IMPROVING STUDENTS' 21ST CENTURY SKILLS THROUGH CREATIVE WRITING AS A CREATIVE MEDIA

Helda Jolanda Pentury[1], Anastasia Dewi Anggraeni[2], Dendi Pratama[3]

Faculty of Language and Art, Universitas Indraprasta PGRI
[1]helda.jolanda@unindra.ac.id, [2]anastasia.dewi@unindra.ac.id, [3]dendi.pratama@unindra.ac.id

Abstrak

Kemampuan untuk meningkatkan keterampilan abad 21 nara didik melalui proyek Creative Writing adalah salah satu pengembangan perubahan dalam pendidikan bahasa Inggris yang kreatif. Model pendidikan ini bukan berarti tanpa tantangan. Dengan menggunakan proyek-proyek kreatif sebagai suatu media kreatif untuk mengembangkan pengalaman dalam keterampilan menulis nara didik dan para guru, bahwa mengembangkan "keterampilan abad 21" melalui Creative Writing adalah imajinatif, dan kreatif. Penelitian ini dilakukan dengan mengamati tugas-tugas menulis kreatif dari para nara didik di Universitas Indraprasta PGRI Jakarta. Metode kualitatif dengan pendekatan integritas kreatif dari 4C digunakan untuk menganalisis elemen-elemen dari penulisan kreatif dalam tugas penulisan kreatif mereka yang juga sebagai media kreatif. Hasil dari penelitian ini berguna sebagai referensi dalam mengembangkan ketrampilan abad 21 para nara didik dan juga keterampilan menulis mereka. Lebih lanjut, Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa banyak dari mereka telah mengembangkan ketrampilan 4C yang juga disebut sebagai keterampilan abad 21 melalui tugas-tugas penulisan kreatif.

Kata Kunci: *keterampilan abad 21, menulis kreatif, media*

Abstract

The ability to improve students' 21st century skills using creative writing is truly one of the most revolutionary developments in modern creative English education. This type of education, however, is not without its challenges, the way of using creative projects as the creative media to improve writing skills experiences showed the students and the teachers as well that to improve '21st century skills' through creative writing is imaginative, and creative way. This study conducted an observation of design students at the University of Indraprasta PGRI Jakarta, especially their projects and literature study. The qualitative method with an integrated creative approach of 4C's is used to analyze the creative writing elements of students' creative projects as a creative media. The results of this study are useful to be used as a reference in improving students' 21st century skills and creative writing skills as well by using those Creative Writing projects as a creative media. Furthermore, the results show most of the students have improved their 4C's skills which is called 21st century skills, grow their language skills by writing the projects creatively and innovatively.

Keywords: 21st century skill, creative writing, media

INTRODUCTION

The University teachers especially have urged their students to improve their skills and creativity of their generation in the era of the fourth industrial revolution, also known as Industry 4.0, as people remain the key to develop of Indonesia's education and global economy. In developing the 21st century skills in era industry, students need both creativity of development and insight research. Teachers provide up-to-date media and strategies, particularly those related to integrated learning and teaching programs, soft skills improvement in various projects in the classroom.

The traditional way of educating students is no longer viable in their future skills. This way of teaching-learning relies on textbook-based approaches from pedagogy models used in place for ages. Most of the pedagogy systems still rely on the outdated method of applying knowledge. To equip students with more practical skills aside from theories as they were expected to proactive in developing their qualities include the ability to collaborate in a team, think critically, problem-solving skills, written and verbal communication skills, explore creativity, and initiative. According to the article on creative writing in Wikipedia, "Creative writing can technically be considered any writing of original composition that is in no way guilty of plagiarism (Rajaram, 2014). The teachers delivered writing lessons in the 21st century skills interactive or integrated creative approach of 4C's using Creative Writing as the creative media. It adopts literacy, art and creativity of project-based learning.

