



# Community of Blind Writers in Indonesia: An Appreciative Perspective

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**Abstract.** The study of contextual writing is currently the concern of various parties, one of which is related to the writing community. In this regard, this article aims to explore the Indonesian blind writing community. The method used in this study is qualitative because the researcher focuses more on narrative data. Respondents in this study amounted to 101 respondents who are members of the Indonesian blind writing community, with a distribution of 45.5% male and 55.5% female. Data collection techniques were carried out using two models, namely interviews and questionnaires. Data analysis techniques used identification, classification, reduction, exposure, verification, and finalization stages. The research results show that first, the community of blind writers is a community of blind writers that is still new but has members spread across various regions, starting from East Java, Central Java, West Java, Papua, Sumatra, and Kalimantan. This shows that this community is categorized as in demand by friends from all over the country. Second, the Indonesian blind writing community is a writing community that is still new among the blind. Even so, their interest and motivation in writing are categorized as high. Until now, they, as a writing community, have produced writings that have been published in the mass media as well as books that have been published nationally.

**Keywords:** Writing Community, Disability, Blindness, Motivation.

## 1 Introduction

The study of writing in various contexts is highly complex because it involves various understandings of language, psychology, and sociocultural factors. Therefore, writing is included in the multi-perspective category. The study of writing is an interesting matter in the academic or non-academic world [1], [2]. This shows that writing as an aspect of language skills is indeed urgent for various segments of life, both among children, adolescents, and adults. The urgency of writing cannot be denied because modern humans cannot be separated from the demands of writing as demands of work or necessities of life. Currently, the level of writing (in this case, literacy) among adolescents and adults (in Indonesia), is still minimal [3].

Writing as a study is of great concern to researchers with linguistic or interdisciplinary concerns. This is caused by the factor of writing, which is the most complex skill in language, so it has the highest difficulty level. In the last ten years, several studies

on writing have shown that writing strategies are essential in efforts to improve writing skills [4], [5], writing strategies [6], [7], [8], [9], [10], and writing motivation [11], [12], [13] which will influence other skill contexts, for example, reading or cognitive abilities. Writing is not easy because it requires complex skills and tenacity from the writer [14]. Therefore, to be successful and able to write the expert category requires a simultaneous and longitudinal process. The more often someone writes, the better the writing. Not only that, but high development hours are also influential in one's success in writing.

Facts on the ground at this time indeed show a cause for concern about writing [15]. First, writing is a talent, so not everyone can write well. This causes the emergence of the view that writing is difficult because it requires high talent. Second, the space for writing does not facilitate people wanting to write. Third, the lack of motivation in terms of writing contained in the teacher. Of course, this fact is not a measuring stick in terms of the lack of interest in writing in prospective writers. However, various background factors make the writing segment sometimes inferior to other activities. Writing can go through various segments [16], [17], [18], [19], [20] that can be done by the writer. Thus, a novice writer will not have the excuse that writing is a difficult thing to do.

About writing persons with disabilities also can write, both scientific and non-scientific writing. As writers, they also produce works published in the mass media. One of the disabilities that has the potential to write is the blind disability. However, several obstacles, for example, the lack of training facilities for writing for them (with visual impairments) as well as time and busyness, are factors causing the lack of writing production and demotivation in writing. Factors in writing do not only arise from aspects of one's writing competence but also one's psychological factors in writing [21], [22], [23], starting from the beginning, the process, up to post-writing. In addition, writing also needs to be modified so that participants can be more optimal in writing [24]. Recently, research on writing disabilities has been linked to the tools required for writing. The study results show that writing for people with disabilities has not been optimal and requires writing aids [25]. For this reason, this article aims to explore the community of blind writers in Indonesia.

In this context, the researcher cooperates with psychology lecturers who will strengthen motivation and ideas in writing associated with cognitive psychology, psychology which addresses issues of motivation, ideas, and the relation of language to psychology [25], [26], [27], [28], [29], [30]. In addition, in this context, the researcher explored to what extent the interest and motivation in writing among the Indonesian blind. Indeed, the problem of authorship is a major problem in the current context. This is due to various factors, namely as follows (a) the lack of writing training activities for persons with visual impairments; (b) there is still a minimum number of works by blind people with disabilities in writing; (c) the lack of motivation in the psychological context of writing among people with visual impairments; (d) the lack of simultaneous writing training for the blind.

So far, many writing communities have sprung up and offered various breakthroughs in writing. For example, there are writing communities in Indonesia, the Lingkar Pena Forum, the Online Writing Community, the Indonesian Writers' House,

the Writers' Communication Forum, and the One Pen Forum. All communities are associations of writers who want to have a place to write. However, in this context, it is still very rare to accommodate the blind writing community in Indonesia. One such community is the Indonesian Netra Writing Community. This community is a community that has just emerged in 2023 and already has around 100 members. This community is new, so it is still in the process of strengthening the existence of the community.

