

# Stimulating Efl (English As Foreign Language) Students' Writing Skill By Using Social Media

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## Abstrak

*This study was concerned to stimulate EFL (English As foreign language) students' ability for writing English especially descriptive sentences in social media. The growth of Social Media with various platforms like Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, Youtube and many others have interested the youngsters or teenagers to take part in those platforms. The youngsters, teenagers, students love posting pictures, photos, sharing information even learning and studying some lessons can be done from the social media like Ruang Guru, English Today Medan, gurukumrd and many others account which share knowledge in fun way. Students love posting good pictures with simple caption in Bahasa Indonesia sometimes commonly used by Indonesian students. As we know that social media one of the fastest way to learn something. Nowadays, people can get benefit information until education from the media like Facebook, Insatgram, Twitter and many others. Those social media can stimulate the students to learn English because the information comes from around the world. People can do communication faster by the scoial media nad mostly the international language used in social media is English. Social media trend and lifestyle among the teenagers should be a good opportunity for the English trainers to stimulate EFL students to learn Englis, especially for writing descriptive sentence. Descriptive sentence is commonly used to describe a post, interesting picture, photo to be more and understoodable by the readers, not only in Indonesia but also the readers from around the world. Good English caption will ease the people around the world to comprehend the meaning of caption. The method of writing English descriptive sentences can be trained by teaching it in the level of secondary schools where the teenagers are the most active social media audiences based on the research in 2018 especially the instagram users are 53 million with the percentage of 49 percent female users, 51 percent male users. Based on the research, rather than wasting time to use social media with no purpose, educating the social media users especially the teenagers are needed to be taken, the role of English teachers to stimulate the students about writing English descriptive sentences will accomodate the ability of Indonesian students to enhance English writing skill through social media.*

**Keywords:** Stimulating EFL Students, writing skill, social media

## 1. INTRODUCTION

According to the research hosted by We Are Social and Hootsuite in 2018, there are about 265,4 million of population in Indonesia and half of the population number are internet users about 132,7 milion. The number of active social media users are about 130 milion. The scoial media platforms used by Indonesians are Youtube 43 %, Facebook 41 %, Whatsapp 40 %, Instagram 38 %, Line 33 %, BBM 28 %, Twitter 27 %, Google+ 25 %, FB Messenger 24 %, LinkedIn 16 %, Skype 15 %, and WeChat 14 %. The platform like Instagram is interesting media to share picture and photos with high quality visual performance. Instagram now can interest the users to share not only high quality pictures and photo for art needs but also to promote products and information complete with interesting pictures and photos. Instagram connect the people from around the world with only hashtag. The unique of instagram, now it can be the best platform to promote everything not only manufacture products but also culture, tourism, in addition education. the unique of Instagram has been a lifestyle among the users mostly the teenagers, they often post pictures into instagram, people around the world learn about new culture, food, from one place from Instagram. It is a good opportunity for the country like Indonesia where half of its population are the social media users, to promote local culture, even to tourism activity to be more popular in international society.

Indonesia is a country with Bahasa Indonesia as the national language and apply English as foreign language. English is not widely used as daily communication both in real life or in social media activity. English is taught in schools and campuses but not all the students are capable to speak English properly. Nowadays in Indonesia lots of schools that use English as the language of instruction, the students are capable enough to speak English, unfortunately the schools with Bahasa Indonesia as the language of instruction rarely have the students who are capable to speak English fluently, even in the level of university students, they are not well trained enough to have productive skills in English; speaking and writing, English trainers must stimulate the students by the easiest step [6]. One of the sample of simulation in teaching writing is preparing media as the brainstorming to stimulate students' idea for writing like using pictures or another media [5].

### 1.1 The Problems of the Study

The problems of the study of the research are formulated as in the following.

1. How to stimulate EFL students' writing skill?
2. What are the results of stimulation given by teachers to EFL students?