Suryandari said, "to build a culture of literacy, especially in the realm of education, since 2016 the Ministry of Education and Culture has intensified the National Literacy Movement. The culture of literacy in question is a culture of reading and writing that is expected to improve the quality of human resources" (Suryandari, 2016:345). Skills in the 21st century that need to be mastered by someone include critical thinking skills, problem solving skills, creative thinking skills, decision making skills, reflective reading and writing skills, communication skills, both orally and in writing. These skills are expected to always be developed in every learning so that students are able to face the challenges of the global world (Suryandari, 2016).

However, Global Competence Task Force Report, 2008 recommends "In order to educate the generation of students who will face the challenges of the 21st century, universities need to provide students with the skills, knowledge, and attitudes to work effectively in our increasingly interdependent world" (Barman, 2018). In addition to the three literacy domains regularly assessed in PISA (mathematics, reading and science), one cross-curricular competence per cycle is part of the study (Sälzer & Roczen, 2018).

According to Trijling & Fadel, rapid technology development is one factor that has changed human life today. The changes resulted thereof also affect various skills that need to be mastered by children from an early age in order to be successful in the 21st century. The 21st century skills are translated simply as the skills necessary to face all challenges that exist in the global society of the 21st century (Akmal, 2017).

A society that reads and writes well can go a long way in developing a nation. The technology is making a significant impact on learning of creative writing skills. Many individuals often nurture the desire to be great writers. Expression, articulation, and communication are paths to success in any field (Rajaram, 2014).

Learning and Innovation Skills, also known as the 4Cs: Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Creativity and Innovation, Communication, Collaboration (Hayse, 2018). According to Voogt, Erstad, Dede, & Mishra (2013), it is obvious that not only learners, but also teachers need to acquire 21st century competencies as well as become

competent in supporting 21st century learning. Teachers need to be prepared for new pedagogical approaches.

In the classroom, improving 21st century skills in a creative writing lesson can increase the attributes of inspiration, motivation, imagination and necessity. By improving the students' competence and skills to create and do more deeply about creative writing while doing the process in single, pairs and groups into their own creativity, communication, critical thinking and collaboration, many opportunities for productive English, especially in writing skill occur. As students receive consistent and regular practice in these creative and productive activities, language fluency grows and improves.

Students are enthusiastic and be natural learners. They enjoy fun activities, such as music, quotes, poems, games, songs and rhymes as creative projects to express their feeling, art, having fun by doing learning process. Their mind can absorb the language by involving them in their world. In other word, students' 21st century skills enclose all of the things that they do creatively, communicatively, collaboratively and think critically in their everyday lives.

Writing skill as one of the language skills that needs to be improved and practiced. Through writing the students can express their ideas and thoughts into written form. The ability of the teachers in motivating and encouraging the students to be familiar and do more practice in writing are very needed in enhancing their writing skill. The method in Language Teaching is four steps of basic writing, they are; planning, drafting, revising, and editing (Anggraeni & Jolanda, 2018).

Creative skills play an important role in language learning. Drama, Music, Storytelling, Projects, and Creative Writing all require a lot of creativity and imagination. Creativity is a skill. It's the competence to create the unique and innovative ideas or products. Stories, Quotes, Rhymes, Motivational and inspirational words, Songs are unique results to express as the creative media in Creative Writing lesson.

Some difficult things in writing process, such as giving an easy brainstorm, identify the idea, or how to organize the idea and the concept, are some ways of writing processes which is encourage us as the teacher to design it well for the students (Anggraeni & Jolanda, 2018).

Expand Topics for Class Reading, Discussion, Writing, and Research; Embrace Diverse Perspectives Through Assignment Design. In line with the faculty-driven curricular redesigns outlined above, faculty should question the course materials used in their classes and the type of activities (Siczek, 2015). Shapiro and Siczeck used the term "strategic content" to characterize writing-intensive classes, with titles such as English in a Global Context and Language and Social Justice, that are organized around multidisciplinary topics of global significance (Siczek, 2015).

