

THE EFFECT OF USING THESAURUS APPLICATION ON STUDENTS WRITING ABILITY OF DESCRIPTIVE TEXT AT GRADE X OF SMA NEGERI 1 BUNTU PANE IN ACADEMIC YEAR 2025/2026

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ABSTRACT

This research aimed to find out whether there was a significant effect of using Thesaurus Application on students' writing ability of descriptive text at Grade X of SMA Negeri 1 Buntu Pane in the Academic Year 2025/2026. The background of this study was based on students' difficulties in writing descriptive text, particularly in vocabulary mastery, lexical variation, and developing ideas into coherent paragraphs. To overcome these problems, the researcher applied the Thesaurus Application as a learning tool to enrich students' vocabulary and improve their descriptive writing ability. This research used a quantitative approach with a quasi-experimental design. The population of this research consisted of all Grade X students of SMA Negeri 1 Buntu Pane, totaling 191 students. The sample was selected by using purposive sampling technique, consisting of 30 students in class X-1 as the experimental class and 32 students in class X-4 as the control class. The experimental class was taught by using Thesaurus Application, while the control class was taught through conventional teaching method. The instrument used in collecting the data was a writing test consisting of pre-test and post-test. The data were analyzed by using the Independent Sample t-test formula. The result of the research showed that the students' writing ability in the experimental class improved after receiving the treatment. The mean score of the experimental class in the post-test was higher than the control class. Based on the calculation of the t-test, it was found that the value of t-observed was higher than t-table at the level of significance 0.05. Therefore, the alternative hypothesis (Ha) was accepted and the null hypothesis (H0) was rejected. It can be concluded that the use of Thesaurus Application gave a significant effect on students' writing ability of descriptive text at Grade X of SMA Negeri 1 Buntu Pane in the Academic Year 2025/2026. The application helped students enrich vocabulary, avoid repetitive words, and produce more varied and meaningful descriptive texts.

Keywords: *Thesaurus Application, Writing Ability, Descriptive Text, Vocabulary, Quasi-Experimental Research.*

INTRODUCTION

English is one of the important international languages used for communication, education, technology, and globalization. In Indonesia, English is taught as a foreign language and becomes one of the compulsory subjects in schools. The teaching of English focuses on four language skills, namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Among these skills, writing is considered one of the most difficult skills for students to master because it requires the ability to organize ideas, apply grammar correctly, and use appropriate vocabulary in written form.

According to H. Douglas Brown (2007), language is a system of conventional vocal, written, or gestural symbols used by members of a community to communicate effectively with one another. Language enables people to express thoughts, feelings, and ideas in both spoken and written communication. In learning English, writing becomes an important skill because students are expected to communicate ideas clearly and systematically through

written texts.

Writing is a productive skill that requires students to generate ideas and express them into meaningful sentences and paragraphs. In senior high school, students are required to master several kinds of texts, such as narrative, recount, procedure, report, and descriptive texts. One of the important genres learned by Grade X students is descriptive text. Descriptive text is a type of text that describes a particular person, place, animal, or thing in detail so that readers can imagine the object clearly.

However, writing descriptive text is still difficult for many students. Based on observations at SMA Negeri 1 Buntu Pane, many students have problems in writing descriptive text. Most students have limited vocabulary mastery and often use repetitive words in their writing. They also experience difficulties in choosing suitable words, developing ideas, and organizing sentences into coherent paragraphs. As a result, their writing ability is still low and the descriptive texts produced by students are less interesting and less meaningful.

Vocabulary mastery has an important role in writing ability. Students who have limited vocabulary usually find it difficult to express ideas effectively. Therefore, teachers need to apply innovative learning media and strategies that can help students enrich vocabulary and improve their writing skill. One of the learning tools that can be used is the Thesaurus Application.

The Thesaurus Application is a digital tool that provides synonyms, antonyms, and related words to help users find more suitable and varied vocabulary. By using the application, students can avoid repetitive words and improve lexical variation in their writing. The use of the Thesaurus Application can also encourage students to become more active and independent in learning vocabulary and developing ideas in writing descriptive texts.

Technology integration in language learning has become increasingly important in modern education. The use of digital applications in the classroom can create a more interactive and engaging learning atmosphere. In writing instruction, technology-based learning media can help students improve creativity, motivation, and writing performance. Therefore, the implementation of the Thesaurus Application is expected to give positive contributions to students' writing ability, especially in descriptive text writing.

Several previous studies showed that the use of vocabulary-support applications and digital learning tools could improve students' writing achievement. Students who used vocabulary enrichment applications were able to produce better writing with more varied vocabulary and clearer descriptions. Therefore, the researcher was interested in conducting research about the effect of using the Thesaurus Application on students' writing ability.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher conducted a study entitled "The Effect of Using Thesaurus Application on Students' Writing Ability of Descriptive Text at Grade X of SMA Negeri 1 Buntu Pane in Academic Year 2025/2026." The researcher expected that the use of the Thesaurus Application would significantly improve students' writing ability in descriptive text.

