique make you more responsible and disciplined in submitting assignments because you do not feel burdened with many rules in writing.	75,8% (25)	15,2% (5)	9,1% (3)	0% (0)

We can see, 72,7% students are agree and 27,3% strongly agree that by using free writing technique, they can write in variety topic. Therefore, they feel more confident in writing. Then 84,8% students agree and 9,1%

strongly agree that students feel that they can get the topic easily when in the writing class they have to use free writing technique although 6,1% disagree. Next, 81,8% of students agree and 18,2% strongly agree that free writing technique helped them to address the writing task well and not stray from the topic. Then 81,8% students agree and 18,2% strongly agree that free writing is one of appropriate technique to generating the ideas.

Secondly, the students' perception about increasing writing fluency and ability also dominated by positive perception. The first one, 72,7% students agree and 27,3% strongly agree that Free writing technique was help them for developing their writing fluency. Secondly, 72,7% students agree and 12,1% of them strongly agree that free writing techniques make the students feel that they have the ability to write in English, although 15,2% of them disagree. It can be happened because may be they still have an anxiety in writing. Third, 81,8% students agree and 9,1% of them strongly agree that Free writing technique can be implemented before they get academic writing course. Although 9,1% of them disagree. Some of the students have positive perception about that statement because they believe that if they have increase their writing ability they can write in academic course. Moreover some of free writing technique aims are to increase students writing ability.

Third, based on the table number 8-14, 84,8% students agree and 12,1% strongly agree that Free writing technique is very suitable to be used by teachers to teach the students although 3,1% of them disagree. It means that there are many students who agree that free writing technique suitable to be used in writing class. Then 81,8 % Students agree and 15,2% of them strongly agree that Free writing technique can enhances their attention and concentration in writing class. There are no students who disagree. Next, 78,8% students agree and 15,2% of them strongly agree that they feel interested in learning process when their teacher using free writing technique in writing class although there are 6,1% who disagree. Then, 75,8% students agree and 15,2% strongly agree that Free writing technique can help them to develop their writing habits and 9,1% disagree. It means that most of them can get positive habit from free writing technique that is form students' writing habit. Next, 78,8% students agree and 9,1% of them strongly agree that the implementation of free writing technique can omit their fearful mindset when they write in English although there are 12,1% of them who disagree. Then, 78,8% students agree and 15,2% of them strongly agree that free writing is an interested writing technique in teaching learning process although 6,1% disagree. The last one, 75,8% of students agree and 15,2% of them strongly agree that free writing technique make they more responsible and disciplined in submitting the assignments because they do not feel burdened with many rules in writing although there are 9,1% who disagree. Based on the data, we found that this technique really give many benefit for students.

B. Attitudes Toward Free writing Activity

According to Table2's summary of the findings, the majority of students had a favorable attitude toward freewriting.

TABLE 2/ Students' Attitudes toward Free writing Activity

Statement	Percentage			
	Agree	Strongly agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. Free writing activity are believed can helped you improve writing ability.	78,8% (26)	0% (0)	21,2% (7)	0% (0)

2.	Because of free writing activity, you feel you can write something without any fear that your writing will not accordance with the grammar and punctuation then it will be the worst writing in the class and you may feel you have not capability to write English.	69,7% (13)	24,2% (8)	6,1% (2)	0% (0)
3.	After doing free writing activity, you feel that it can help you to explain your ideas better than before.	78,8% (26)	0% (0)	21,2% (7)	0% (0)
4.	Free writing activity is very suitable to be implemented in writing class.	87,9% (29)	9,1% (3)	3% (1)	0% (0)
5.	Free writing activity make you more enjoy in writing.	78,8% (26)	15,2% (5)	6,1% (2)	0% (0)
6.	Free writing activity can improve your motivation to do the writing practice outside the class.	81,8% (27)	15,2% (5)	3% (1)	0% (0)

Indeed, 78,8% of them agreed that the free writing activity are believed can improve their ability although 21,2% of them disagree. Next, 69,7% students agree and 24,2% students strongly agree that free writing activity make them not feel scared again because of the grammar, punctuation that make them thinking their writing will be the worst in the class and they have no capability in writing. But 6,1% of them disagree with that statement. Then 78,8% of them agree that after doing free writing activity students feel it can help them to explain their ideas better than before. It means that free writing can give the students' improvement. Although 21,2% of them

disagree. Next, 87,9% of the students agree and 9,1% of them strongly agree that free writing activity is very suitable to be implemented in writing class. But there are 3% of students disagree. Then it is suitable to be implemented because most of the students that is 78,8% of them agree and 15,2% of them strongly agree that free writing technique make them feel enjoy in writing. However, 6.1% of students are in disagreement. Furthermore, while 3% of students disagree, 81,5% of students agree and 15% strongly agree that using a free writing style can enhance their motivation to practice outside of the classroom.

