

English Writing Performance of Students in *Kurir Langit Barru* Modern Mosque

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to find out students' English writing performance in Kurir Langit Barru Modern Mosque. This study used descriptive quantitative research design with survey method. Purposive sampling technique was used to answer the research question with the total sample was 32 students. The data of the study was obtained using a writing test. The result of data analysis showed that the total mean score of students' performances in writing descriptive text was 69.68 and was categorized as good. This means that students in Kurir Langit Barru had good English writing performance, they do not have many difficulties in writing a descriptive text, although in some aspects their performance was fair.

Keywords: English, Writing Performance, *Kurir Langit Barru*, Modern Mosque

INTRODUCTION

In recent years in Indonesia, English is not only taught and learned by students in public university or institution but also in Islamic institution. Considering the importance of English language as a communication tool used by many people, Islamic college students need to master English in order they are able to communicate with people about Islam, or to gain knowledge from English literature. One of Islamic institutions that has English teaching and learning program is Kurir Langit Barru Modern Mosque. Kurir Langit Barru Modern Mosque is one of modern mosques in Barru regency, South Sulawesi. It has a millennial concept with dozens of charitable programs held. One of its programs is to purvey educational

scholarship called "*Mahasantri* Scholarship Program" for Islamic higher education students or also known as *Mahasantri* which is intended for underprivileged students (Zonamakassar.com, 2020). The department offered is Islamic Religious Education.

The mosque itself has branches that spread in some regencies in South Sulawesi, such as Soppeng, Pare-Pare, Pangkep, Maros, and Gowa. Most of them are still under construction and in alms movement form. Kurir Langit Barru Modern Mosque is the center of Kurir Langit Modern Mosque. For this reason, it becomes a role model to other Kurir Langit Modern Mosques especially in English teaching and learning program.

English teaching and learning program in this mosque are a compulsory subject for Mahasantri, since English as a foreign language is officially constituted as part of the national education curriculum, and it is required in a variety of higher education (Hidayati, 2016). The scholarship program is in collaboration with an institution called STAI (Islamic Higher Education) Al-Gazali Barru, and Mahasantri is officially registered as students. Besides studying, they also memorize the Qur'an, control the mosque's condition, and take part in helping the staffs.

In learning English, it cannot be separated from the four skills, they are reading, listening, writing, and speaking. A teacher has a significant impact in teaching the four skills in order that students have interest and enthusiasm, especially in learning writing skill. Therefore, variable studied was English writing performance.

Writing is one of crucial skills that students should master, as Mayekti at al. (2022) stated that writing skill can enhance students' thinking skill and help them to develop other language skill. To improve students' performance in writing, teachers should cognize the needs and abilities of students. Therefore, teachers have information to create and plan strategies to assist the students. Empirically, several studies have been conducted to investigate the variable. Mayekti at al. (2022) analyzed writing performance of English students in UNU Purwokerto. The study showed that students' ability was categorized as satisfactory in writing descriptive text. The text was evaluated in five major categories, such as organizing

idea, developing idea, vocabulary, grammar, and mechanic.

Another study by Domantay and Ramos (2018) who investigated students of Malasiqui National High School in accord with their English writing performance. It was assessed using a writing proficiency test. The test was rated by expert English raters using a scoring rubric for students' writing performance. The result implied that the overall students' performance on English writing is good along with mechanic, vocabulary, content, and grammar.

The researcher was excited conducting research there, as it is one of popular mosques that has been published and discussed by lots of online news on the internet and has been visited by some popular communities and institutions. Thus, this research aimed to find out English writing performance of students in Kurir Langit Barru Modern Mosque.

English Writing Performance

According to Harmer (2001), writing is a model of communication in which information is delivered or feelings are expressed by written form. English writing performance is the method to know an individual's erudition and ability in using the English language through a writing test.

Writing well efficiently assists the students to achieve three crucial goals. To begin with, it reinforces vocabularies, idioms, and grammatical structures. In addition, writing allows the students to be more daring with the language, to go beyond what they have learned, and to take the consequences of writing. Furthermore, the significance of writing is found in the ability to

improve in terms of accuracy, fluency, and appropriateness, as well as in the communication of meanings and messages (Nik et al., 2010).

Aspect of English Writing Performance

There are several writing components to consider when establishing a decent text. The writing aspects assist the writer in arranging a clear and intelligible text (Oshima and Hogue, 1991).

1. Contents and organization, content is the topic or idea that is described, while organization refers to the good arrangement of each paragraph.
2. Grammar and vocabulary, grammar is the study of the principles that govern how words change shape and join with others to produce sentences.
3. Sentence structure

There are four kinds of sentence according to Oshima and Hogue (2007), they are:

- Simple sentence
- Complex sentence
- Compound sentences
- Compound-complex sentence

Kurir Langit Barru Modern Mosque

Kurir Langit Barru Modern Mosque is one of modern mosques located in Anggrek street number 77, Barru regency, South Sulawesi. Modern mosque is a mosque managed professionally and in a modern way with following the development of the time. It has millennial concept which refers to the concept of the mosque applied in the era of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) that is modernized (Rauf, personal communication, July 29, 2021). Therefore, it is not a new and first concept of the mosque, it is just an

old concept from the old time used. It also holds dozens of charitable programs distributed from Sulawesi to Papua Island.

