

Contribution of Vocabulary Mastery on News Writing Skill

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ABSTRACT

This research is motivated by the results of observations during journalism lectures. When writing news, vocabulary mastery is required. Mastery of vocabulary is important in writing skills, including writing news. In fact, it is not yet known the level of contribution of vocabulary mastery to news writing skills. Mastery of vocabulary is important for one's writing material. Starting from this, this study intends to explain the contribution of vocabulary mastery to students' news writing skills. This study uses a quantitative approach with a distributional correlational method. The population of this study was students of the 2014 FBS UNP Indonesian Language and Literature Study Program. The sample consisted of 51 people taken by a simple random technique using the Taro Yamane formula with a precision of 10%. The data were collected using a news writing skill test and a vocabulary mastery test. Based on the analysis of the research data, it is known that vocabulary mastery contributes to news writing skills. Thus, the results of this study have implications for learning news writing skills. If vocabulary mastery and journalistic knowledge are not considered in learning, student news writing will be less good. So, it is suggested to some parties such as students to increase their vocabulary mastery; for lecturers/teachers to build student vocabulary through increasing reading assignments.

Keywords: Contribution, Mastery, Vocabulary, Writing, News

1. INTRODUCTION

Writing is a productive and expressive activity. In this connection, writing can be used to report, notify, and influence others without meeting face to face [1]. Therefore, in writing, one must be skilled. To become skilled, of course, you have to go through regular practice and practice [2].

Likewise in terms of writing news. A person who is skilled at writing news is someone who often practices writing news. News writing is writing full of information. News is a periodic report about an event that can be facts that occur in society [3]. Because news is a report, news is written accurately according to existing data and facts [4]. News writing must contain facts which are technically often referred to as the 5 W and 1 H formulas [2] [5].

The intense competition between the media in providing information to the general public has an impact on journalists who write news. A journalist must have the skills to write news quickly and accurately by considering the limited space in the media, without neglecting existing writing conventions. News must also be reported immediately in written form which must be published in the mass media immediately [6]. Therefore, news writers must compete with time when writing news.

The number of events that occur in a society that must be reported will certainly have a different effect if you use the wrong words. The right words will describe what events actually happened. Therefore, the vocabulary mastery of journalists or news writers is also very important.

Importance of vocabulary mastery is due to the following reasons. First, vocabulary is a basic competency that must be achieved by students to gain other competencies such as

reading, writing, listening, and speaking [7] [8]. Second, vocabulary is not a goal of language learning itself, it is done to write more effectively [9] and [10]. Third, the breadth of knowledge refers to the vocabulary that is owned, so that learning becomes easier [11]. Fourth, vocabulary mastery can help to use the structure and function of language correctly [12]. Fifth, the more vocabulary is mastered, the more connections, concepts, and schemes that can be brought into the understanding process [13] [14].

Vocabulary is an important component in language teaching [10], [12], [15]. The Mastery of vocabulary is also an important thing to pay attention to in writing news. Vocabulary is the number of words that are owned by each language called the vocabulary or vocabulary words or vocabulary of the language concerned [16]. There are several dominant factors that affect a person's level of vocabulary mastery, namely background of knowledge or certain disciplines, age, education level, and references [17].

In terms of using vocabulary in writing news, students also need to be mastered. Variations in word usage are of course influenced by the number of vocabularies that everyone has, including news writers. Mastery of this vocabulary is also closely related to writing [18] [19].

For decades, vocabulary learning was unimportant and has become one of the most neglected areas of language teaching. Practitioners are used to leaving students in charge of vocabulary learning. Fortunately, at this time, learning vocabulary is claimed to be a priority in language learning, one of which is writing [20]. The importance of the problem of mastering vocabulary and writing news is the concern of the writer. When writing news, vocabulary mastery is required. Mastery of this vocabulary is important in writing

skills, including writing news. In fact, it is not yet known the level of contribution of vocabulary mastery to news writing skills. Mastery of vocabulary is important for one's writing material. Starting from this, this study intends to explain the contribution of vocabulary mastery to students' news writing skills.

2. METHOD

Writing is a productive language skill [21] as well as expressive. This is because writing is a skill. Therefore, writing must be trained regularly to become skilled. Likewise, with writing news because someone skilled at writing news often practices writing news [22].

News is the latest factual information reported through the mass media [3]. Not all facts can be reported in an article. Sumadiria [4] states that news is the fastest report about facts and ideas. So, speed is important in the news. It is different from Kusumaningrat [2] which states that news is actual information about facts and opinions that attract public attention.

From the above understanding, it can be concluded that news writing skills are productive abilities that can be trained in conveying actual information in the form of events, facts, or opinions that attract public attention which is important to convey through the mass media to the public.

