

# Analyze the Writing Skills among the Students of the Private Religious School

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## ABSTRACT

The purpose is to analyze the writing skills among the students of the private religious school. Students' writing skills are very weak as their study syllabus focuses on the subject of *Diniyah*. In this study, the Master should first be prepared with the knowledge and skills of the discourse in writing skills in order to channel the knowledge properly to the pupils despite the time constraints during the R & D process. This paper is important to illustrate how important it is to master the writing in accordance with the principles of correct discourse in order to preserve Malay language apart from helping students to excel in the examination.

**Keywords:** Writing skills, Malay language, Systematic Discourse Study

## Introduction

Essay writing is an important aspect of language diction involving the mind, knowledge, technique, style and also reflecting the ability to use correct grammar. In line with the traditional role of writing skills as a key measuring instrument for a student's achievement, this skill must be fully mastered from its mechanism level to the highest level of writing skills, and that is the stage of the idea conception. Written examination acts as an important medium in determining a student's achievement. Therefore, essay writing skills have also influenced the attitude change among students (Mohd Noor, 1987). Essay writing skills can be used as a basis for a higher level of writing efficiency.

Writing skills are a skill that students need to master to ensure communication is communicated effectively, whether in classrooms or in the community environment, formal or informal (White, 1981). According to Keraf (1981), essay writing is an activity in the form of syntax by using basic knowledge of linguistics and in addition of a few components which is known as the ability to write and knowing good knowledge will affect the reader.

The mastery of writing skills among students is crucial in order to possess the communication efficiency in terms of the ability to master thoughtful ideas, the ability to choose the

appropriate forms of speech and the methods of preparing the speech and presenting the speech. This is also stated in the writing of Mohd.Sidin Ahmad Ishak mentioning about language articulation skills. This study will look at writing ideas and excellent discourse features so that students' writing results are at the highest level in the standard of learning as written in the Kurikulum Standart Sekolah Menengah (KSSM) or Secondary School Standards Curriculum. The highest level is meant by referring to the highest level of achievement in the standard of writing skills proficiency learning, which the students need to showcase writing and editing skills to convey information and produce creative writing in various genres by using the correct language system at a consistent, detailed level and that can set as an exemplar.

### **Problem Statement**

The existence of a religious school registered under the supervision of the Selangor Islamic Religious Department has produced many huffazs. This is in line with the aim of the school's education system to empower the Quran and Sunnah where each student is obliged to memorize and understand the contents of the Quran aside from mastering the various books of hadith. The year 2017 is an important year for form 5 students in the school as they will sit for the Malaysian Examinations Certificate or known as Sijil Peperiksaan Malaysia (SPM) and they are also the first students to record history in the SPM record as the first group of students who take the exams mentioned at this school. As the school syllabus focuses 70% at the memorization, 20% at the religious subjects and only 10% at academic subjects, researcher is keen to review the level of proficiency of the core subjects in the school. Including Malay Language subject as this subject requires candidates to pass as a prerequisite to qualify for SPM certificates. Researcher was invited by the school management to teach Malay Language as the replacement teacher in the school due to the teacher who teaches Malay Language was on leave for a period of time. Indirectly, the researcher's decision to take on the role as a teacher in the school provides an opportunity to review the level of writing proficiency skills of the students.

After the first result of the students' writing was shown, the reseacher interpreted the result according to the learning standard in the Kurikulum Standart Sekolah Menengah (KSSM) and the essays produced were poor and did not reach the level of good writing skills. The essays were supposed to show communication efficiency in terms of the ability to master intellectual ideas, the ability to choose good form of essays and the ability to know good essay arrangements so that the essays produced can be presented better and comprehensively understood by the reader. On the contrary, the students' writings in the school were not the case. This is because there is a lack of infrastructure such as a library as a place for students to acquire knowledge to add vocabulary and to compose essays according to the clarity, unity and required paragraphing that must exist in a written essay to conform to the principles of good writing. In addition, students need to be motivated to increase self-confidence in writing. Students need to use life experience a major guide to writing articles and storytelling essays. This is closely related to the content and the development of ideas so that the essay has the connecting characteristics to achieve the excellence of essay writing.