C. Student’s Opinion

After got the data, table 3 is the results of the participants’ feedback for the open-ended question about free writing technique. Approximately 96,1% (32) of participants provided feedback and 3,1% student did not give feedback. Based on the data, the data indicated that they like free writing activity because with this technique there is no much charged with the writing rules that make them depressed and afraid about their writing errors. because this technique, students did not afraid to write something wether it is wrong or not because free writing did not emphasize about grammar , punctuation and etc. So can omit their fearful mindset when they writing in English. They also believe that they can focus on a single subject and attempt to describe it, as well as write down and communicate a variety of ideas they have without being constrained by rules. They also like to use this technique because of do the ideas management that they have will be accordance with the topic of discussion. Based on the data, students feel ease to write because the writing process is carried out in stages. They also feel easy to apply this tehniue and can make them more confident to write, really help them avoid the hung up on just one part. Students also feel that free writing can form and develop their creativity and their writing habit. So, they feel this technique can improve their writing skills and in the future, they can get the technique supplies. So, they will make some book or novel in future.

Based on the data, most of the students agree that free writing technique are one of the technique that should be continued to use in writing class. There is also students that have the perception that free writing technique actually should be implemented in the class, but it is not necessary to be implemented continuously because there are other technique that they can used in the class such as mind mapping, brainstorming, etc. Contrary to popular belief, however, nearly every participant felt that the free writing approach should remain in use in writing classes since it eliminates the need for them to consider neatening up lists or charts like mind maps. They feel like that, because in free writing, students can express whatever their ideas and it can increase their motivation. The next reason is because they feel that free writing technique can help them to develop their skill about something without hesitation, for example revision on grammar, etc. Then free writing technique easy to implement and they can develop their ideas freely. Free writing technique also make them feel easy to find ideas and absolutely can help them to improve their confidence and improve their ideas for sure.

TABLE 3/ Students Responses towards Open-Ended Question

Question	What do you like from the implementation of free writing technique in writing class? Did you think that free writing techniques are one of the techniques that should be continued to use in writing class? Why?
Students 1	1. Able to issue all ideas that are in the contents of the brain regardless of whether my writing is wrong or not. Yes, with that we don't need to think about charts such as mind maps, or lists to make them look neat (or aesthetic).
Students 2	2. Because we can write down all the ideas we have. It doesn't have to continue to be used, because we can try using mapping or lists.

Students 3	3. I can deliver my ideas freely and by doing that, it can improve how my brain focused on one topic and try to describe it. Of course it is, because it can help our skill by writing freely about something without hesitation (re: revision on grammar, etc).
Students 4	4. Writing with various ideas. Yes, because with this technique we can hone writing skills.
Students 5	5. The writing process is carried out in stages, making it easier to write. Yes, because it is easy to be implement and I can develop the ideas freely.
Students 6	6. More freedom. Yes.
Students 7	7. In free writing, we are free to express whatever our ideas are. Yes, because with free writing we can pour the ideas in our mind.
Students 8	8. Free to write without having to comply with grammar and the others. Yes, because if the topic to be written is free, then it is easy to find ideas.
Students 9	9. The freedom for us to write what we think without thinking the grammar or punctuation first.
Students 10	10. A technique where we express all our ideas without being limited by rules. Yes, because that's absolutely can help us to improve our confidence.
Students 11	11. In free writing, I can improve my writing skill if in the future I will make some book or novel. Yes, because the essence of free writing is to explain all the ideas that come to mind and apply them to writing techniques.
Students 12	12. I like how free writing technique can omit my fearful mindset when I am writing English. Yes, I think so. Because with that technique, all students or college students can easily to write for a dissertation or thesis.
Students 13	13. I can express many ideas. Yes, although people's think is different, in my opinion free writing English is the one of the efficient ways to learn in writing class.
Students 14	14. Easy to apply. Yes, because it is very easy for us.
Students 15	15. More easy and free. Yes, because by using free writing, you can provide more ideas.
Students 16	16. With this technique we can write on various topics and can make us more confident to write. Yes, because I'm not the type of person who writes very neatly, I have to doodle first and then write a new one neatly.
Students 17	17. We are more able to express our ideas. Yes, because in my opinion the free writing technique is the easiest technique to develop our ideas in writing English.
Students 18	18. In expressing the ideas. Yes, because with free writing we can improve our ability to write English.
Students 19	19. I am free to write all the ideas I get without fear of being wrong. It is really helps me not to get hung up on just one part. Yes,

