ABSTRACT

This research is aimed at studying the students’ ability in writing English composition at SMA Negeri 2 Bangkalan. This research is intended to investigate the first year students’ ability in writing English composition which includes their ability to develop the content, to organize the ideas, to use diction, grammatical patterns, and mechanics in writing English composition.

This study used a descriptive quantitative design because the data were analyzed and described in a numerical form. The number of the first year students at SMA Negeri 2 Bangkalan was 251 students that were divided into six parallel classes. This research took the sample from the population by using a cluster sampling technique because in this school every class had similar characteristics. So, the sample of this research was I-D that consisted of 42 students and was chosen randomly. This research used picture series taken from LKS Bahasa Inggris New English Program, 1997 published by PT. Tiga Serangkai as the test because picture series make the students enjoy writing a written work such as a composition. This research used two raters in order to avoid the subjectivity in scoring. The scores of the two raters were combined, and then divided by 2 to yield the mean score. To determine the students’ scores, ESL Composition Profile of Jacobs et al Scoring Profile was used. The profile can evaluate the student’s scores in each component such as content, organization, vocabulary or diction, language use or grammatical patterns, and mechanics, the sum of scores from five components, and the students’ score criteria.

The results of the first year students’ ability in each component of composition showed that their ability to develop the content of their composition was fair to poor, the students’ ability to organize composition was good to average, the students’ ability to use diction in their composition was good to average, the students’ ability to use grammatical patterns in their composition was fair to poor, and the students’ ability to use mechanics in their composition was fair to poor. So, based on the research findings, it can be concluded that the first year students’ ability in writing English composition at SMA Negeri 2 Bangkalan was poor to fair.