The mosque has a tagline “multiple benefit mosque” and was built unlike most mosques in Indonesia which is just to fulfill a spiritual place of worship, but it is also a place for social worship. It has activities to empower the people, such as giving assistance to the poor, sick people, orphans, and so on. It is also a place for education, both formal and non-formal. The mosque was founded by A Muhammad Nur Syahid M, the president of Kurir Langit Barru Modern Mosque, also the founder of Kurir Langit Barru alms movement (Lufaei, 2020). The additional information about this mosque explained thoroughly below.

Background of the Mosque

Before the mosque was built in 2017, the administrators of Kurir Langit Barru modern mosque had been formed in a charity movement called “Gerakan Sedekah Kurir Langit”. This mosque consists of stripling who are under 30 years of age in Barru regency. Initially, they only became an intermediary for a few benefactors to pass on their donations to people in need. The administrators were using a coffee shop as a gathering place for volunteers. After a few years, they finally rented a shophouse as a Kurir Langit basecamp. In 2017, a benefactor gave a plot of land to the volunteers of Kurir Langit to build a mosque and then designed it (Fajriani, 2019).

From the researcher’s view, the interesting part of this mosque is that it was built without submitting proposal to any various agencies as other mosques are mostly built with a

proposal distributed. The volunteers collected donation to build a mosque from many benefactors on the internet through pamphlets distributed to social media, such as Instagram and Facebook. The profile, condition, and advantages of this mosque as cited in Fajriani (2019) are listed briefly below.

Profile and Condition of the Mosque

- Standing on waqf land area of 441 m²
- Two-storey building measuring 21x16 m
- Capacity of 250-300 congregants
- Treasury (Baitul Maal)
- Tijarah center (business unit)
- VIP guest room

The Advantages of the Mosque

- Open for 24 hours
- The mosque’s cash is not saved, but directly used for many programs
- The mosque’s finances are managed by professional accountants
- Hundreds of Friday prayer congregants are prepared for a buffet lunch by mothers every week
- Has full internet connection within 22 hours
- Many assemblies of knowledge, such as study of monotheism, Qur’an, worship)
- Life skill training
- Tahfidz pondok Qur’an program (The first in Barru regency, memorize verses, meaning, pages, numbers, etc.)

- Has 2 free ambulance units serving for 24 hours

The Programs

The mosque has many programs from different divisions. They are:

- Mosque council, such as Ta’lim Akbar, Ngaji Asyik Muslimah
- Alms movement, such as medical assistance for poor patients, house alms assistance (new house), free clinic in remote spots, assistance for orphans and abandoned children, disaster victims and humanitarian assistance in the Islamic world
- Waqf, such as multipurpose land waqf, multipurpose Qur’an waqf, asset waqf, professional waqf
- Food infaq (alms), such as supply and distribute food needs for orphans, students, Qur’an memorizers, Qurban berkah (sacrifice)

METHOD

Research Design

The researcher used descriptive quantitative approach. According to Herlina et al. (2021) A descriptive quantitative approach is one in which the researcher describes characteristic of a population or phenomenon using numbers and statistical data to answer the research questions. The data analyzed statistically to describe current affairs and to answer the research questions.

Population and Sample

The research population was 55 students of Islamic higher education (Mahasantri) in Kurir Langit Barru Modern Mosque with 23 students

from the first intake and 32 students from the second intake. Rahmania Surya (2020) stated that Mahasantri is defined as students who live in a dorm hut and participate in on-campus activities. The technique sampling used was purposive sampling, it is the judgement of the researcher on who can provide the most useful information to achieve the study's objective (Kumar, 2011). This was chosen due to students (Mahasantri) are separated in two generations. The first generation had done their English subject in their first year, while the second generation is taking it for two semesters starting from September 2021.

Data Collection

The method of data collection used in this research was survey method. This research applied cross-sectional survey design which the data was collected by the researcher at one

point in time (Tanny, 2018) by distributing a writing test. The researcher used a writing test to measure English writing performance. Writing test is a test to measure someone's ability in writing administered on a paper or a computer. The type of text given was descriptive text.

Data Analysis

To measure English writing performance, the researcher used the writing rubric score. To avoid subjective assessment, the students' writing scores were rated by an expert who is an English lecturer and the researcher herself by adopting writing rubric from Brown (2007) cited in Yulanda (2018). After determining the score of each student, the score was calculated and categorized using the writing final score category. The standard of mean and category can be seen on the following tables.