	because we are free to write anything related to the theme, we don't need to think about right or wrong in writing.
Students 20	20. Ideas Management. I think free writing technique should use in writing class because it help us to pour the ideas that have been obtained.
Students 21	21. We can express our ideas into writing freely but still organized. Yes, it makes me feel easier to writing.
Students 22	22. I don't know.
Students 23	23. The way to write sentences correctly. Yes, because it's useful to help my ability for writing.
Students 24	24. Choosing a word. Yes, for learning skills.
Students 25	25. Because with this technique we are not too charged with writing rules that make us depressed and afraid of writing errors. It does not have to be used continuously, but it must be applied in class, because there are other writing techniques.
Students 26	26. It's make me did not scared to make a fault. Yes, I did. Because it's recommended.
Students 27	27. We can write more freely by expressing ideas that arise when writing, of course, which are in accordance with the topic of discussion. No, I didn't. I think because every individual has their own way of writing and finding ideas.
Students 28	28. I like it because with free writing we can write whatever is on our mind. Yes, because it can develop our own writing.
Students 29	29. With free writing all ideas can be poured quickly even though it really needs correction. Some of it is necessary because it can train students' abilities, but in addition to free writing these activities should be interspersed with other things because each student has different characteristics.
Students 30	30. Because the free writing technique can help me in developing the habit of writing. Yes, because by using free writing technique, I feel that this technique can help to explain the idea better than before.
Students 31	31. What I like is that by applying free writing techniques I can define many topics and be creative. I don't think it's necessary because there are still many other writing techniques that can be used, maybe using a mind map and who knows, students will apply the mind map technique
Students 32	32. I can write freely. Yes, because to provide motivation in order to know the technique that must be done.
Students 33	33. Can improve my writing skill. Yes, because it provide motivation.

Actually, the essence of free writing is to explain all the ideas that come to the mind and apply them to writing techniques. Writing classes especially Paragraph-based Writing are highly recommended to use this technique to practice skills before making actual paragraphs. Because through this technique, all of the students can be easily to write a dissertation or thesis. This technique very help students to pour the ideas that have been

obtained and make the students feel easier to write each paragraph.

DISCUSSION

Writing skill is one of the most challenging things for students especially for Indonesians' students as second or foreign language learners. Some students struggled to come up when they have to make texts, due to the limited vocabulary. It is in line with Astrianingsih (2021) who stated that the students faced the difficulties when they have to describe something due to their limited vocabulary. It made some repetition in their text. Then the consequence is it made them feel uninteresting during the writing class. Not only that, the students also struggled to form their ideas into sentences and paragraphs while having concepts in writing because they did not master the grammar. For example they also still confused about the personal pronoun when they have to make English phrase. So we can conclude that the students had difficulties in English pattern. It is in line with Suharni (2021) who stated that the students struggle to create English sentence structures. It can be happened because the students have limited vocabulary. Even, vocabulary is very important part in to express their interpretations in their writing. We cannot neglect that many students are still unsure of how to structure their ideas in their paragraph-writing assignment. This could occur as a result of their limited word repertoire. It is required of them to formulate their concepts in each paragraph of their writing. It is in line with Rahayu et al (2023) who stated that the students' writing was imprecise due to their limited vocabulary.

In every teaching learning process, every teacher should have the technique to teach the students. Because without having appropriate technique, the teaching learning process cannot be an effective teaching learning process. Without appropriate technique, the students will get the difficulties in their learning process. One of the appropriate techniques that can be implemented in writing class is free writing technique. This study actually intends to answer the research question "what are the students' perception about free writing technique that their teacher had implemented to increase students writing ability?" and based on the result of the research, this research found that the students' have good perception about the use of this research because this technique give many benefit to the students' and there is improvement. It is supported by Dickson and Ferial (2013) research were found that the percentage of students' activity in writing class improved from 48% to 67%. It was great improvement because 19% students' ability had improve. According to Isni (2018)'s research findings, teaching writing via the free writing technique was notably successful.

Not only that, free writing technique also can help students to cope with the real problems and make the students enthusiastic. Then the students also have good responses while the teacher implemented these technique with other media and it is also increased their motivation. It is supported by McKinney (1976) who has identified students by instructed them to use free writing to cope their problem and at the end of the project indicated that students' enthusiastic to the free writing technique. In writing class, some students face the problem in grammar. It is accordance with Nai-Ying (2020) who identify that students often worry about grammatical correctness and format while they write. Free writing also can help students to increase their ability in writing. It is supported by Saleh (2021) who found that students in free writing program acquired better grammar acquisition and found that free writing improved their writing skill. In addition Nurrahmayani (2020) also found that free writing technique was significantly effective to build up the students' writing ability at first grade students of MA Al-Mubarak DDI Tobarraka. The students' also have positive response toward the use of free writing technique in the writing class. In this research we also found that free writing technique can help students generating their ideas. It is in line with Hengky (2012) who stated that he used free writing activity in his research

study as unguided writing technique and pointed out that actually free writing aim is to capture many ideas.

CONCLUSION

The results of this research are there are good perceptions from the students towards the use of free writing technique in writing class. Students also have the perception that free writing technique very suitable to be continued and used by the teacher in writing class because students feel they can easily use this technique. The students also have positive attitudes towards writing which make them feel enjoyed, interested, confidence, and focused. From the result finding we found that after used these technique, they feel they can find the topic easily, generating ideas easily, it have increased their motivation to do the practice outside the class, it can make them focused, interesting and they have been more discipline and responsible to collect their assignment because of the easy stage to use this technique. So, free writing technique is one of the appropriate techniques that could be continuous implemented in writing class because it is suitable to be used by teacher in their teaching learning process in order to increase students' writing skill.

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