



**THE EFFECTIVENESS OF USING ONLINE NEWSPAPER IN THE  
LEARNING OF GRAMMAR**  
**An Experimental Study at Eighth Grade Students of SMP Negeri 8 Batang**

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**Abstract**

*This research was conducted because there is a possibility to introduce online newspaper to the students to improve their ability in grammar mastery due to the rapidity of technology development. Online newspaper and grammar were chosen because online newspaper contains grammar which was written straightly correct because it will be read by all of people. The problem of this research is how effective the use of online newspaper in the learning of grammar is, and the purpose of this research is to find out whether it is effective or not. The subject of this research is eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 8 Batang. They were chosen because I had been experienced in teach them and know their grammar mastery is still low. The research design is quasi-experimental design, with post-test pre-test experimental and control group. The result of this research shows that the gain of experimental group score is not as high as control group. So, it can be concluded that using online newspaper in the learning of grammar is not effective because the score gain of experimental group is lower than control group. It was caused by the level of vocabularies used in online newspaper is not common in students' daily language and they have different interests in topic of the online newspaper's passage.*

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## INTRODUCTION

Based on my observation for three months in SMP Negeri 8 Batang, eighth grade students' mastery of grammar is still poor. It was shown when I asked them about little bit part of grammar. They often did mistake in answering test because they did not understand the grammar. For example when I gave them questions and they have to answer it using right preposition, most of them failed to answer it correctly. Some of them also have not understood the different use of article. In addition, they did not understand what adjective and adverb are. They only knew noun and verb. It may be caused by some factors, one of them is the materials used in the learning. The textbook used in the class do not contain grammar materials explicitly, so that students cannot learn grammar optimally.

Many of them felt that grammar is a difficult thing to be understood, because it was not familiar to them. So, when I explain some elements of grammar they were confused and bored. Therefore, I made up my mind to teach grammar to them in a joyful way. Then, I decided to use a media that can interest them and help them to improve and enhance their grammar knowledge, and hold a study to improve their mastery of grammar. In this case, grammar is selected because it is inserted in the curriculum of KTSP which is used there. The learning of grammar may be more interesting through media, so that online newspaper is selected to teach grammar.

"Newspaper is a regularly printed document consisting of large sheets of paper that are folded together, or a website, containing news reports, articles, photographs, and advertisements" (Cambridge Online Dictionary 2008). It is commonly distributed daily, so it is very close to the society. Moreover, people can get it by buying it per day or per month, it can be bought in a store or even at their house with delivery service. It spreads the information to the world by carrying them in it. People usually read newspaper with drink a cup of tea in the morning or evening. Due to the cheapness of newspaper's price, everyone can buy it, even read it on the wrapper of food or something else. Although it is

not as interesting as video because there is no animation, according to Danim (2010: 28) "reading passage (books, journals, newspapers, manual instruction, brochure, etc.) have more advantages because they can be read again and again and can be the sources in writing". Moreover, people can still receive news when they are on their way going for work or at outdoor area, whereas they cannot receive any information from electronic media, i.e., television and radio.

However, in Indonesia the reading interest is still poor. The Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) shows that in 2012 the percentage of people who read newspaper or magazine is only 17.66 that is decrease from year to year. This number is contrast with the percentage of those who watch television which is increase from 2003 to 2012. It is possibly happen because of the development of technology. People commenced to leave reading, especially newspaper, because they have their own modern gadgets which provide a lot of entertainments. Therefore, the change is needed to increase reading interest in Indonesia. One of the ways is by introducing the source of reading like newspaper to the people especially to the young generation.

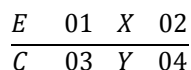
Subasini and Kokilavani (2013: 57) stated that writing is a complex challenging activity for many students, so teachers should focus on the grammatical concepts that are essential for the clear communication of meaning. In addition, they stated that grammar is the most important thing when someone comes to learn English and the importance of it cannot be neglected.

People are getting familiar with internet nowadays, even children. They use internet in many ways. Adults use it to access news, and children use it to play game on the web or other entertainment, for instance. Based on the data of BPS, in Central Java, people over 5 years old who access the internet are 24.49 (2012). In addition, Hartoyo (2012: 31) stated that "Extensive and profitable use of internet as a medium of language learning is now being made by many language teachers." This study combines the interest of people in using internet by introducing online newspaper to students, so they can use internet

not only for entertainment but also for looking for information and news. In addition, students can learn grammar through the passage in the online newspaper. Finally, this study introduces technology to the students through media which are available surround them to help them in the learning of grammar.