In writing news, there are requirements that must be met. There are four requirements for news building according to Sata in Ermanto [6], namely meeting the requirements of technique, material, form, and language.

Next, vocabulary mastery. Mastery means ability. In this case, mastery is a person's ability to use the knowledge or intelligence he has. (KBBI). Furthermore, vocabulary means vocabulary [23] . The same thing was also conveyed by Al-Qahtani [24] which defines vocabulary as the number of words needed to convey the speaker's ideas and meaning. So, vocabulary mastery has the meaning of a person's ability to use the number of words needed to communicate.

Vocabulary can be measured using tests [1] Furthermore, Djiwandono [25] suggests indicators of vocabulary mastery, one of which is receptive passive. This indicator has four indicators, namely demonstrating the word, selecting the word that matches its meaning, selecting synonymous words, and selecting words with anonymity.

This study uses a quantitative approach with a distributional correlational method. The distributional correlational method is used to explain the relationship between the variables studied by Sugiyono [26], namely the independent variable (vocabulary mastery) with the dependent variable (news writing skills). The population of this study was 453 students of the Indonesian Language and Literature Education study program, UNP, and spread into four groups (Year of Entry). Based on the consideration of differences between population groups, the sample of this study was selected from students of the 2014 class. The sample of 51

people was taken using a simple random technique using the Taro Yamane formula [27] with a precision of 10 [28]. The data of this research are the scores of the vocabulary mastery test results and the news writing test scores. The instrument used in this study was a test. The data were collected using an article writing skill test and a vocabulary mastery test.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A. RESULTS

Based on the results of examining the answer sheets of the two research variables, the following information was obtained.

TABLE 1. DATA DESCRIPTION

Statistics	Research Variable	
	Vocabulary Mastery (X)	News Writing Skills (Y)
Σ	4122.50	4116.66
M	80.83	80.72
Mo	83.33	79.17
Med	80.00	79.19
S	6.06	7.12
Maximum Score	95.00	95.83
Minimum Score	65.00	66.67
Range	30.00	29.16

Based on the data from the table above, it can be seen that the data from the two research variables are normally distributed. This can be seen from the difference between M, Mo, and Med. The value obtained for each variable does not exceed the S value. In other words, the difference between M, Mo, and the Median of the two research variables is smaller than the S value. In news writing skills (Y), the difference between M and Mo is 1.55 (80.72 - 79.17), M with the Median is 1.53 (80.72 - 79.19) smaller than S (7.12). In vocabulary mastery (X), the difference between M and Mo is - 2.4 (80.83 - 83.33), M with the Median is 0.83 (80.83 - 80.00) which is smaller than S (6.06). The complete data frequency distribution of the two research variables can be seen in the following table.

TABLE 2. DISTRIBUTION OF THE FREQUENCY OF RESEARCH DATA

Research Variable					
News Writing Skills (Y)			Vocabulary Mastery (X)		
X	F	%	X	F	%
95.83	2	3.92	95.00	1	1.96
91.67	3	5.88	92.50	2	3.92
87.50	9	17.65	90.00	1	1.96

Research Variable					
News Writing Skills (Y)			Vocabulary Mastery (X)		
83.33	10	19.61	87.50	4	7.84
79.17	10	19.61	85.00	9	17.65
75.00	10	19.61	82.50	7	13.73
70.83	5	9.80	80.00	8	15.69
66.67	2	3.92	77.50	7	13.73
			75.00	8	15.69
			72.50	2	3.92
			67.50	1	1.96
			65.00	1	1.96
	51	100		51	100

The hypothesis proposed in this study is that vocabulary mastery contributes to the news writing skills of students of the Indonesian Language Education Study Program, Faculty of Language and Arts, Padang State University. The results of the calculation of hypothesis testing are as follows.

TABLE 3. HYPOTHESIS TESTING

Correlation between Variables	Correlation Coefficient (r xy)	Determinatio n Coefficient (KP)	t _{count}	t _{table}
				$\alpha = 0,05$
Mastery of Vocabulary on News Writing Skills	0,4575	20,93%	3,60	2,02

Based on the table above, it can be seen that the variable of vocabulary mastery is correlated with the variable of news writing skills of 0.4575. Furthermore, the magnitude of the influence of the vocabulary mastery variable on news writing skills was 20.93%. This shows that news writing skills are influenced by 20.93% by vocabulary mastery, while the rest is influenced by other factors. Thus, the higher the vocabulary mastery, the higher the news writing skills of the Indonesian Language and Literature Education Study Program students, FBS, State University of Padang.