Due to the above reasons, there are some objectives that have been outlined by the researcher to study students in the school with the primary purpose of analyzing the aspects of the discourse relation and describing the concerning discourse in student essay writing. In addition, this study is also expected to explain the principles of good writing in student essay writing. To fulfill this objective, this study should answer some questions, ie, whether the flow of the story in the essay is interwoven and has the same essence in each verse as well as whether the essay produced satisfies the nature of the discourse. Next, what are the principles of writing skill proficiency that need to be in an essay? All these questions must be followed by a strategic plan.

### **Literature Review**

Many studies have been conducted in analyzing language mistakes made by students. For example, the analysis research of language mistakes by Nor Asmah (2009), Mohd Shahril (1996), Muhammad Salehuddin (1993) and Md Daud (1992) on learning Malay Language as the first language among high school students. According to the study conducted through the results of reading and library references found that language problem is a challenging problem because language changes according to the flow of time. Examples of languages that have been affected as they are not preserved by the community are Sanskrit and jawi text. When there is no speaker, the language will be lost and disappear. This extinction is a major concern and has been the researcher's effort to ensure that the language is spoken perfectly without any speakers that can damage the language. This was agreed upon by Professor Dr. Hashim Haji Musa, lecturer from the Faculty of Malay Language and Communication Department, Universiti Putra Malaysia. He stressed the importance of preserving the language as it is the heart of Malay culture. He added that two major elements in the formation of civilization are religion and language. Religion is an energetic element to foster the intellectual relations of its speakers. These two are able to form a solid and intact mindset for a human group to form a civilization.

Based on the views and research conducted, this language research is very accurate and needs to be done so that language problems among school students can be addressed promptly as students are the younger generation who will inherit the language that has long been spoken by the previous speakers. In addition, language is an important communication tool in human life. According to Raminah (1993), through language one can communicate with others to converse wants, feelings, opinions, experiences, thoughts, knowledge, acquire information, and understand others and so on. The weakness of mastering Malay language is considered to be the cause of most students failing in various subjects. Director of Language Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka (DBP), Dr. Awang Sariyan said most Malay students take the mastery of that particular language for granted, which they will eventually get disappointed in examinations. Therefore, some studies have to be carried out to help uphold the Malay language.

### **Background research**

Writing skills including essay writing are a platform for students to improve the efficiency of high grammar usage. On the other hand, the result of essay writing is an overview of the students' thinking process and the ability to use grammar in the writing (Arapoff, 1975). According to him, the essay writing skills can be divided into two aspects: students need to think of the right facts and make the facts clear and logical through the thinking process and students need to use the necessary sets of writing skills. Therefore, the main objective of writing skills helps students master sub grammar skills in addition to other sub-skills as these skills can help students to become the catalysts for good writing learning. The views of Raime (1983) and White (1987) explain that writing learning is not something natural as a speaking skill. Writing skills need to be learned and difficult to master because these skills are only obtained through teaching and learning at schools (Juriah, Raminah and Sofiah, 1992).

Implementation of the newly introduced Kurikulum Sukatan Sekolah Menengah (KSSM) or High School Syllabular Curriculum is a turning point in the national education curriculum. This change is in line with the national educational goals of the National Philosophy of Education to nurture a good student with a characteristic of belief in God, creative and rational thinking, noble chartered, capable of contributing towards the prosperity of society and the country, parotitic, responsible and fostering unity among the various races.

Through the implementation of KSSM, Malaysia's language syllabus has undergone a change. Based on the objective of writing skills contained in KSSM, students can apply various forms of writing to produce creative piece of various genres, convey ideas in various forms, enhance vocabulary, expressions, grammar usage and appropriate language corelations in writing. In other words, Malay language education through KSSM not only increases the mastery and efficiency of using the language but students are also exposed to high-level thinking skills (KBAT) through images as stimulants to improve students to speak well. Students are also exposed to i-Think, techniques for improving the idea and developing content well.