According to Anae (2014), Creative Writing usually refers to an activity in the English key learning area, it followed with the rather perplexing claim "where the purpose is to entertain". Creative writing skills development is the exception rather than the rule in teacher-education programs generally despite the evidence that supporting creativity in beginning-teacher programs supports creativity in the school curriculum, and despite the evidence advocating creative writing's potential to liberate creativity and present a powerful stimulus for self-expression and understanding 'self' (Anae, 2014). For instance, explored writing/creative writing skills development among Indigenous Australian youth and concluded that not only did writing/creative writing facilitate social and literacy skills, but provided a vital medium to explore personal and community issues.

In fact, writing/creative writing became "a powerful tool to open up communication and allow change to be initiated" (Anae, 2014).

Creative writing can be stimulated and supported through learning in a creative, multisensory context within a community of peers in which risk taking is encouraged and supported in a safe and supported environment; additionally, we suggest that, where possible and appropriate, taking advantage of opportunities for out-of-classroom learning can stimulate creative writing (Fitzgerald, Smith, & Monk, 2012).

Media is penetrating cultures and inundating people with information at an ever-accelerating pace. Around the world, there is a sharply growing realization among educators that it is essential to teach people to understand the media and their messages. Though the calls for media literacy are not new, what is new is the rise of relatively inexpensive media that allow students to produce their own works, the rapid transnational transmission of programming, and the concerted effort by several countries over the last 2 decades to develop national curricula (Christ & Potter, 1998).

There are various kinds of media, but visual aids are the appropriate media for learners, particularly young learners. The visual aids which are commonly used for teaching English are pictures, unreal or real objects or teacher-made charts, posters, cartoons, and flash cards. Whatever the definitions of media are, there is a guideline which can be stated about media. Media is anything used to send information from the sender(s) to the receiver(s), so it can be aroused the learners" thought, feeling, and interest to gear the students" learning (Anggraeni & Jolanda, 2018).

The use of social media has grown exponentially over the past decade - so has the use of social media in higher education. More and more universities are using social media tools such as social networking sites, wikis, or blogs to interact with and engage students. According to a survey of nearly 1000 university faculty members, 52 percent use social media tools such as wikis, blogs, and podcasts in their classes and more than 30 percent use social networks to communicate with students (Guo, Shen, & Li, 2017). Social media is defined as "a variety of new sources of online information that are created, circulated, and used by consumers intent on educating each other about products, brands, services, personalities, and issues" (Hsu, 2018).

The writing in media literacy that provides the context to eight essays has two components: conceptual issues and application issues. In contesting the term media, scholars, teachers, and parents' questions which medium should be privileged in terms of study. Some writers focus their attention on the ability to use oral and written language (Christ & Potter, 1998).

RESEARCH METHOD

Today's approach requires teaching the students skills of 4 C's like creativity, Critical thinking and problem solving, communication, collaboration, and literacy skills, which our modern society is created for.
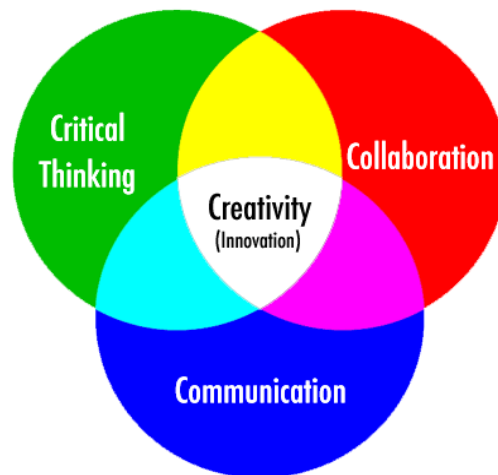
Picture 1 21st Century Skills
Source of the picture: https://www.pinterest.com/pin/341710690462005894/

In implementing a 21st century approach to learning creative writing, we need to create a learning situation which has curiosity and gives the students a real creative reason to learn. To do this, set up projects a round. Each project has several sets of creation that the students are led to experiment with, so that they can find out more about writing creatively by themselves. The teacher's role through-out the activities are to guide the students and to keep challenging them to think creatively to discover their ideas and products. They sometimes collaborate with other students to compare, contrast and share their learning experiences and discoveries. Finally, they write creatively and display it skillfully. So, the study was designed by getting the data from the teacher's projects to analyze and evaluate. The method used is Qualitative-Descriptive. The observations were taken from the teaching-learning process of English Department students of Indraprasta PGRI University. Literatures and some personal resources of teaching and learning process are also designed to support our aim in this study.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

