IMPROVING STUDENTS’ SKILL IN WRITING RECOUNT TEXT BY USING A PERSONAL LETTER
(A Classroom Action Research with the Tenth Graders of MASS Proto Pekalongan in The Academic Year of 2011/2012)

THESIS
Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for Gaining
The Degree of Bachelor in English language Education

By:
FARID HELMI
Student’s Number: 063411058

EDUCATION FACULTY
STATE INSTITUTE FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES WALISONGO
2012
ADVISOR NOTE

Semarang, Mei 4th 2012

To
The Dean of Education Faculty
Walisongo State Institute for Islamic Studies

Assalamu’alaikum wr.wb.

I inform that I have given guidance, briefing and correction to whatever extent necessary of the following thesis identification:
Title : Improving Students Skill in Writing Recount Text by A Using Personal Letter (A Classroom Action Research with the Tenth Graders of MASS Proto Pekalongan in the Academic Year of 2011/2012)
Name of student : Farid Helmi
Student’s Number : 063411058
Department : Tadris
Field of study : English Language Education
I state that the thesis is ready to be submitted to Education Faculty Walisongo State Institute for Islamic Studies to be examined at Munaqosah session.

Wassalamu’alaikum wr.wb.

Advisor I,

M. Nafi’ Annury, M.Pd
NIP: 19780719 2005011007
ADVISOR NOTE
Semarang, Mei 10\textsuperscript{th} 2012

To
The Dean of Education Faculty
Walisongo State Institute for Islamic Studies

Assalamu’alaikum wr.wb.

I inform that I have given guidance, briefing and correction to whatever extent necessary of the following thesis identification:

Title : Improving Student’s Skill in Writing Recount Text by Using Personal Letter (A Classroom Action Research with the Tenth Graders of MASS Proto Pekalongan in the Academic Year of 2011/ 2012)

Name of student : Farid Helmi
Student’s Number : 063411058
Department : Tadris
Field of study : English Language Education

I state that the thesis is ready to be submitted to Education Faculty Walisongo State Institute for Islamic Studies to be examined at Munaqosah session.

Wassalamu’alaikum wr.wb.

Advisor II,

Drs. Ikhrom, M.Ag.
NIP: 196503291994031002
KEMENTERIAN AGAMA
INSTITUT AGAMA ISLAM NEGERI WALISONGO
FAKULTAS TARBIYAH
Jl. Prof. Dr. Hamka (Kampus II) Ngaliyan Semarang
Telp. 024-7601295 Fax. 7615387

RATIFICATION

Thesis with the following identification:
Title : Improving Students’ Skill in Writing Recount Text by Using a Personal Letter (A Classroom Action Research with the Tenth Graders of MASS Proto Pekalongan in the Academic Year of 2011/2012)
Name of student : Farid Helmi
Student’s number : 063411058
Department : Tadris
Field of study : English language Education

Had been ratified by the board of examiners of Education Faculty of Walisongo State institute for Islamic Studies Semarang and can be received as one of any requirement for gaining the Bachelor Degree in English language Education.

Semarang, June 15th 2012

THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
Chair Person, Secretary,

Dr. Muslih, MA. 
NIP: 15027692 6000 0 000
Examiner I,

Daviq Rizal, M.Pd 
NIP: 197710252007011015
Examiner II,

Siti Tarwiyah, S.S, M.Hum 
NIP: 197211081999032001
Advisor I,

Dr. Musthofa, M.Ag 
NIP: 197104031996031002
Advisor II,

M. Nafi’ Annury, M.Pd 
NIP: 197807192005011007

M. Ikhrum, M.Ag 
NIP: 196503291994031002
THESIS PROJECT STATEMENT

I am, the student with the following identity:
Name : Farid Helmi
Student’s Number : 063411058
Department : English Language Education

Certify that this thesis is definitely my own work. I am completely responsible for the content of this thesis. Other writer’s opinions or findings included in the thesis are quoted or cited in accordance with ethical standards.

