

**EFFECTIVENESS OF USING NEWSPAPERS TO IMPROVE
STUDENTS VOCABULARY IN ESSAY WRITING AMONG FORM
THREE STUDENTS**

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**EFFECTIVENESS OF USING NEWSPAPERS
TO IMPROVE STUDENTS VOCABULARY
IN ESSAY WRITING AMONG FORM THREE STUDENTS**

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*I dedicate this piece of work to my loving mother, Madam Savandram, husband,
Mr. A. Sudhagar, beloved son Saran Kumar, my siblings and my friend, Irene for their love,
motivation and support.*

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ABSTRACT

Vocabulary learning is one of the major challenges that second language learners' face during the process of learning a language. In Malaysia, many students have difficulty in writing due to the lack of vocabulary. Thus, this study seeks to investigate whether the use of newspapers can help to enhance student's vocabulary to improve their essay writing. Twenty Form Three students from a secondary school were selected for this study to seek the effectiveness of using newspapers to teach vocabulary to improve student's essay writing. This study is a quasi-experimental design. For the purpose of this study, two sets of instruments were used to gather the data. The first was a pre-test and a post-test of writing an essay and the second was an interview to seek student's opinion regarding the use of newspaper to teach vocabulary to improve their essay writing. For the intervention, six treatments were administered. They consists of a rational cloze passage, matching words to its meaning, building words at sentence level and constructing sentences at paragraph level. After the intervention, students sat for the post test of writing an essay. The results were then computed using SPSS. The findings of the study showed positive results of employing newspapers to teach vocabulary when students showed improvement for their essays in the post-test. Furthermore, the vocabulary learning strategies have also helped the students to acquire vocabulary from the newspapers efficiently. Lastly, the findings from the interview showed that students enjoyed learning vocabularies from the two newspaper articles because it had brought benefits when they could the use lexical words in the right context from the newspaper articles for the post test.

ABSTRAK

Penguasaan tatabahasa adalah salah satu cabaran besar bagi pelajar bahasa kedua semasa mempelajari sesuatu bahasa. Di Malaysia, terdapat ramai pelajar yang mengalami masalah di dalam penulisan karangan disebabkan oleh penguasaan tatabahasa yang lemah. Oleh itu, kajian ini dijalankan bertujuan untuk melihat sama ada penggunaan surat khabar dapat membantu pelajar di dalam penguasaan tatabahasa bagi mempertingkatkan penulisan karangan mereka. Kajian ini adalah dalam bentuk kuasi-eksperimen. Bagi tujuan kajian ini, dua set instrumen akan digunakan untuk mengumpulkan data. Instrumen yang pertama adalah ujian pra dan ujian pos menulis sebuah karangan dan yang kedua adalah satu temu duga bagi mendapatkan pandangan pelajar tentang penggunaan surat khabar untuk mempelajari tatabahasa untuk meningkatkan karangan mereka. Intervensi sebanyak enam kali telah dijalankan bagi tujuan kajian ini. Ianya terdiri daripada satu isi tempat kosong menggunakan tatabahasa yang telah dipelajari, suaikan perkataan dengan maknanya, membina ayat dengan perkataan yang diberikan dan membina ayat bagi menghasilkan satu perenggan. Selepas enam rawatan telah dijalankan, pelajar akan menduduki ujian pos bagi menghasilkan sebuah karangan. Keputusan ujian pra dan pos akan di proses menggunakan SPSS. Hasil dapatan kajian menunjukkan keputusan yang positif tentang penggunaan surat khabar di dalam membantu penguasaan tatabahasa apabila pelajar-pelajar menunjukkan peningkatan di dalam markah karangan bagi ujian pos. Hasil kajian juga mendapati strategi pembelajaran tatabahasa juga telah membantu pelajar untuk menguasai tatabahasa daripada surat khabar dengan berkesan. Akhir sekali, melalui dapatan daripada temu duga didapati pelajar berasa amat seronok mempelajari tatabahasa daripada kedua-dua artikel surat khabar sebab ianya telah membawa banyak faedah apabila pelajar-pelajar dapat menggunakan perkataan yang dipelajari di dalam konteks yang betul di dalam ujian pos.