### 1.2 The Objectives of the Study

In relation to the problems, the objectives of the study are:

1. to elaborate the teaching plan used by teachers to stimulate EFL students writing skill
2. to find out the results of stimulation toward the skill of writing by EFL students

## 2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Writing is one of four important skills in English; Listening, speaking, reading, and writing [1]. Writing is written product of thinking, drafting, and revising that requires specialized skill on how to produce or generate ideas, how to recognize them coherently, how to used discourse makers and rhetorical conventional to put them cohesively into a written text [1]. Speaking and writing are called as productive skill because by speaking and writing people can build communication each others [1]. Writing is an activity to convey message in a written form, make people to be comprehend clearly about a situation, activity and things. Descriptive sentence is unit of language which describes objects, things, places, experiences, persons and situations, the writer use sensory information to enable readers to use their five senses of touch, taste, smell, hearing and sight to understand the topic of essay, furthermore description is about sensory experience – how something looks, sounds, tastes. Mostly it is about visual experience, but description also deals with other kinds of perception [2]. Descriptive writing is one of five kinds of writing; the first is expository to explain or giving information, the second is descriptive writing to show or to describe something, the third is persuasive writing to for arguing or gainst the issue, the fourth is creative writing like fiction, screenplay, poetry, drama, and others, the fifth is narrative writing like telling story or entertains the readers [3]. Writing English descriptive sentences in social media is a productive activity in written form to describe a picture to be more understandable by the readers as they can touch, taste, smell and experience the ideas of the writer about a picture.

Writing English descriptive sentences must follow seven aspects of effective writing; grammar, vocabulary, spelling, punctuation, layout, linking, style [3] [4]. Ideally, writing caption in a social media must be done by following grammar rules, like the using of tenses, modals, pronoun and others. Choosing the most suitable vocabulary or diction, do not use any impolite word. Spelling can be checked by utilizing the spelling application checker in mobil phone or online dictionary to avoid the mistakes. Punctuation is also important because by the correct punctuation the readers will be understand to read some sentences. Lyout, linking and style are aslo important aspects to arrange the words into good sentences which are interesting to be read by the readers.

Five stages of teaching writing according to Harmer; the first is demonstrating, the teacher gives example about text to the students including the purpose, social function of the text, grammar and features of the text. The second is motivating and provoking the students. The third is stimulating students with pictures, photos for generating student's idea. The fourth is supporting by giving a favour to the students to solve the problems. The fifth is giving comment as the evaluation or assesment to the student's work [5]. By visualizing to objects or pictures, students can get ideas, can describe, can share the feeling in a written form. Stimulation can arise from seeing the color, shape, size, composition, time and other setting seen in pictures. Pictures can stimulate students to write, the methods of stimulating can be done by asking the students to look at the picture then they describe it in a paper. The second is using story task by giving random objects or series of pictures [5]. Social Media as the platform of learning inthe classroom has changed the way of learning in this modern era. Students are eased to find information through social media and it turns to be lifestyle. Teachers are demanding to adjust that new lifestyle. Kabilan, Ahmad and Abidin [8] revealed that about 70% of university students using Facebook had positive attitude towards learning and felt the use of social network could motivate learning. It means that the using of social media platform help the students and the teachers to stimulate teaching-learning activity

## 3. RESEARCH DESIGN

In this research, the researcher conducteddescriptive method in order to seek out accurate informatioan and adequate descriptions of teaching-learning activities. The researcher developed earlier studies and designed new plan of study [5]. The data available in this research were described in a table with short description.

