

**IMPROVING STUDENTS' WRITING SKILLS USING FOUR SQUARE
(AN ACTION RESEARCH AT FIRST YEAR OF SMP N 7 SURAKARTA
IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2012/ 2013)**



A Thesis

**Submitted to the Teacher Training and Education Faculty of Sebelas Maret
University to Fulfill One of the Requirements of Getting the Undergraduate
of Education in English**

**TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION FACULTY
SEBELAS MARET UNIVERSITY
SURAKARTA**

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I would like to certify that the thesis entitled **"IMPROVING STUDENTS' WRITING SKILLS USING FOUR SQUARE (AN ACTION RESEARCH AT FIRST YEAR OF SMP N 7 SURAKARTA IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2012/ 2013)** is really my own work. It is not plagiarism or made by others. Everything related to others' work are written in quotation, the sources of which are listed on the bibliography.

If then, this pronouncement proves wrong, I am ready to receive an academic punishment including the withdrawal or cancellation of my academic degree.



Surakarta, July 2013

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This thesis has been approved by the consultants to be examined by the Board of Examiners of Teacher Training and Education Faculty of Sebelas Maret University.

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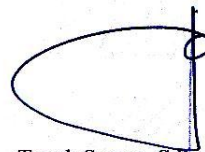
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ABSTRACT

Rika Christine Indriyati. **IMPROVING STUDENTS' WRITING SKILLS USING FOUR SQUARE (AN ACTION RESEARCH AT THE FIRST YEAR STUDENTS OF SMP N 7 SURAKARTA IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR OF 2012/ 2013)**. Thesis, Surakarta: Teacher Training and Education Faculty. Sebelas Maret University, June 2013.

The purpose of this research is to know whether Four Square Writing method can improve students' writing skill and classroom situation.

The writer conducted the research from December 2012 to May 2013 in SMP N 7 Surakarta which consists of two cycles. In doing her research, she collected the data by using several techniques. For collecting qualitative data, the writer used questionnaires, conducting interviews, gathering documentary evidence, and systematic observation. Whereas for collecting quantitative data, she used students' score from several test. To crosscheck her data, she applied Triangulation Method as suggested by Altrichter. Meanwhile, to analyze the qualitative data, she used data reduction, presenting the data, and concluding the data. In addition, she compared the mean score of pre-test, post-test I, and post-test II.

The research result showed that Four Square Writing Method could improve students' writing skills and classroom condition. After applying Four Square Writing Method, students are able to: explore their ideas, organize it in paragraph form, apply correct grammar, choose appropriate vocabularies, and pay attention on how they apply mechanics. As the result, the mean score of post-test II is higher than post-test I and mean score post-test I is higher than pre-test. Students became active to participate in class activities; students became confident in expressing their ideas through writing; and students became active in sharing and collecting ideas. This was the prove of classroom improvement.

MOTTO

“Sebab tidak ada yang mustahil bagi Allah.”

Lukas 1:37

“Lakukanlah segala pekerjaanmu dalam kasih!”

2 Korintus 1:14

**“Serahkanlah hidupmu kepada Tuhan dan percayalah kepada-Nya,
dan Ia akan bertindak.”**

Mazmur 37:5

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DEDICATION



The writer dedicates this thesis to:

- 1. My beloved mom and father**
- 2. My beloved brothers and sisters**
- 3. My beloved boyfriend and his family**
- 4. My friends**

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Praise The Lord, Jesus Christ The Almighty Who always blesses the researcher in finishing her thesis as a partial requirements for the Undergraduate Degree of Education in English Department.

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The researcher realizes that this thesis is still far from being perfect. She accepts gratefully every comment and suggestion. Hopefully, this thesis will be useful for the readers and English education improvement.



Surakarta, June 2013

Rika Christine Indriyati

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