METHODOLOGY

This research used a quantitative method with a quasi-experimental design. The research involved two groups, namely the experimental class and the control class. The experimental class was taught by using the Thesaurus Application, while the control class was taught by using the conventional teaching method. The purpose of this research was to

determine whether the use of the Thesaurus Application had a significant effect on students' writing ability of descriptive text.

The population of this research was all Grade X students of SMA Negeri 1 Buntu Pane in the Academic Year 2025/2026, consisting of 191 students. The sample of this research was selected by using purposive sampling technique. The sample consisted of two classes, namely class X-1 as the experimental class consisting of 30 students and class X-4 as the control class consisting of 32 students.

The instrument used in this research was a writing test in the form of descriptive text writing. The data were collected through pre-test and post-test. The pre-test was administered before the treatment to measure students' initial writing ability in descriptive text. After conducting the pre-test, the experimental class received treatment through the use of the Thesaurus Application in the writing learning process, while the control class was taught using the conventional teaching method without using the application.

In the experimental class, students were encouraged to use the Thesaurus Application to find synonyms and suitable vocabulary in writing descriptive texts. The application helped students enrich vocabulary, avoid repetitive words, and improve lexical variation in their writing. Meanwhile, students in the control class learned descriptive text through ordinary classroom instruction and textbook-based activities.

After the treatment was completed, the post-test was administered to both classes in order to determine the improvement of students' writing ability. The students' writing was assessed based on several aspects, including vocabulary, grammar, organization, content, and mechanics.

The data obtained from the pre-test and post-test were analyzed by using the t-test formula to determine whether there was a significant effect of using the Thesaurus Application on students' writing ability of descriptive text. The hypothesis testing was conducted at the significance level of 0.05.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The result of the students' pre-test and post-test scores in the experiment class are presented in the following table.

Table 1. The Score of Pre – Test and Post – Test Experiment Group

NO	Initial Name	Score of Pre-Test	Score of Post Test
1	APS	66	80
2	AH	63	82
3	AFA	66	82
4	AP	61	80
5	AM	65	82
6	AC	60	79
7	AUW	65	80
8	BA	60	80
9	CKS	63	81
10	DS	60	79
11	DWD	65	81
12	FAP	62	79
13	GRC	64	81
14	HK	63	82
15	IM	67	83

16	KN	60	80
17	MC	64	81
18	NS	63	81
19	N	63	81
20	NHS	62	79
21	NRMBB	63	82
22	QZH	60	80
23	RAP	65	84
24	SSBS	63	81
25	SIL	67	84
26	V	60	79
27	VAP	64	81
28	WSABB	60	79
29	YASS	63	81
30	ZSM	67	84
	Total	1894	2428

The result of the students' pre-test and post-test scores in the control class are presented in the following table.

Table 2. The Score of Pre – Test and Post – Test of Control Class

NO	Initial Name	Score of Pre- Test	Score of Post Test
1	AMS	64	67
2	AF	62	66
3	AKS	64	68
4	AS	60	64
5	ASS	64	68
6	AD	60	64
7	CR	64	68
8	DAFA	60	64
9	DRS	63	67
10	HRUS	60	64
11	IA	64	67
12	JLBM	61	66
13	JA	64	68
14	KIS	60	64
15	MSP	64	68
16	MA	60	64
17	MZ	64	67
18	NA	60	64
19	NSKK	63	67
20	PPM	60	64
21	RAA	64	68
22	RS	61	66
23	RS	64	68
24	RA	60	64
25	RNP	64	68
26	SKM	60	64
27	SP	64	68
28	SR	60	64
29	UDP	63	67

30	VA	60	64
31	WN	64	67
32	YA	61	66
	Total	1986	2113

Table 3. Students' Mean Scores

Class	Pre-Test Mean	Post-Test Mean	Improvement
Experimental Class	63.13	80.93	17.80
Control Class	62.06	66.03	3.97

Based on Table 3, the experimental class showed higher improvement compared to the control class after receiving treatment using the Thesaurus Application. The mean score of the experimental class increased from 63.13 in the pre-test to 80.93 in the post-test. Meanwhile, the control class increased from 62.06 to 66.03.

CONCLUSION

This research used quantitative methods with purposive sampling to determine the sample, namely class X students of SMA Negeri 1 Buntu Pane in 2025/2026 Academic Year. The sample was specifically selected based on certain criteria to ensure the data collected aligned with the research objectives. The data in this study was collected in three stages, namely pre-test, treatment, and post-test. The instrument used in this research was a writing test in the form of descriptive text, which was designed to measure the students' ability in writing descriptive text.

The treatment was conducted by applying the Thesaurus Application in the experimental class, while the control class was taught by using conventional teaching methods. The use of the Thesaurus Application helped students to be more active in exploring vocabulary and selecting appropriate words in writing descriptive text, while the conventional method provided limited support in improving students' writing performance.

Based on the data analysis presented in the previous chapter, the results show that the alternative hypothesis (Ha) is accepted and the null hypothesis (Ho) is rejected. This proves that the application of the Thesaurus Application has a significant effect on students' writing ability of descriptive text at Grade X of SMA Negeri 1 Buntu Pane. Thus, the implementation of this application not only improves students' writing ability, but also helps them in enriching vocabulary, organizing ideas, and producing better structured descriptive texts.

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