21st Century skills are typically described as the skills, knowledge and expertise students should master to succeed in work and life in the 21st century. When writing is combined with learning innovation, technology and thinking skills, it can become a powerful tool to transform the teaching/learning environment and effectively address 21st century cross curricular themes. Digital media and technology are changing the developmental landscape for learners in the digital age of today and the future. The task for educators is to review and design innovative educational approaches supporting students in their good use of digital media and technology. In actuality, it is not an idea for more consideration but a necessity of paramount and urgent importance. The Creative Writing is one of language skills that use various subjects, themes and digital literacy as a way for guiding students' inquiry, vocabularies, grammar, imagination and critical thinking. Creative writing basically encourages the learners to use their imaginations and express their emotions to create written material. Thus, creative writing can include any written expression. It can be a novel, short story, drama, play, epic, poetry, lyrics of a song, script for a film, dialogue, writings for children or non-fiction writings like speech,

autobiography, biography, historical writings, memoirs, travelogues, etc. (Rajaram, 2014).

Meanwhile, Project-Based Learning is an instructional approach where students are engaged in meaningful 21st century skills and where collaboration and personalized writing learning are emphasized.

Project-based learning is a way of teaching and learning processes that prompt students to express, discover, display, create, work, solve, project or write through exploration, understanding, imagination, creativity, communication, and critical thinking. For creative writing learning, project-based learning provides a good opportunity to create writing ideas and products which are interesting, inspiring, amazing, wonderful, meaningful and practical lesson. Instead of focusing on memorizing vocabulary and grammar patterns, students focused on using the creative media provided to write creatively.

Through Project-Based Learning, students at English Education University of Indraprasta PGRI develop their ability to write creatively. They write an increased ability to define and organize ideas, inspire new topics, imagine the stories to tell, they are also able to tackle conceptual problems better than those taught in usual writing subject.

Implementing '21st century skills' into the lesson, ideas, such as collaboration, critical thinking, creativity and communication are becoming effective and extraordinary purpose for the lesson. These 4Cs are considered to be the skills which students need to develop their writing skill creatively, change the way they learned previously, encourage and inspire the new idea and perspective to do their projects.

For the example, result of a research said that micro-blogging for creative writing activates was examined through an explanatory sequential mixed research design. Accordingly, micro-blogging services, such as twitter, support creative writing activities because the constraints in the length of the tweets force learners to be more selective for word choice and to be more creative to express themselves in a single tweet which requires more involvement during the learning process. Besides, these activities support vocabulary learning which is an important area in language learning (Bozkurt, Aydin, Taşkiran, & Koral, 2016:95).

Networked learning activates through social networks are convenient for interacting socially and forming community among the learners. Assuming that learning in general and language learning particular is a social process, these kind of activities should be integrated into curriculum to transform language learning beyond the classrooms and to transform it into a daily activity in online social networks, which is generally perceived as a routine by digital generations (Bozkurt et al., 2016:95-96). They use multimedia to support writing skill of a language.

The students are encouraged to share their creative writing projects with other groups or pairs and compare the results. After the topics were introduced, and prior knowledge was 'started' among them, an effective progression for developing creative writing in the classroom often followed like this:

Table 1 Activities of Creative Writing

Teaching and Objective	Learning Process	Digital Literacy
BRAINSTORMING Planning, Drafting (IDEAS)	Boost the creative thinking	Media Supporting

working with words	Create or design the words & framework	Mind Mapping, Graphic organizer
Use Images	Write caption and comment based on pictures	Using photos, pictures in magazines, Pinterest, Picart, Snapseed,etc.
Use Creative Media	Write creative things	Storytelling, Poem, etc.
Use Creative Projects	Create and design creative writing projects	Social Media

