IMPROVING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT IN WRITING USING NUMBERED HEAD TOGETHER (NHT)

(A Classroom Action Research in Class VIII B of SMP NEGERI 16 Surakarta in Academic Year of 2015/2016)

Submitted to Teacher Training and Education Faculty of Sebelas Maret University as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for Obtaining the Graduate Degree in English Education

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2016
PRONOUNCEMENT

I would like to certify that this thesis entitled “Improving Student Engagement in Writing Using Numbered Head Together (A Classroom Action Research in Class VIII B of SMP NEGERI 16 Surakarta in Academic Year of 2015/2016)” is not a product of plagiarism or is made by others. Anything related to others’ work is written in quotation, the sources of which are listed on the bibliography.

If then this pronouncement proves wrong, I am ready to accept any academic punishment.

Surakarta, August 2016

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ABSTRACT


The objectives of the research are: (1) To analyze to what extent the use of Numbered Head Together (NHT) technique can improve student engagement in writing. (2) To describe the difficulties of implementing Numbered Head Together in teaching writing.

This research is an action research which was conducted in two cycles, each consisting of 3 meetings. It consisted of four steps: planning, implementing, observation, and reflection. The research data were collected by using observation, interview, research diary, students’ activities observation sheet, pre-test and post-test. The data were analyzed through descriptive analysis for the qualitative data and descriptive statistics for the quantitative data.

The research findings showed that: (1) the implementation of Numbered Head Together could improve student engagement in learning English especially in writing skill. The student engagement had improved along with the changes of students’ activities which became more engaged in learning process. The improvement of the student engagement gives positive correlation to writing achievement which was proved by the mean score of their post-test that was higher than the base score. The mean score of writing test increased from 61.5 in the pre-test, 69.4 in test 1 and in the post-test became 75.8. (2) The difficulties when implementing Numbered Head Together in this research, included: a) Not all students are willing to put the headband number on their head; b) Not all the students accept the teachers’ group distribution, they want choose the member of the group by themselves; c) The clever students dominate in group, it makes the other inferior; d) Some students are lazy and relied on their friends by not giving argument in completing the task; and e) Some students need a long time to move from their seat and meet their friend group, then set the chair and table to make the discussion easy.

From the results above, it could be concluded that Numbered Head Together is an alternative teaching technique that benefits both for students’ achievement and learning process. It is recommended to implement this technique to improve the student engagement in learning process.

Key Words: Numbered Head Together, student engagement, writing skill
ABSTRAK


Penelitian ini bertujuan (1) untuk mengetahui sejauh mana Numbered Heads Together (NHT) teknik dapat meningkatkan keterlibatan siswa dalam pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris. (2) untuk mendeskripsikan kesulitan yang dihadapi ketika Numbered Head Together diterapkan di dalam penelitian ini.


Berdasarkan hasil penelitian dapat disimpulkan bahwa: (1) penerapan Numbered Head Together dapat meningkatkan keterlibatan siswa di dalam pembelajaran bahasa Inggris. Keterlibatan siswa meningkat seiring dengan aktivitas siswa yang semakin terlibat dalam pembelajaran. Keterlibatan siswa yang meningkat memberikan dampak positif pada peningkatan nilai nilai menulis yakni dari nilai rata-rata di tes pertama lebih meningkat daripada nilai di awal tes. Nilai rata-rata dapat meningkat dari 61,5 di awal tes, 69,4 di tes pertama dan di akhir tes menjadi 75,8(2) Kesulitan yang dihadapi ketika Numbered Head Together diterapkan di dalam penelitian ini, diantaranya: a) Tidak semua siswa memiliki keinginan untuk memakai bandana nomor di kepala mereka; b) Tidak semua siswa menerima pembagian kelompok yang dibentuk oleh guru, mereka ingin memilih sendiri anggota kelompoknya; c) Siswa yang pintar mendominasi kelompok sehingga membuat siswa lain minder; d) Beberapa siswa malas dan bergantung pada siswa yang pintar untuk menyelesaikan tugas; and e) beberapa siswa membutuhkan waktu yang lama untuk pindah dari tempat duduknya, mencari teman kelompoknya, dan menyusun meja kursi untuk mempermudah diskusi.

Dari hasil diatas, dapat disimpulkan bahwa Numbered Head Together dapat digunakan sebagai alternatif teknik pengajaran membawa kebaikan dalam nilai siswa proses pembelajaran. Sangat disarankan untuk menerapkan Numbered Head Together untuk meningkatkan keterlibatan siswa dalam proses pembelajaran.

Kata Kunci: Numbered Head Together, student engagement, writing skill
MOTTO

Verily Allah will not change the condition of a people unless the people themselves who changed what on themselves (Ar Rad :11)
DEDICATION

With the deepest of love, this thesis is dedicated to:

- My beloved mom, Ibu Sri Mangestuti who never stop supporting me through her prayers and her advices, thank you for your love, I love you so much more than everything.
- My beloved brother and sister, Farida in Qurroti Ayunina, Rizalul Hanif, Khonsa Al Atsariyyah who always support me, cheering me up, and pray for me.
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Finally I sincerely hope that this thesis is beneficial for writers, teachers, and students. Any criticism is welcomed for the better research in the future.

Surakarta, August 2016

Mar’atul Hanifah

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