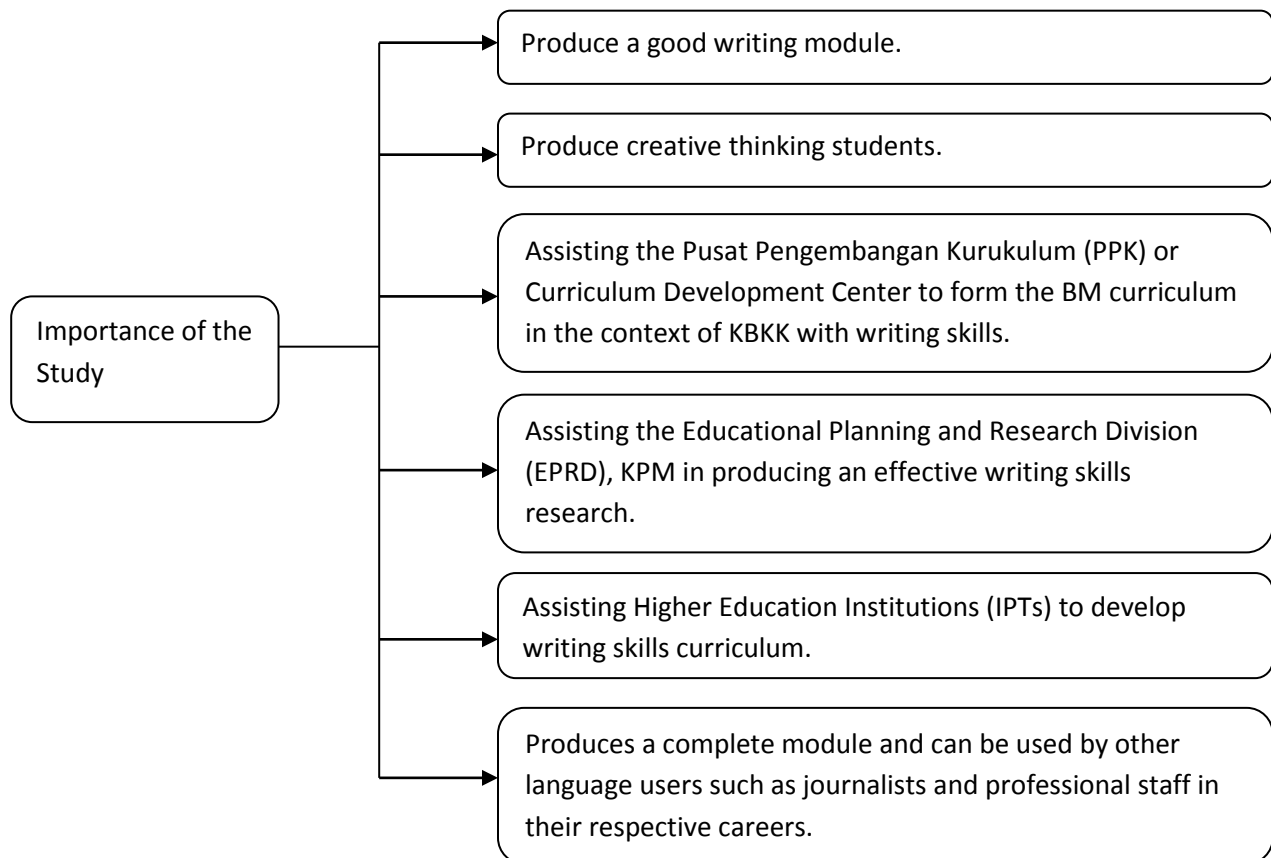
To develop a well-versed society, efforts to improve the quality of competence and communication skills need to be developed and strengthened at the school level. Recognizing this, language proficiency will continue to be nurtured and enhanced. The teaching and learning of Malay language in secondary schools aims to enable students to master the equivalent of competencies of the high level intellectual students and to foster language development in the interests of higher education and employment (Ministry of Education, 1989). In addition, students will also be able to achieve an understanding of the language system, elements and values it carries, communicating efficiencies, producing thoughts and feelings, creative through oral and written. Therefore, this study is conducted at a selected school in Selangor to see the level of intellectual of the community around it. Looking at the use of the i-Think map used to develop the idea of storytelling, researcher is keen to know the level of development of form five students' writing skills at the school after KSSM is implemented.