Table 2 The Process of During and After the Writing

DURING THE WRITING	Improve Languages Skills	Develop Digital literacy
Revising, editing		
Using the specific term (Based on themes)	Vocabulary	Using applications of technology (platforms)
Using Part of speech in phrases/basic sentences	Grammar	Using applications of technology
Contents Real-life context	Analyzing & creating words, phrases, sentences	Using application of technology
AFTER THE WRITING Creative Writing projects	Write, Evaluate Evaluation	Projects on Social Media Projects posting on social media

As they have explored all they got, the teacher was able to assess the part and level of languages, like vocabulary, grammar, contents, ideas, etc. that the students were able to use creatively within the topics. Here are the Creative Writing projects activities:

Table 3 Creative Writing Projects Activities

Name of Activities	21st Century Skills	Creative Media	Writing Skills
Setting Goals	Creativity Critical Thinking	Mind Mapping Graphic Organizer	Kinds of sentences Listing Categorizing

Source:
https://www.sciencemag.org/careers/2013/12
/goal-setting-strategies-scientific-and-career-
success

Source: https://imindmap.com/how-to-mind-
map/

The Power of 'I AM' quotes/ others	Creativity Critical Thinking	QUOTES	Words/Phrases

Source:
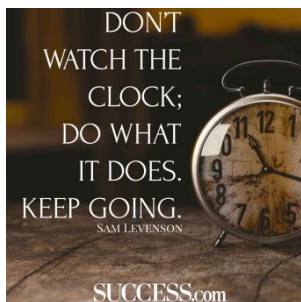http://rethinkingeverything.com/what-you-
love-is-a-sign-from-your-higher-self-of-
what-you-are-to-do-sanaya-roman/

Source:
https://evolutionwriters.com/order.html?pid=
3281

Motivational Words	Creativity Critical thinking Communication	Motivational words Pinterest	Words/Phrases/Kind of Sentences/Figurative sentences/collocation

Source: https://www.success.com/17-
motivational-quotes-to-help-you-achieve-
your-dreams/

Storytelling	Creativity Critical Thinking Collaboration Communication	Graphic organizer	Words/Phrases/Kind of Sentences/Figurative sentences Character Analysis

Source:
https://id.pinterest.com/pin/28759712618075
2928/?lp=true

My Family Story	Creativity Critical Thinking Collaboration Communication	Pic Collage	Narrative Text/display main ideas

Source: https://www.amazon.com/WOLTU-
HAPPINESS-Plexiglass-Openings-
PF07blkS10/dp/B06Y6LJPHH

Broadcast News	Creativity Critical Thinking Collaboration Communication	Social Media	Using Genre to write texts Vocabularies on special purpose

Source:
https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t2-t-
10000148-ks2-world-cup-tv-broadcast-
activity-sheets

Source:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_NmVt
nEEA8

Creating Ads & Write creative Marketing Source: https://www.adweek.com/digital/will-instagram-s-advertising-gold-rush-send-users-running-167873/	Creativity Critical Thinking Collaborati on Communica tion	Advertisem ent/ Social Media	Vocabulary in use/ Persuasive Text/ Creative Language/
Create Your Own Comic Strips Source: https://www.slideshare.net/SaimaAbedi/comic-strip-lesson-plan	Creativity Critical Thinking Collaborati on Communica tion	Comic Strip from Printed and digital media	Words/Phrases/Expressi on/Kind of Sentences/Figurative sentences
Creating Poster/Flyers/Brochure/Greeting Cards Source: https://www.canva.com/create/posters/ 	Creativity Critical Thinking Collaborati on Communica tion	Pic Collage Pinterest Canva, etc.	Words/Phrases/Expressi on/Kind of Sentences/Figurative sentences
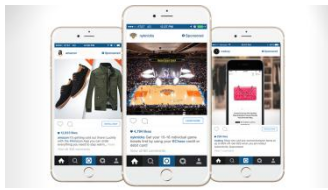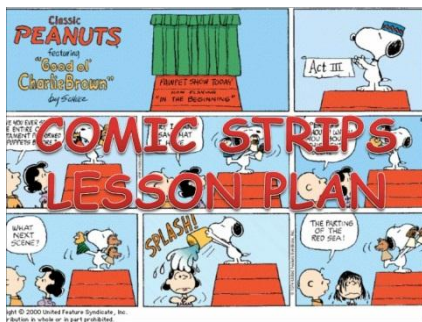
Source:
https://www.journalbuddies.com/creative-writing-2/creative-writing-story-starters/

