

## THE IMPORTANCE OF IBT TO TEACH WRITING IN INDONESIAN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Yusi Rahmawati

Akademi Pelayaran Niaga Indonesia – Semarang – Indonesia

[yusirahmawati777@yahoo.com](mailto:yusirahmawati777@yahoo.com)

**Abstract:** IBT is considered as a creative and positive method in teaching writing. Besides, it is also a useful teaching method for developing life-long learning competence for the learners. Pedagogically speaking, IBT method affects students' ability in learning writing. Without a good teaching method, the students' ability, creativity, and awareness in writing may decrease. Many students of Junior High School consider writing as a difficult skill to learn. Teacher should provide creative and innovative teaching methods, so the students do not indicate that they are indolent to practice writing. The paper highlights the nature of IBT, the realistic purpose of IBT, the importance of IBT in teaching writing, and the ideas about how to implement IBT for teaching writing in Indonesian Junior High School.

**Keywords:** *IBT, writing*

### Introduction

Learning is meaningful when it is problem based. Students learn best when they are at the center of their own learning. They will understand when they solve their own problem. Students' activeness in understanding the problem, exploring their knowledge, solving the problem, and drawing their own synthesis will gain their quality of learning. When a teacher tells students about something, students can forget it. When a teacher shows a reality, students will remember. Yet, when a teacher involves students to learn, students will understand. Inquiry Based Teaching or Problem Based Teaching is a powerful teaching method. The teaching learning process is dominated by the students. The role of the teacher is as a facilitator and a guide.

Writing is one of important skills in language learning since the ways of communication are oral and written. The word "writing" indicates a set of thinking process and arranging the ideas into a permanent form. Writing has five major components that need to be mastered in order to be able to produce successful writing. Those are content, organization, vocabulary, grammar, and mechanics. The key success of teaching writing is practice. A teacher must give the students chance to practice a lot. Inquiry Based Teaching provides a lot of opportunity to practice writing. Every stage of Inquiry Based Teaching provides a chance to write. It is a good point in writing skill.

Teacher of Indonesian Junior High School introduces the students to write simple sentences related to genres, functional texts, and some writing forms. By using inquiry Based Teaching, an Indonesian Junior High School teacher trains the students to practice writing in every stage of the teaching method. It is interesting teaching method especially in gaining students' writing ability and interest.

### Purpose of the Study

This study aims at describing the nature of IBT, the realistic purpose of IBT, the importance of IBT in teaching writing, and the ideas about how to implement IBT for teaching writing in Indonesian Junior High School.

### Writing

Writing is a way in representing a language in visual form. Some experts say in the same way about writing; Nunan (2003: 88) states writing is a process of thinking to invent ideas, thinking about how to express ideas into good writing, and arranging the ideas into a good statement. It can be assumed that a writer is expected to put her/his ideas and make the ideas into good sentences. In the same line, Brown (1994: 321) describes that writing is a process of putting ideas in a paper to transform the ideas into words, to sharpen main ideas, to give structure and coherent organization of the ideas. Furthermore, Spratt, et. al. (2005: 26) also say that writing is a set of activities to communicate someone ideas by using letters, words, phrases, and clauses to form a series of good sentences. It can be summed up that writing skill is an ability in the form of communication that allows a writer to put her/his ideas and feeling into letters, words, phrases, and clauses by organizing them and conveying their meaning through well-constructed text. Writing skill helps people to discover what they know. Writing about a topic stimulates our thinking on that topic and helps us to probe knowledge and experiences we have stored in our subconscious minds. Writing about a topic also stimulates people to become active rather than passive receiver of information.

## **Inquiry Based Teaching**

Writing skill is needed by every student, since most of English tests are in the form of essay, as well as multiple choices. In order to improve students' writing skill, teacher should give the students more writing activities in teaching learning process. The activities should become the favorite activity to the students in learning English as a tool of communication. Inquiry Based Teaching implements active learning process. The word Inquiry {*North American English*}[Noun] (has similar meaning with enquiry {*British English*}) which is an official process to find out the cause of something or to find out information about something. It is also defined as the act of asking questions or collecting information about something. Inquiry Based Teaching is a teaching method that invites students to explore their understanding in answering questions given by teacher. It is also known as problem based teaching method.

The implementation of Inquiry based Teaching for teaching learning writing in Indonesian Junior High School is as follows:

1. The activity starts with questions. The teacher asks a question and invites the students to answer the question. The students write down the question in a book and will be followed by further data.
2. Students discover the answers through their own research. The students try to get the answer by discovering the answer. They look for the ideas from books, magazines, internet, and so on. The students write down the important things from the sources.
3. Students generate a hypothesis. The students make a hypothesis based on the question given by the teacher. In this activity, the students write the hypothesis in the book which is used since the two previous steps.
4. Students develop an experimental design. In this stage, the students try to find the final answer by conducting an experimental design. The students work with two resources they are library data and real life data.
5. Students collect and record the data by making a note. Every single data is written down in the book to record every single data that they find in their research.
6. Students analyze the data. After getting data, the students try to analyze the data by cross checking data from some resources.
7. Students reach conclusion. After analyzing the data, the students draw conclusion and conclude the final answer.

From the steps above, it can be summarized that most of the activities which are conducted in inquiry based teaching implements writing activities. By doing inquiry based teaching activities; the students' ability in writing will improve. The students train to write many things in every activity. By doing the writing activities, the students feel more confident in writing.

After understanding teaching learning activities, here are the purposes of Inquiry Based Teaching:

1. Inquiry based teaching develops and validates 'habits of mind' that characterize a life – long learners;
2. Inquiry based teaching allows students to draw connections between academic content and their own lives;
3. Inquiry based teaching inspires students to learn more and to learn more thoroughly; and
4. Inquiry based teaching increases students' achievement and narrows the gap between high- and low-achieving students.

## **Conclusion**

This study hopefully becomes a consideration of the teacher to stop their full lesson in teaching by teacher – centered and start to teach by students – centered more. It is underlying the government rules in the newest curriculum of 2013 about students – centered active learning. In new curriculum, the students should be creative. Inquiry Based Teaching is a student – centered teaching method which is interesting and giving chance to practice a lot.

In relation with the description above, the writer proposed some suggestions for the teacher, the school, and the other researcher. The teachers are suggested to be more creative and innovative in teaching, so the students will be more active and creative and they do not get much difficulty in writing. By implementing the updated teaching method especially in writing, the students' writing skills will confidently be gained. The English teachers are suggested to use Inquiry Based Teaching as the method in teaching writing. It can also be beneficial for the other researcher who wants to conduct the similar research as ideas creator.

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