

**The Use of Portfolio Assessment in the Teaching of Narrative
Writing to the Nine Graders of SMP N 2 Indralaya Utara**

A Draft Thesis by

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**FACULTY OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
SRIWIJAYA UNIVERSITY
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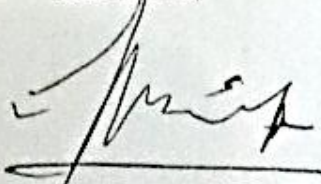
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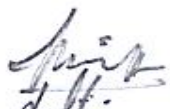

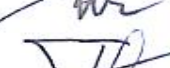


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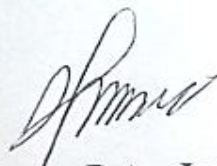
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THESIS DEDICATIONS

This thesis is dedicated to:

- My Only One ALLAH SWT and Rasulullah SAW, the Chosen One to guide us from jahiliyah to jannah.
- My parents, My special man, Ayah Zaili. RD , and my lovely ibu Aswati. Unlimited thanks for both of you. Thanks for your love, your support, prayers, and everything.
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Motto:

“If its meant to be, it will be”

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Indralaya, July 2015

The Writer

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CHAPTER I

Introduction

This chapter discusses the background, (2) problem of the study, (3) objectives of the study, and (4) significance of the study.

The Use of Portfolio Assessment in the Teaching of Narrative

1.1 Background

Nowadays people live in an information-driven society where the challenge for them is to learn how to evaluate and use that information to find the meaning in the knowledge that it can successfully be applied in new situations. Moreover, the rapidly changing world needs qualified persons who are able to manage the information obtained. Therefore, the importance of attaining literacy especially in English in the society cannot be neglected.

Related to the statements above, Ciconnetti (2003, p.234-235) in Wooster, Ohio, has been using pizza boxes for her fourth-grades students as places for them to collect their best work. She has organized the portfolio process around six weeks increments at the end of which she spent some time doing individual conferences with the students with their works. The students have been asked to pick out their work each week and to write about why they think it is their best work. From the time, she adds her own examples of students work to the pizza box. During the students' conference, she had her student together write a letter home describing what is in the portfolio and what the contents demonstrate about the abilities of the students. At the end, the pizza box is taken home and parents or guardian are asked to look at the pizza box and give comments on it. At last, the pizza box is returned to the teacher. She repeats the portfolio production several times during the year not only for one time. This will give her a break in between these six week sessions and students conference periods.

In line with this, Baldwin and Santoli (2004, p. 94) emphasize that it is time to change the teachers' perceptions, so that teaching and learning activities including the assessment system must be students oriented, not teacher centered anymore.

However, the instruction and assessment system in English Foreign Language classroom especially in Indonesia setting are still problematic. When the writer had the teaching practice in the SMP N 2 Indralaya Utara and did the survey in the school, the evaluation system still teach by using the methods which have been used since many years ago. They still feel comfortable to use traditional test especially paper-and-pencil style of test in assessing their students' ability although the facts show that traditional test tends to give no chance for the students to express their ideas, thoughts, and feelings. This statement is also strengthened by Baldwin and Santoli (2004, p. 93) who state that most of the teachers are still trapped in a traditional way of instructions and assessment systems.

One of the assessments which is really contributed to the teaching process is Portfolio assessment. It integrates teaching and assessment in a continuous process (Shaaban, 2005, p.39) that makes Portfolio assessment different from any other assessment. Paulo and Mayer (1991) as cited in Toperoff and Kemp (1998) emphasized that a portfolio offers a way of assessing students learning that is different from traditional method. Unlike single test scores and multiple choice tests, portfolio provides a multidimensional perspective on students growth over time. The use of portfolio encourages the students to reflect on their work, to analyze their progress, and to set improvement goal. Additionally, portfolios can be tailored not only to individual students, but also portfolio results can be used to plan instruction (O'Malley and Pierce, 1996, p.35).

Portfolio assessment helps both teachers and students to be more creative during the teaching and learning process in English Second Language classroom. Paulson, Pearl. and Meyer (2003, p. 61) state that Portfolios have the potential to reveal a lot about their creators. They can become a window into the students' heads, a means for both staff and students to understand the educational process at

the level of the individual learner. They can be powerful education tools for their own learning. Furthermore, they argue that Portfolio allows students to assume ownership in ways that few other instructional approaches allow. Portfolio assessment requires students to collect and reflect on examples of their work, providing both an instructional component to the curriculum and offering the opportunity for authentic assessments.

