The Effect of Using Ginger Software on the Tenth Grade Students' Writing Skill at SMK Ki Hajar Dewantoro

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Abstract
The aim of the research was to investigate whether Ginger Software can be used to improve the writing skill of the tenth grade students at SMK Ki Hajar Dewantoro. The participants of this research were 64 students, which were classified into the controlled class and the experimental class. The design used was quasi-experimental study and the instruments of this research consisted of pre-test and post-test. The result showed that using Ginger Software was effective and appropriate to improve students' writing skill. It could be seen from the average of post-test result in experimental class was 75.90, and the average of pre-test was 65.06. Meanwhile, the average of post-test result in controlled class was 66, and the average of pre-test was 59.21. The result of the t-test of post-test also showed that there was a significant difference between experimental and controlled class, t-count of $\alpha = 5\%$ df = 62 was 3.48 and for t-table was 2.00. The calculation proved that t-value was higher than t-table. It means that H_1 is accepted and H_0 is rejected. It can be concluded that Ginger Software gave significant effect on improving students' writing skill.

Key words: Ginger Software, Writing Skill

INTRODUCTION

Language is a tool of communication that used by humans to express their feelings, ideas, and purposes, or as an important connector between humans. Language is also used by humans to deliver information. The language that widely used in the world is English. English is used for many sectors such as, international business, entertainment, medical, food and beverage, aviation, education, etc.

English has a significant role for education. More specifically, English has been taught in some levels of education in Indonesia, so it makes the English teacher has to know about the effective way in teaching English. They have to understand about the appropriate method, technique, and approach to make the students feel interested in learning foreign language, especially English subject.

There are four important skills in English subject. Those four skills are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Those four skills are categorized into two terms, namely productive skills and receptive skill. Writing is not only a productive skill, but also a complicated skill in English. Brown in 2001 as quoted by Sari (2017, p.2) stated that writing is the product of thinking, drafting, and revising procedures that require specialized skill.

Based on the pre-observation, it was found that the tenth grade students' of SMK KI HAJAR DEWANTORO encountered problems in writing. The main problem was the students were still lack of vocabulary mastery. Besides, the teacher also rarely gave writing assignments to the students. Writing skill, actually, cannot be nurtured only in a short period. The teacher should give plenty of exercises and use effective ways in teaching writing. In this era, the teachers are required to understand the technology. Teacher can also use internet as a source to find many

applications and software which are suitable for writing practice.

In this research, the researchers intended to find out whether Ginger Software--a spelling and grammar checker-- can be used in teaching writing for EFL learners. According to Swier (2016), "Ginger software produces a suite of products that help users improve their writing in terms of grammar checking, proofreading, translating, accessing reference tools such as dictionaries, utilizing text readers, and accessing a personal trainer to review past grammatical errors" (p. 289).

From those explanations, the researchers conducted a study entitled "The Effect of Using Ginger Software on the Tenth Grade Students' Writing Skill at SMK Ki Hajar Dewantoro". The objective of the research was to investigate whether there is a significant difference in developing writing skill of students taught by using the using the Ginger Software and those who were not taught by using the Ginger Software.

Theoretical Review
1. Writing

Writing is an activity to convey a thought or an idea in the form of letters or numbers using pencil, pen, marker, or social network. Bjork and Raisanen in 1997 as quoted by Abas and Azis (2016, p.21) stated that writing is important because of its useful function as a tool for language development in all disciplines.

The main function of writing is as an indirect communication tool. People can deliver their message to the intended person. Brown (2004:81-82) stated that, writing can be used to entertain, persuade, inform, request, instruct, records, express feelings, opinions, and ideas.

In writing, the writer can freely choose the type of writing that suits with their needs. Troyka in 1987 as quoted by Ramadani (2013: 17-23) stated that writing is divided into four types, namely narration, description, exposition, and argumentation.

There are 5 steps in full writing process (Gentry et al., 2014): pre-writing (planning), writing, revising (organizing), editing and proofing (making sure no little mistakes are left).