Semarang, Mei 7th 2012

The Writer,

Farid Helmi
NIM: 063411058
Mean: “Nun. By the pen and by what they (the angels) write (in the Records of men).
[Al-Qalam: 1]"
DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis to:

1. My father (H. Qomarudin) and my mother (Hj. Hamidah), thanks for love.
2. My brother (M. Irkham, Samsul Arisqi, and Syahrul Akbar), and my sister
   (Najikhatul Umniyah and Lia Ni’matul Maula). Thanks for the support.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All praise be to Allah Who always gives His blessing upon the researcher in his life and enabled him to accomplish this thesis entitled “Improving Students Skill in Writing Recount Text by Using Personal Letter (A Classroom Action Research With The Tenth Graders of Mass Proto Pekalongan In The Academic Year of 2011/ 2012” The prayer and salaam are always offered for the Prophet Muhammad, the noblest creature ever.

In this opportunity, the writer extends his gratitude to:
1. Dr. Suja’i, M.Ag. Dean of Tarbiyah Faculty of Walisongo.
2. Siti Tarwiyah, S.S, M. Hum as the Head of English Department.
3. M. Nafi Annury, M.Pd and Drs. Ikhrom, M.Ag as my advisors for providing their valuable guidance, whose encouraging, kind, and valuable assistance enabled me to complete this study.
4. The Headmaster, teachers, and all staffs in MASS Proto Pekalongan for everything the best, and especially for Dra. Jami’ul Malatifa, English teacher of Xa class for all the best giving.
5. My beloved family; father and mother, brother and sister, thank you for love.
6. The big family of SKM AMANAT (Amin Fauzi, Farih Lidinillah, Musyafak, Jamil, Hamid, Arif, Jeki, Rohman, Eni, Muslimah, etc).
7. All of my friends at TBI C 2006 (Nur Hadi, Suhardiman, Rosyid, Miftahudin, Kurin, Faul, Hanafi, Basir, A’yun, Ningsih, Puji, etc).
8. The big family of IMPADIS Pekalongan (Lukman, Shodiq, Aji, Zami, Afkar, etc).
9. The big family of IKMAL El-Simbany (Hamid, Chasan, Akhid, Arijz, Syukron, Ana, Elya, Mila, Qori, etc.)
10. Everyone always supports my life.
Finally, the researcher realizes that this thesis is far from being perfect; therefore, the writer will happily accept constructive criticism in order to make it better. The writer expects that this thesis may be helpful for all. Amin.

Semarang, Mei 4th 2012
The writer,

Farid Helmi
NIM. 063411058
ABSTRACT

Farid Helmi, 63411058. Improving Students Skill In Writing Recount Text by Using Personal Letter (A Classroom Action Research with the Tenth Graders of MASS Proto Pekalongan in the Academic Year of 2011/ 2012). Thesis. Bachelor Program of English Language Education of State Institute for Islamic Studies Walisongo (IAIN Walisongo), 2012.

Keywords: Personal Letter, Students’ Writing Skill, Recount Text, Action Research.

The background of the study in this research was based on the students’ difficulties in comprehending recount texts writing. Some of the reasons were the method of the English teaching process was not interesting, and there were teachers that still used conventional way. So, it will difficult for students to achieve the teaching and learning target. In order to solve this problem the teacher should have creative activity, and the using of a personal letter can be an alternative way as a learning media that will make students enjoy and easy to write.

This study is aimed at responding the following questions: (1) how is the implementation of a personal letter in improving students’ skill in writing recount text to the tenth graders of MASS Proto Pekalongan in the Academic Year of 2011/2012?, (2) how can a personal letter improve students’ skill in writing recount text?. Then the objective of this study was to describe the improvement of students’ writing skill after being taught by using a personal letter.

In this study, the researcher conducted a classroom action research as the methodology of this research. There were three meetings during the research, they were pre-cycle test, cycle test I and cycle test II. The researcher used written test and observation in collecting the data. The using of written test was to measure the students’ skill in writing recount text after giving the treatment, and the using of observation was to monitor students’ activities during teaching learning process.