Social Media Storytelling	Creativity Critical Thinking Collaboration Communication	Canva Insta story FB story	Words/Phrases/Expression/Kind of Sentences/Figurative sentences

Source: https://blog.24hours.pk/tag/social-media/

Source: http://ccstudio.com/social-media-services/

It is encouraging to see that Creative Writing is being used by teachers in many teaching contexts, many various creative media and many creative integrated projects. Using Creative writing in projects-based learning is also designed to be used by the students creatively and innovatively. Asking the students to write creatively using creative projects provide engaging tasks which aid to improve their 21st century skills. Fortunately, all the students required to write such creative various writing styles based on creative writing projects using 4C's which is creativity, Critical thinking and problem solving, communication, collaboration as an integrated approaching.

This activity provided a much more authentic context or real-life world interesting writing themes for developing their languages skills expressed by writing their projects creatively.

The improving of 21st century skills: creativity, Critical thinking and problem solving, communication, collaboration much has been as 4C's. It is essential for students to develop these skills in order to achieve their goals in this rapidly changing world. Each skill is applied in creative writing learning process and are explored how creative they improved and achieved through creative writing as a creative media. Each 21st Century Skill is divided into three categories, they are *Learning Skills, Literacy skills and Life Skills.*

Learning Skills
In creative writing learning process, the students were taught about the mental processes required to adapt and improve upon the sophisticated work in their real daily life to explore their skills, such as:

Critical Thinking
Today's approach of 21st century skill and Critical thinking, problem solving, decision making and visual literacy skill, which our up-to-date society requires students to move up from lower thinking to higher thinking level about the learning process they taught.

Students of English education use critical and problem solving to explore writing skills in a variety of ways, including the following:
1. Prioritizing the context in order relevance, Classifying and categorizing the context.
2. Analyzing the context.
3. Comparing and contrasting the context, determining facts from opinion.
4. Evaluating the context, giving the reasoning, decision making and solving the context issues.
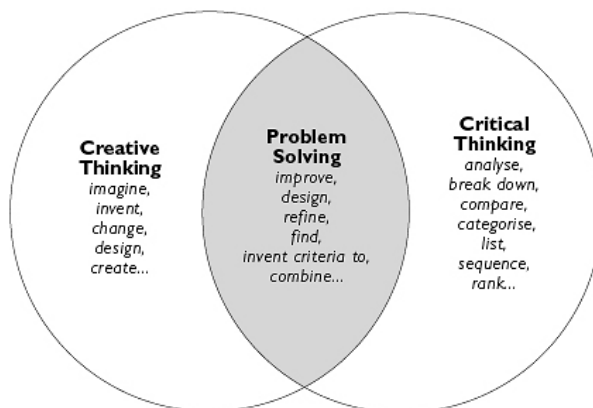
Picture 2 21st Century Skills
Source of picture: https://www.pinterest.com/pin/415246028128514349/

The activities in creative writing that need critical thinking and problem solving such as , 'Setting goals', Mind Mapping, 'The Power of I AM' quotes, 'Grow the idea', 'Quotes' or 'wise words', 'storytelling', 'Family story pictures', 'Broadcast News', 'News Report', 'Create and write Ads', 'Comic Strip', 'Brochure, Flyer, Poster' 'Invitation', 'social media story' and 'Blog'.

The students asked to collaborate within their groups, working together to improve their critical thinking and problem solving through their creative media, for example posting on social media, by development their language skills such as vocabulary, part of speech (Grammar), interesting and up-to-date content, in creative themes projects.