Harmer (2004: 41-42) points out that "there are a number of tasks that the teachers should do to help their students become better writers." Those tasks are: demonstrating, motivating and provoking, supporting, responding and evaluating.

2. Recount Text

Recount text is a kind of text that used to tell the experiences or events in the past (Dumanauw, 2018). In this text, the writer should use past tense form as a sign that the experiences or events have been done.

It is necessary for teachers to know how to assess writing. Teachers need to have indicators and criteria in assessing students' writing. Therefore, teachers can find out how far the students understand and can achieve those indicators. In assessing recount text produced by the students in this study, the researchers used analytical scoring rubric adapted from Jacob et.al as recommended by Weigle (2002). The analytical scoring rubric of writing test consisted of five components, there are: content, organization, grammar, vocabulary, and mechanic.

3. Ginger Software

It is not easy for EFL students to learn writing. Many of them still encounter difficulties, such as spelling problems on their writing. As mentioned by Wanzek, et.al, (2006), "Spelling requires matching the sounds of language to the appropriate letters. This is necessary to accurately communicate and convey messages in written language." Matching the sounds of language into appropriate letters is not a simple matter for those who do not use English as their first language. Changing sounds into letters need a lot practice because of its differences. In fact, spelling is one of the most common difficulties for students in accomplishing their writing tasks (Bos & Vaughn, 2006). Regarding to this problem, Raskind and Higgins (2003:19) stated, "A widespread strategy for helping these individuals compensate for their spelling problems is the use of electronic and computer checkers."

Ginger software is an automatic grammar and spelling checkers that has been available online since 2010. According to http://www.gingersotware.com Ginger Software can be a tool in checking the spelling of vocabulary, and contextual grammar in English writing. In addition Feldman-Simon and Fitzpatrick (2010) stated that, "Ginger is a great tool to have in everyone's pocket for any writing assignment". It is also supported by a research conducted by Sabiku (2019) which reported that Ginger Software can help students to improve their vocabulary and sentence structure mastery.

RESEARCH METHOD

The quantitative method that had been used in this research was quasi experimental design. According to Sugiyono (2017), quantitative methods are called traditional methods, because this method has been used for a long time so it has been traditional as a method for research. This method as a scientific method because it has met scientific rules, namely concrete/empirical, objective, measurable, rational and systematic (p.7).

The purpose of the design was to find out the cause-effect between two variables. This research involved two classes. One class was an experimental class, and the other one was control class. The students in both classes were given pre-test and post-test. The researchers gave different treatments to each class for their recount text assignment. In experimental class, Ginger Software was used by students. Meanwhile, the students in the control class did not use Ginger Software. After giving the treatment to the experimental class, the researcher distributed post-test for both classes to see the effect of Ginger Software on students' writing. In the end, the researchers analyzed the data that the researchers got from both experimental and control class.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
1. Pre-test Result of Experimental Class and Controlled Class

Based on the research calculation result of pre-test data from experimental class and controlled class by using T-test, it was found that the students' writing of experimental class and controlled class in the beginning had no different by using significant level of 5% ($\alpha = 0,05$).

The data analysis was started by calculating the central tendency of pre-test data (table 1). From the calculation, the central tendency obtained result showed that the average score or mean of experimental class was 65.06 while the average score or mean of controlled class was 59.21 The standard deviation score of experimental class was 16.1 while the standard deviation score of controlled class was 14.7

Table 1. The Statistic of the Student Scores Pre-Test

Analysis	Experimental	Control
N	32	32
Xmin	25	25
Xmax	90	90
Mean	65.06	59.21
Median	66.3	60.5
Mode	64.83	62.5
Standard Deviation	16.1	14.7
Variance	260.50	216.82

After that, the researchers conducted hypotheses test by using fisher test (table 2). The result showed that t_{count} (1.01) < t_{table} (2.00), it means t_{count} is less than t_{table}. It indicated that H_0 is accepted where there was no significant difference of the students' writing between the students in experimental class and the students in controlled class. This was happened because the researcher had not given Ginger Software as treatment method in experimental class.