## 2 Methods

This research is research that uses qualitative methods. Therefore, the data used in this study are related to narratives presented verbally [31], [32]. Data collection techniques in this study used two models, namely interviews and questionnaires. Interview techniques are used to obtain accurate data from respondents related to their talents, interests, and work related to writing. The collection was carried out to capture data related to biodata and written works, both in the form of academic or creative works they have produced. Respondents in this study were blind people from various regions in Indonesia, totaling 101 participants, male 45,5%, female 55,5%.

Respondent data for the blind are categorized as students and non-students. For non-student categories, namely students, workers, and writers. Data analysis techniques were carried out by researchers using the stages of identification, classification, reduction, exposure, verification, and finalization.

## 3 Results and Discussion

### 3.1 Stage 1: Respondent Data Filtering

To recognize and understand the Indonesian blind writing community, researchers carried out data filtering stages for respondents who came from various cities in Indonesia. The data filtering is used to capture initial data related to the respondent's full name, gender, hobbies, home address, age, and status. At this stage, the researcher screened the respondent's data using interviews. Through the interview, the respondents revealed their respective biodata. Some respondents were open and others were closed when asked about marital status.

This interview process was conducted on May 22, 2023. Not all respondents were interviewed. Only a sample because interviewing all respondents would take a long time. For this reason, the researcher only selected the sample. To facilitate data collection, the researcher also provided a questionnaire so that respondents filled in personal data, which is expected to help researchers identify the identity of the blind.

They, the blind who are members of the Indonesian blind writing community, have not all become writers. According to an explanation from the head of the blind community, Nizar revealed, "Most of my friends who are members of the Indonesian blind writing community are still learning to write. Some of them don't even have any

work at all.” For this reason, this community of Indonesian blind writers was formed so that the blind can have a place to write.

### 3.2 Stage 2: Exploration of Blind Writing Data

After filtering the respondent's data, the research moved on to the second stage. At this stage, the researcher explored the writing data of the Indonesian blind. In this stage, the researcher developed instruments related to the interest and productivity of writing for the blind.

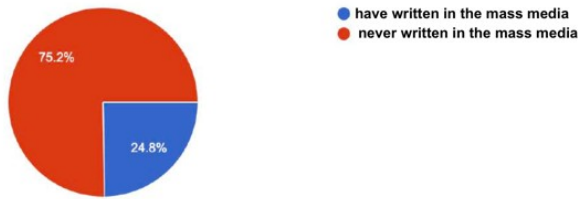


Fig. 1. Article writing productivity.

Based on the figure, it can be seen that 75 percent of the blind respondents have works/written in the mass media, while the remaining 24.8 percent have never written in the mass media. Respondents who produced the most works in the mass media were dominated by students, in second place were students, third were workers, and last were writers.

As for productivity in writing books, whether writing books independently or collectively, respondents answered that around 28 percent had written books that were published. Meanwhile, 72 percent responded that they had never written a book. This picture is shown in the following figure.

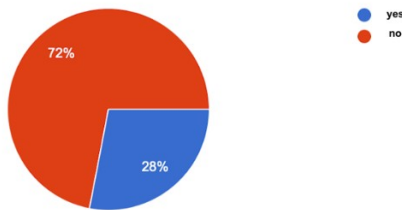


Fig. 2. Book writing productivity.

The productivity of writing books is the opposite of the productivity of writing articles in the mass media. They find it challenging to write a book because it takes more time and energy than writing poetry or articles published in the mass media. In addition, so far, they have also experienced difficulties publishing books to publishers.

Regarding the interest of the respondents to enter the blind writing community, the following data were obtained. First, around 70 percent of respondents answered that they wanted to gain knowledge and experience in writing. Because of that, they joined the Indonesian blind writing community. Second, around 20 percent of respondents answered that they joined friends in the Indonesian blind community to get new friends/relationships so they could share knowledge, especially in terms of writing. Third, 10 percent of respondents answered that they have a hobby of writing, which so far has not been optimal. As a new community, they want to strengthen their writing activities so that they can become good writers.

## 4 Conclusion

Based on the above explanation, the following conclusions are obtained. First, the community of blind writers is a community of blind writers that is still new. Still, it has members spread across various regions, starting from East Java, Central Java, West Java, Papua, Sumatra, and Kalimantan. This shows that this community is categorized as in demand by friends from all over the country.

Second, the Indonesian blind writing community is a writing community that is still new among the blind. Even so, their interest and motivation in writing are categorized as high. Until now, they, as a writing community, have produced writings that have been published in the mass media as well as books that have been published nationally.

In a universal context, a writing community for the blind is needed as a means/place to strengthen the field of writing for people with visual impairments. In addition, in a universal context, the writing community for the blind shows that blind people with disabilities can also write.

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