

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PICTURES AS AUTHENTIC MATERIAL TO IMPROVE STUDENTS' WRITING IN DESCRIPTIVE TEXT (A CASE STUDY OF 8TH GRADE OF MTS PLUS RADEN PAKU TRENGGALEK 2010/2011)



Oleh: **Sundari, Siti**

Email: library@lib.unair.ac.id

Undergraduate Airlangga University

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This study examines the effectiveness of pictures as authentic materials to improve students' writing in descriptive text. The participants were twenty two students (12 boys, 10 girls) of eight grade in MTs. Plus Raden Paku. The research was designed in the one-group pre-test and post-test. Using Jacobs et al's ESL Composition Profile, the writing was scored analytically. The data then were analyzed using SPSS 16.0. Based on the statistical analysis, it can be seen that the mean of the post-test score was higher than the mean score of the pre-test. In order to know whether the difference between the two means was significant or not, t-test in small dependent sample was applied. The critical value for two tailed tests for 21 degrees of freedom at 0.05 level of significance is 0.4227. Since the obtained t-value (-5.443) was lower than the critical value at 0.05 alpha level of significance (1.721), the writer concludes that the test was statistically significant. As the mean of the post test was statistically higher than that of the pre test, the writer concludes that the writing score achieved by the eight graders of MTs. Plus Raden Paku improved after they were taught using pictures as authentic material. Based on the analytic scoring using Jacobs et al, pictures were effective to improve the content and organization, but less effective to improve vocabulary, language use and mechanics. Even though pictures could not improve all of aspects of writing at the same time, but overall the students' writing, pictures could improve students' writing in descriptive texts.