The test of the significance of the contribution of vocabulary mastery to news writing skills was carried out the significance test, namely the t-test and comparing the value of t count with t table. The test rule, if $t_{count} \geq t_{table}$, then it is significant, if $t_{count} \leq t_{table}$, then it is not significant. Based on the significance test using the t-test, the t-count value is 3.60 and the t table with an error rate of $\alpha = 0.05$ and $DB = n - 2 = 51 - 2 = 49$ at 2.02. This means that $t_{count} > t_{table}$ or $3.60 > 2.02$. Thus, the hypothesis that vocabulary mastery contributes to the news writing skills of Indonesian Language and

Literature Study Program students, FBS, Padang State University can be accepted.

B. DISCUSSION

The results of the data analysis show that the students' news writing skills, either per indicator or a combination of the four indicators, are very well qualified. This fact provides facts that are different from the presumptions raised before this research was carried out. News writing skills revealed through the results of research data analysis show that the average score for the percentage of qualifications is very good. The average / M value obtained for the four indicators studied (80.72) is in the 80-85% range. The average / M value for the 5W 1H technical indicator is classified as very good because the average value obtained is 79.74 in the 75-79% range. The average / M value for sentence structure indicators is classified as very good because the average value obtained is 76.14 in the range of 75-79%. The average / M value for the sentence structure indicator is classified as praise because the average value obtained is 88.56 in the range of 85-100%. The average / M value obtained for the spelling indicator is classified as very good because the average / M value obtained is 78.43 in the 75-79% range.

Starting from the data described above, it can be seen that students' news writing skills can be categorized into very good qualifications. The good criteria obtained by these students are related to the skills they have acquired during the journalism package course. Respondents are final year students who have taken a series of journalistic package courses, each of which has gone through training and news writing assignments. Also besides, it can be concluded that the students' news writing skills, especially those related to 5W 1H technicalities, news structure, sentence structure, and spelling. There is no difficulty in presenting all the news elements (5W 1H) in the news they write. The deficiencies found in the inaccurate selection of news and news sources. Although in general, the scores of students' news writing are very good, there are still difficulties in writing the main news.

Regarding news writing skills, the findings of this study are in line with previous research conducted [29]. The results of his research show that the ability to write news from students who have taken the editorial and news photography courses before attending Journalistic Practices is good because 40 out of 50 students who write news have met the requirements. From the results of other studies that are used as references in relevant research, it can also be concluded that with some practice and treatment, news writing skills can be achieved well. As is the case with other research [30] which uses classical music in writing news. From some of these research results, it can be seen that writing skills, especially news writing, can get good results due to sufficient practice. This is in line with the statement that writing skills do not come automatically, but must go through a lot of practice and regular practice [31].

Next, vocabulary mastery. The results of the data analysis show that the vocabulary mastery of the students, either per

indicator or a combination of the three indicators, is very well qualified. It is known from the mean value (M) of the students' vocabulary mastery score of 80.83 (4122.5 / 51) in the 80-84% range.

Based on the description of the data above, it appears that the vocabulary mastery of students, in general, can be categorized into very good qualifications. From the three indicators, information was obtained that on average qualified students were very good at the mastery of vocabulary, especially in terms of choosing words according to meaning, choosing synonymous words, and choosing words without anonymity. This can also be seen from each indicator whose highest score distribution is on the qualification with praise. In indicator 1, student qualifications vary from praise, excellent, good, more than enough, insufficient, insufficient, and failing. The existence of qualifications fails to show that although overall, the qualifications are very good on average, there are still some that are not. Meaning is very important in vocabulary mastery. This is in accordance with the opinion which says that meaning becomes the content of communication capable of producing certain information [32].

Hypothesis testing conducted shows that the hypothesis proposed in this study is accepted. The vocabulary mastery variable (X) contributed to the news writing skill variable (Y) by 20.93%. This fact shows that news writing skills will be better if vocabulary mastery is also good. In other words, the higher the vocabulary mastery, the better the students' news writing skills. Good news writing is impossible if it is not supported by good vocabulary mastery. Mastery of vocabulary can be obtained through experience, reading books and literature, reading dictionaries, and others.

Although vocabulary mastery is only one of the linguistic abilities besides language structure, use of spelling, etc., vocabulary mastery cannot be ignored. Writing, including writing news, is a language skill that requires expertise in interpreting facts found in the field. If it is related to the opinion that news is the fastest report on facts or ideas through periodic media [4], it can be ascertained that a news writer must be able to master vocabulary, both giving meaning to facts, understanding good words synonyms or an antonym for a word related to the events or facts found.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of the research data, it is known that vocabulary mastery contributes to news writing skills. That is, this research hypothesis is accepted. Thus, the results of this study have implications for learning news writing skills. If vocabulary mastery is not considered in learning, student news writing will be less good. So, it is suggested to some parties such as students to increase their vocabulary mastery through learning and experience; for lecturers/teachers to build student journalistic vocabulary and knowledge through increasing reading assignments.

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