The result of the test showed that the students’ score in the pre-cycle test was 55.5, the students’ score in the cycle I test was 65.7 and the students’ score in the cycle II test was 72.2. The achievement of the test showed that the treatment was successful because the result of the cycle II test was higher than the cycle I test. In line with this result, the researcher concluded that the research improved students’ skill in writing recount text.

From the result of this study, it can be stated that the using of a personal letter was effective and very useful. It can be seen from the improvement of students test result during pre-cycle, cycle I and cycle II. However, it will be better if the future related studies the treatment gave more than two times, not only cycle I and cycle II. Furthermore the personal letter was also in good design and good theme, so the students more motivated and enjoyed in the learning process.
TABLE OF CONTENT

Title ................................................................................................................................. i
Advisor Note I ................................................................................................................ ii
Advisor Note II ............................................................................................................... iii
Ratification ..................................................................................................................... iv
Thesis Project Statement ............................................................................................... v
Motto .............................................................................................................................. vi
Dedication ....................................................................................................................... vii
Acknowledgement ......................................................................................................... viii
Abstract ........................................................................................................................ x
Table of Content ........................................................................................................... xi
List of Table .................................................................................................................. xiii
List of Figure ................................................................................................................. xiv
Appendixes .................................................................................................................... xv

CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Research ................................................................. 1
B. Reasons for Choosing the Topic ............................................................... 6
C. Research Questions ..................................................................................... 7
D. Objectives of the Research ........................................................................... 7
E. Significances of the Study ............................................................................ 7

CHAPTER II : REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

A. Previous Research ........................................................................................... 8
B. Literature Review .............................................................................................. 9
   1. Personal Letter ............................................................................................... 10
   2. Writing Skill ................................................................................................. 13
   3. Teaching Writing Skills ............................................................................ 21
   4. General Concept of Text ......................................................................... 25
   5. General Concept of genre ..................................................................... 26
6. Recount ............................................................. 27

CHAPTER III : RESEARCH METHOD

A. Research Design ...................................................... 30
B. Research Setting ...................................................... 33
C. Collaborator ........................................................... 33
D. Research Procedure .................................................. 33
E. Scoring Technique ...................................................... 37
F. Data Collection Technique ........................................ 39
G. Data Analysis Technique ............................................ 40
H. Achievement Indicator ............................................. 42

CHAPTER IV : DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

A. Results of Study ....................................................... 43
B. Description and Analysis .......................................... 43
C. Research Finding and Discussion ................................ 53
D. Analysis of the Whole Meeting ................................... 58

CHAPTER V : CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion ........................................................... 60
B. Suggestions ........................................................... 61
C. Limitation of the Study ............................................. 62

References
Appendices
Curriculum Vitae
LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 Scoring guidance .............................................................. 37
Table 2 Test Score of pre-cycle .................................................. 45
Table 3 The Score of observation in cycle I ......................... 47
Table 4 Test Score of cycle I .................................................... 48
Table 5 The Score of observation in cycle II .................. 51
Table 6 Test Score of cycle II ............................................... 52
Table 7 The Category of the students score and percentage in pre cycle ... 55
Table 8 The Category of the students score and percentage in cycle I .......... 56
Table 9 The Category of the students score and percentage in cycle II ....... 57
Table 10 The Comparison of results of observation on cycle I, and cycle II... 58
Table 11 The Comparison the average of students score on pre-cycle, cycle I, and cycle II ............................................................ 58
LIST OF FIGURE

Figure 2 Cyclical Process of Action Research ........................................... 34
LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Research journal in classroom action research
2. Submission of Thesis Title
3. Letter of Assignment of Thesis Advisor
4. Letter of Pre Research
5. Letter of research permission
6. Letter of statement from MASS Proto Pekalongan
7. Students list Xa class MASS Proto Pekalongan
8. Lesson plan first cycle
9. Lesson plan second cycle
10. Observation scheme in first cycle
11. Observation scheme in second cycle
12. Evaluation test of cycle I
13. Evaluation test of cycle II
14. Sample of Students’ test result

Curriculum vitae