Nezakatgoo (2010) did a research about using Portfolio assessment in EFL students. The primary focus of his study was to determine the effect of portfolio assessment on final examination scores of EFL students' writing skill. To determine the impact of portfolio-based writing assessment, 40 university students who enrolled in composition course were initially selected and divided randomly into two experimental and control groups. The results of the study revealed that that students whose writing were evaluated by a portfolio system (portfolio-based assessment) had improved and gained higher scores in final examination when compared to those students whose works were evaluated by the more traditional evaluation system (non-portfolio-based assessment). These findings highlighted the fact that portfolio assessment could be used as a complementary alternative along with traditional assessment to shed new light on the process of writing.

In addition, a study of writing portfolio was conducted by LeMahieu, Eresh and Wallace (2000, p. 919) in Pittsburg Public School. The writing portfolios were compiled by students in Grade 6-12 from a folder of their writing. Using a set of guidelines, students selected four pieces (including drafts as well as final copies) and provided several written reflections on their writing processes, rationale for their selections, and the criteria they used for judging their work. Portfolios were scored by a small group of highly trained district teachers and administrators using a rubric that reflected a decade-long district-wide history of professional development in writing. Through the study, it was found that portfolio scores were highly related to the classroom opportunities students had in writing.

As a final point, Park (2014, p. 2) states that another often cited benefit of portfolios is that portfolios can be used to encourage students to reflect on the pieces they write and on the processes they use to write them. Students' reflection on their writing in preparation of a portfolio is a key concept in portfolio pedagogy and an essential aspect of learner-directed assessment.

Since Portfolio assessment is often to do with writing skill, this study will also use writing as the focus of investigation. According to Khoii (2011, p. 493), "Writing is the most difficult skill of language learners." Because of this writing is one of the problems that are faced by Indonesian Students in learning English. Idrus (2011, p.1) also states that writing is the most difficult skill to acquire among other skills. Meanwhile, in many academic contexts, writing is essential for the display of student's knowledge (Brown, 2007, p. 396). In line with this, Al-Fadda (2012, p. 123) claims that students of English as Second Language (ESL) face many difficulties and stresses in their academic writing, such as difficulty in distinguishing between spoken and written English, making an outline before writing a draft, identifying the skills needed for successful writing, and avoiding plague words and phrases.

O'Malley and Pierce (1996, p. 127) clarify that portfolios have most typically been used in English language arts classrooms to monitor the development of writing. Moreover, writing test has been applied in recent years as supplementary test for Junior and Senior High School students. Although the test is not included in the final examination, it is considered as one of the requirements to finish their study at those levels. As the result, many students got difficulties in writing English well as they were not accustomed to writing English in their school hours so that their scores were not satisfactory (Fatimah, 2006, p.3). It can be assumed that this condition might be caused by the teacher's ignorance of teaching and asking them to write in English.

Based on the description above, the writer tried to prove the effectiveness of portfolio assessment in the teaching narrative writing in the English classroom. This research was conducted to the ninth graders of SMP N 2 Indralaya Utara,

because in the English learning process the teachers of this school have not applied yet Portfolio assessment. The way to evaluate students' achievement still used the conventional test in which the result of mid term test or final test became the basis of evaluation, whereas Portfolio assessment provided the evaluation of students achievement by documenting student's language development.

1.2 Problem of Study

With regard to the explanation above, there is one essential problem in the study. Is there any significant difference in writing achievement before and after students are assessed by using Portfolio assessment?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Due to the problem above, the objective of the study is to find out whether or not there is a significant difference in writing achievement before and after students are assessed by using Portfolio assessment

1.4 Significant of the Study

It is expected that the study can not only bear some advantages in teaching and learning writing skill through the process of Portfolio assessment in the Ninth graders of SMP N 2 Inderalaya Utara but also other junior high schools. The English teachers will have a better alternative assessment in their own classrooms. It is also expected that it will be able to increase the students' achievement in writing. Besides, the students will be more encouraged to write English better, understand how to evaluate their own others' works, and ultimately they can be involved in making judgment of the scoring system for their own projects.

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