Therefore, this study has identified several methods that will be applied throughout this study, namely the qualitative study and the case study method. This study has set the scope of study in a school in Selangor. The chosen school is a private religious school. While the sample of the study consists of all form five students who will sit for the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) examination. The sample was 20 students consisting of boys and girls. Theory of the study to be used in this study is the Discourse Analysis Theory pioneered by Henry Guntur Tarigan.

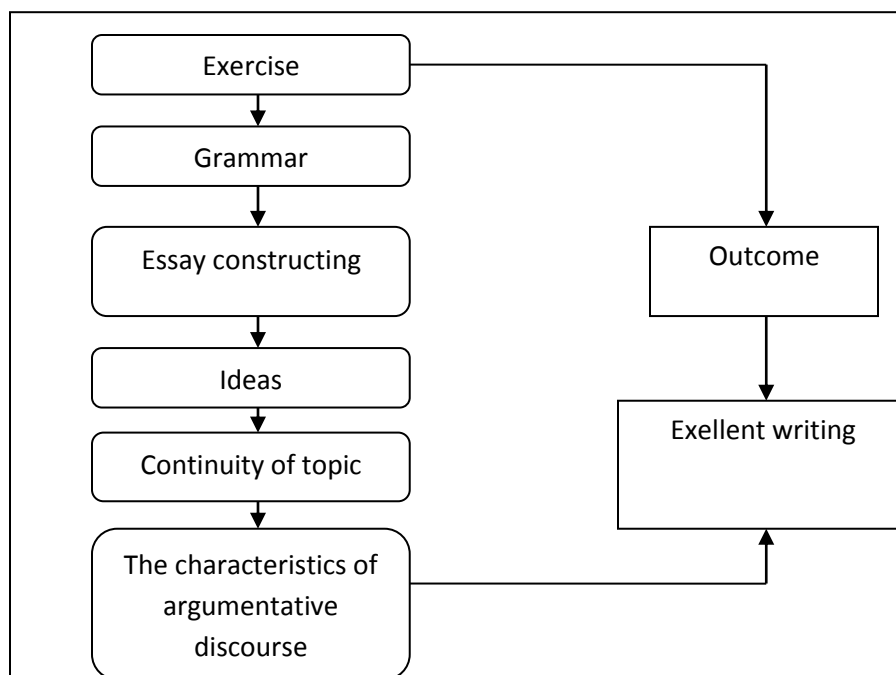
**Importance of Study and Discussion**

Raimes (1983), states that students communicate not only verbally but often also in writing. This necessity is not only to meet the standard of learning but more importantly, through writing skills, it can help the students in the following aspects;

- i) Pupils can strengthen the use of language, ideas and feelings that are delivered well.
- ii) Providing opportunities for students to discover or explore further than what is being taught by the teacher using language knowledge and students can apply language skills in the period context and appropriate time.
- iii) Additionally, this study is expected to help teachers plan effective teaching and learning strategies for students in order to produce good and perfect writing.



**Figure 1: The Importance of Systematic Discourse Study Research**



**Figure 2: The results of discourse training on writing skills**

### **Conclusion**

Based on the views and research conducted, this language research is very accurate and needs to be done so that language problems among school students can be addressed promptly as students are the younger generation who will inherit the language that has long been spoken by the previous speakers. In addition, language is an important communication tool in human life. According to Raminah (1993), through language one can communicate with others to converse wants, feelings, opinions, experiences, thoughts, knowledge, acquire information, understand others and so on. The weakness of mastering Malay language is considered to be the cause of most students failing in various subjects. Director of Language Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka (DBP), Dr. Awang Sariyan said most Malay students take the mastery of that particular language for granted, which they will eventually get disappointed in examinations. Therefore, some studies have to be carried out to help uphold the Malay language.

In conclusion, this research is very important to help teachers and schools to detect the shortcomings in their education system either from infrastructure, syllabus or teaching and learning methods. The importance of writing should be mastered by the students as the first step of preparing themselves to move to the next level of tertiary educational institutions. The failure of the students to master the Malay language well can actually lead to failure in other subjects as other subjects also require students to have good writing skills.

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