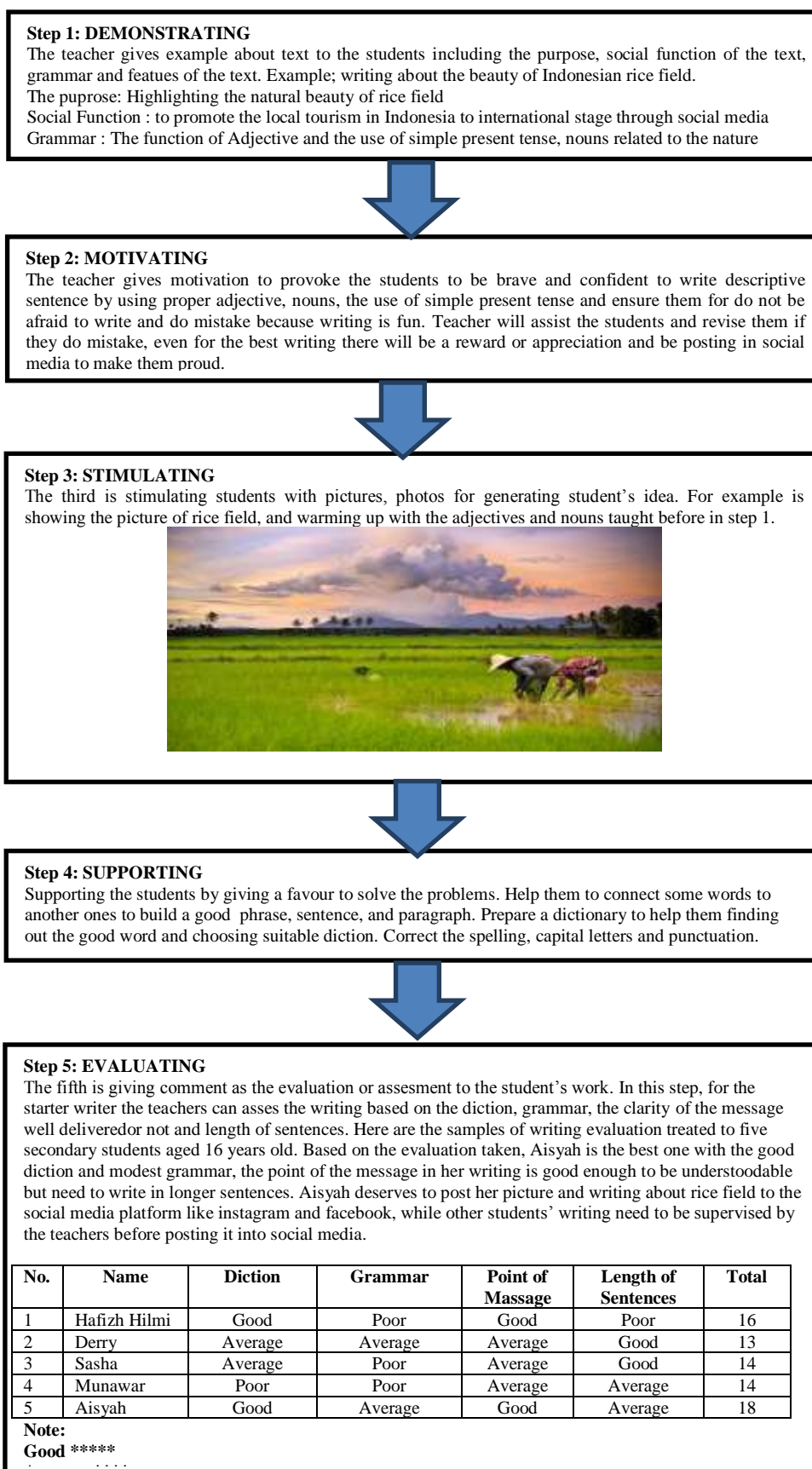
The data of the research consisted of the taks given by the teacher to five secondary students who used social media actively aged 16 years old from an English group of study in Medan.

The data analysis were administered in some steps as follows: (1) Distributing task of writingby showing a certain object with similar topic (2) The teacher did pre-teaching activities as instruction and warming up before the students complete the task in certain limit of time (3) Assesing the results of task writing in scoring form.

## 4. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Teacher's Teaching Planto Stimulate EFL students writing skill

As Harmer's five stages of teaching writing to the students, here are the teaching plans to stimulate EFL students writing skill, the are:



## 5. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

After having the data analysis, conclusions are drawn as the following:

1. Demonstrating, motivating, picture stimulating, supporting and evaluating are stages that can stimulate EFL students to start writing English in descriptive sentences to the social media platform like instagram and facebook.



2. The EFL students who are treated by Harmer's five writing stages can achieve writing skill.
3. Teacher is suggested to prepare the teaching plans with numerous pre-teaching input like, grammar, vocabulary, diction, spelling and punctuation in order to arise student's confidence before writing.

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