Table 2. The Result T-test of Pre-Test

Significance level	T Count	T Table	Conclusion
0.05	1.01	2.0	H_0 accepted H_1 rejected

2. Post-test Result of Experimental Class and Controlled Class

After giving the pre-test, the researcher gave the learning treatments in the experimental class by using Ginger Software. In the controlled class, the researcher used the conventional method. After that, the researcher conducted the post-test for both classes. Based on the research calculation result of post-test data from experimental class and controlled class by using t-test, it was found that the students' writing skill in experimental class who were taught by using Ginger Software had improved better than the students in controlled class who were not taught by using conventional method.

The post-test data analysis was started by calculating the central tendency of post-test data (table 3). From the calculation, the central tendency obtained result that the average score or mean of experimental class was 75.90 while the average score or mean of controlled class was 66. The standard deviation score of experimental class was 7.0 while the standard deviation score of controlled class was 10.3.

Table 3. The Statistic of the Student Scores Post-Test

Analysis	Experimental	Control
N	32	32
Xmin	69	50
Xmax	85	85
Mean	75.90	66
Median	82.27	64.5
Mode	80.05	57.5
Standard Deviation	7.0	10.3
Variance	49.58	105.75

After that, the researchers conducted hypotheses test by using fisher test where the result showed that t_{count} 3.48 > t_{table} 1.66, it means t_{count} is more than t_{table}. It indicated that H1 is accepted as the post test result showed that the students in experimental class, who were taught by using Ginger Software, wrote recount text significantly better than the students in controlled class.

Table 4. The Result T-test of Post-Test

Siqnificance level	T Count	T Table	Conclusion
0.05	3.48	2.0	H_0 rejected H_1 accepted

Based on the second hypothesis testing above, it shows that the use of Ginger Software was effective to help students in experimental class in writing recount text as the results are significantly better than the results from the controlled class. In conclusion, the Ginger Software has good effect for students' writing skill.

The use of Ginger Software gives students' way to explore their English writing. It gives them the opportunity, and the students' can write easily. The software will serve the probable words on keyboard when they write, so that the students can choose the words they need. In other word, they are helped by

the software. Not only serve the appropriate words, but also the software will identify the grammatical error and spelling error of the students' writing.

Based on the explanation above, the researchers can summarize that the Ginger Software technique can improve students' writing skill as it provides assistance for students to check their writing errors. The hypothesis testing gave statistical evidence, where the result showed the significant difference on students' score in writing. The students' score in experimental class which had been given treatments is better than controlled class.

CONCLUSION

The result of this study showed that there is a significant difference between writing skill of the students in experimental class who used Ginger Software and writing skill of the students in controlled class who did not used Ginger Software. It can be seen on the result of T-test with significant level α = 5% or 0.05 showed that t_{count} 3.48 > t_{table} 1.66, then H_0 is rejected and H_1 is accepted.

Based on this study conducted at the tenth grade classes of SMK Ki Hajar Dewantoro Kota Tangerang in academic year 2020/2021, the researchers found out that the students who were taught by using Ginger Software can write recount text significantly better than the students who were taught by using conventional method. It can be concluded that the implementation of Ginger Software can help the students to improve their writing skill.

From the discussion and conclusion, the researchers suggest several things as follows:
1. For English Teachers
   The researchers suggest English teachers to find the proper technique or media, so that learning purpose can be reached and learning process will be more engaging. Ginger Software can be one of the alternative tools that may be useful to support teaching writing skill to students.
2. For the Students
   The researchers suggest students to take the opportunity to use some software or application provided in this technology era. They can try to use Ginger Software in learning English, especially in writing.
3. For the other researchers.
   The researchers expect this study can be a reference to other researcher who intended to make researches about writing skill and Ginger Software. The researchers also suggest others to explore more detailed about Ginger software, so that the result will be better.

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