Creativity

In these creative writing project activities, students' groups learn the content knowledge which is about language skills, such as grammar, part of speech, and vocabulary. To ensure that every student within the group has an opportunity to participate in his or her ideas throughout theirs projects. They can plan their creative writing by brainstorming with creative, imaginative, inspiration, productive ideas individually. Then discuss the ideas. By working on creative writing projects individually, then sharing what they have created, the students have the chance to improve their 21ˢᵗ century skills and build their language skills as well all at once.

The media they used to explore the ideas, initiated their own writing and making choices and decisions about how to express themselves using different media and languages styles. In responding to what they write and do their writing projects creatively, view, hear and experience, the students make use of literacy skills and transform their knowledge and understanding in the writing process. These writing projects designed and created to explore the nature and characteristics of creative pedagogies, including for example, identifying, classifying, applying, analyzing, examining immersive language art

and related teaching techniques, their everyday lives and literacy practices and the creative various literary discussions in creative writing groups.

A society that reads and writes well can go a long way in developing a nation. The technology is making a significant impact on learning of creative writing skills. Many individuals often nurture the desire to be great writers (Rajaram, 2014).

Collaboration and Communication

As the above projects presented, the 21st century skills or 4C's skills of collaboration and communication can play an important role in language skills when they blend with critical and problem solving, also creative projects. As they are asked to think beyond and deeply, and to create together, achieve compromises, and get the best possible results from making their creative writing projects. Communication is the glue that involves all these qualities together. There is a high motivation and understanding needed to communicate ideas and opinions in their writing projects. They shared their creative thoughts, questions, ideas and solutions in groups.

Literacy Skills

The students in these activities focused on how can they discern facts, analyzing and evaluate the content knowledge of languages skills and digital skills. The meaning and purpose of literacy skills learning connected to the outcome of students 'creative writing projects, for example, inspirational quotes, simple newspaper, a blog, a power point presentation, advertisements, film and book review, letters to individual or organizations, flyers, invitations, brochure and poster about the topics were given.

In Language Skills, the students understanding about facts in different vocabularies of themes related, word classes, phrases, kind of sentences, part of speech, like Noun, Verb, Adverb, Pronoun, Adjectives, Conjunctions Prepositions and Interjections, images, and graphs. In Digital Literacy Skills, digital literacy skills give the students the basic information they need to understand what gadget platforms perform to their creative writing projects, such as apps of Pinterest, Canva, and other social media platforms. These activities focus on determining trustworthy sources and factual information to create creative good writing that can help them to avoid and prevent the misinformation or hoax that floods the social media. These media and technology tools made their creative writing projects are possible, creative, look amazing and informational.

Life Skills

These life skills contribute to students' future life. The skills they got and developed including flexibility, leadership skill that help and motivate their teamwork to accomplish the purpose of doing the creative writing projects together, initiative to start and do the projects, maintaining efficiency by producing the creative projects well and social skills that helping them to participate, getting involve with others in doing the creative writing learning process more socially. Spending so much time working with new technologies, students develop more familiarity with computers and other electronic devices. With the increased focus on technology in education and business, this will help students build skills.

CONCLUSION

As a summary of this study, students require to think beyond simple comprehension of writing, they understand about what is being taught. They explore the information in various new ways. They can be asked to collaborate or working together to create and produce their creative projects. They use their creativity to make changes, solve the problem, express their feeling and show themselves in different new ways.

The activities required to brainstorm ideas, present the ideas and display them by using creative media, during the writing process to develop their language skills and after writing process activity which is aim to evaluate their creative writing projects.

With the challenges given by the multi-literacy and Creative Writing media and technology, nowadays students can't just write the exercise traditionally. They have to get out from their boxes and engage with their creativity, collaboration, communication, critical thinking, initiative, ideas and imagination to adapt, to work, to interact effectively with other to continue improving their 21ˢᵗ Century skills throughout their life time.

The most important things are the students improve their critical thinking, real communication and collaboration skills in doing creative writing projects innovatively. Creative writing as the creative media improve their productive skill of language, especially writing skill all at once with 4C's skills, digital literacy skills and also their life skills because of their motivation, inspiring, imagination, creativity and necessity are elevated

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