Table 1. The Writing Final Score Category (adapted from scale score used in STAI Al Gazali Barru)

Range of Final Scores	Categories
81 – 100	Very Good
66 – 80	Good
51 – 65	Fair
0 – 50	Poor

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Findings

Students' English Writing Performance

The research question was answered by conducting a writing test. The result of processed data can be seen in the following table:

Table 2. The Students' English Writing Performance

Interval Scores	Categories	Frequency of Students	Percentage (%)
81 – 100	Very Good	5	15.6

66 – 80	Good	16	50
51 – 65	Fair	9	28.1
0 – 50	Poor	2	6.3
	Total	32	100

From the table 2 above, 5 (15.6%) students are categorized as very good. Meanwhile, 16 (50%) students are categorized as good, 9 (28.1%)

students are categorized as fair, and 2 (6.3%) students are categorized as poor.

Table 3. The Category of Students' English Writing Performance

Mean Score	Standard Deviation
69.68	12.26
Category: Good	

Table 3 above presents the category of students' English writing performance. The mean score is 69.68 with standard deviation 12.26. It shows that the standard deviation is less than the mean score which

means the data are clustered around the mean. According to the scale score applied in STAI Al Gazali Barru, the students have good English writing performance.

Table 4. The Students' English Writing Performance in Every Aspect

Aspects	Mean Scores	Standard Deviation	Categories
Content	80.46	15.85	Good
Organization	73.82	17.20	Good
Grammar	60.15	13.99	Fair
Vocabulary	62.1	14.01	Fair
Mechanic	62.89	13.27	Fair

Table 4 shows the result of the students' English writing performance in every aspect. The content aspect is categorized as good with mean score 80.46 and standard deviation 15.85. In the aspect of organization, the mean score is 73.82 with standard deviation 17.20 and is classified as good. The aspect of grammar is categorized as fair with the mean score 60.15 and standard deviation 13.99. The vocabulary aspect is classified as fair with the mean score 62.1 and standard

deviation 14.01. The last aspect, mechanic, is categorized as fair with the mean score 62.89 and standard deviation 13.27. The overall findings shows that the standard deviation is less than the mean score which means the data are clustered around the mean.

Discussions **Students' English Writing Performance**

Based on the data presented on the finding, the result of the study was

needed to be discussed. To answer the research question “What are students’ English writing performance in Kurir Langit Barru Modern Mosque?”, can be explained by the result of the students’ test. According to the result of the test, the researcher found the total mean score of the students, it was 69.68. It was generally indicated as good. This meant that students do not have many difficulties in writing a descriptive text, although in some aspect their performance was fair.

Aside from the overall analysis of the data, each aspect was also analyzed. The first is in terms of content. There are 2 indicators in this aspect, they are topic and detail. The topic itself refers to the completeness and the clearness, while the detail is about the relatedness to the topic. With the guide of the scoring rubric, the researcher could collect and analyze the data. According to the finding, the mean score in content aspect was 80.46 and categorized as good based on the scale score applied in STAI Al-Gazali Barru. This means that the topic written by students was complete and clear, but the details were almost relating to the topic.

The second aspect is organization. There are 2 indicators from this aspect, namely identification and description. The identification is categorized as very good if it is complete, as well as the description categorized as very good if it is arranged with proper connectives. From the scoring rubric, the researcher found the total mean score was 73.82 and categorized as good. This means that the identification was complete, and description was almost.

The third aspect is grammar. There are two indicators in this aspect, they are using present tense and agreement. The grammar is categorized as very good if there is only very few grammatical or agreement inaccuracies. According to the finding, the total mean score for grammar aspect was 60.15 and classified as fair. This means that students had numerous grammatical or agreement inaccuracies.

The fourth aspect is vocabulary. The vocabulary aspect is categorized as very good if it has effective choice and words and word forms. Based on the finding, the mean score of students’ vocabularies was 62.10 and classified as fair. This indicates that students had limited range confusing words and word form.

The last aspect is mechanic. This aspect consists of three indicators. They are spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. The mechanic is categorized as very good if it uses correct spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. The finding showed that the mean score of students’ mechanics was 62.89 and categorized as fair. This means that students had frequent error of spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.

To sum, the findings showed that there were 2 aspects which categorized as good, they were content and organization. The rest were grammar, vocabulary, and mechanic which categorized as fair. This is in line with Fareed at al. (2016) who found out that grammar and syntax were the most problematic language issues in the learners’ writing, as well as vocabulary, spelling, and punctuation also posed a problem for learners. While the students in Kurir Langit

Barru Modern Mosque were good at writing content and organization because they were trained to hold a class that made them good at preparing and organizing the material that will be taught.

The researcher also discussed the finding of the study and compared them to the study of Domantay and Ramos (2018). The finding is in line with the result of their study who found that the performance on English writing of students in Malasiqui National High School was categorized as good along with mechanic, vocabulary, content, and grammar.

CONCLUSION

According to the finding and discussion, the students in Kurir Langit Barru Modern Mosque had good English writing performance with the total mean score was 69.68. This means that students do not have many difficulties in writing a descriptive text, although in some aspects their performance was fair. They were good in writing content and organization, while in writing grammar, vocabulary, and mechanic, they were fair.

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