**METHOD**

In this research, I use quasi-experimental design with pretest and posttest experimental control group. According to Tuckman (1978: 136), it is not as adequate as the true experimental designs, but better than the pre-experimental designs, with regard to control of the treats to validity. Quasi-experimental designs exist for situations in which complete experimental control is difficult or impossible. By this design, two groups are given a pretest, followed by treatments, and finally a posttest. Pretest and posttest experimental control group design can be described as follows:



(Arikunto, 2006: 86)

In which:

- E : experimental group
- C : control group
- 01: pretest for the experimental group
- 02: posttest for the experimental group
- 03: pretest for the control group
- 04: posttest for the control group
- X: treatment using online newspaper
- Y: treatment without using online newspaper (textbook)

The research was conducted at SMP Negeri 8 Batang located on Jl. Kyai Sambong, Batang. In this research, there was one group that was experimented and the other group was used to compare based on this design. Therefore, I used three classes in collecting data, one class was for experiment, one class to compare, and the last class was used to measure the validity and reliability of the test that would be used in the class experimented. I chose class VIII C for experimental group, VIII D for comparison group, and VIII E for try-out group.

The population provided in this research is the eighth grade (academic year 2015/2016) students of SMP Negeri 8 Batang located on jl. Kyai Sambong, Batang. According to Frankel (1993 in Purwanto 2013) if the population is more than 100 persons, we may take 20-25 percent from the population. In this case, the number of eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 8 Batang is 124 students. So, 20 percent of 124 are 24 students. I took one class as sample; it is class VIII C which the number of students is 24.

**RESEARCH FINDING**

The main goal of this research was to find out the effectiveness of using online newspaper in the learning of grammar of eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 8 Batang.

Before collecting the data, the instruments were tried out to VIII E at July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015, and then they were analyzed to measure the validity and reliability.

Brown (1988: 101) said that “test validity is defined as the degree to which a test measures what it claims to be measuring.” I computed the item validity by using Pearson Product Moment. The formula is as follows:

$$r_{xy} = \frac{N\Sigma XY - (\Sigma X)(\Sigma Y)}{\sqrt{\{(N\Sigma X^2 - (\Sigma X)^2)\}\{(N\Sigma Y^2 - (\Sigma Y)^2)\}}}$$

On  $\alpha = 5\%$  with  $N = 25$  it is obtained = 0,396. The item test is valid if  $r_{xy} > r_{tabel}$ . The total items were 40 items. After the validity was analyzed the 20 others item belong to be valid items, and the rests are invalid. The 20 invalid items could not be used in the pre-test. Then, after eliminating 20 invalid items, the other 20 valid items which were used as pre-test consist of 15% easy items, 70% medium items, and 15% difficult items based on item facility. Based on item discrimination, it consists of 65% moderate and 35% high discrimination items.

Tuckman (1978: 160) said that “test reliability means that a test is *consistent*.” Before computing the reliability, the total variance must be computed first.

The formula is as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma^2 &= \frac{\Sigma Y^2 - \frac{(\Sigma Y)^2}{N}}{N} \\ &= \frac{9994 - \frac{(464)^2}{25}}{25} \\ &= 55.2864 \end{aligned}$$

The total variance of the test is 55.2864. After knowing the total variance, the reliability can be computed. To check whether the test that I used was good or not, I used K-R20 formula. The formula is as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} r_{K-R20} &= \left( \frac{n}{n-1} \right) \left( \frac{S^2 - \Sigma pq}{S^2} \right) \\ &= \left( \frac{40}{40-1} \right) \left( \frac{55.2864 - 6.07}{55.2864} \right) \\ &= 0.913 \end{aligned}$$

The result of interrater reliability of the try out test was 0.913. The test is reliable if  $r_{\text{value}} > r_{\text{table}}$ . Then, the result was consulted with  $r_{\text{table}}$  for  $\alpha = 5\%$  with  $N = 25$  was 0.396.

$$r_{\text{value}} \text{ VS } r_{\text{table}} = 0.913 > 0.396$$

Since the results of  $r_{\text{value}} > r_{\text{table}}$ , it can be concluded that the try out test was reliable and could be used as the pre test.

After that, pre-test was given to the students in the experimental and the control group. Based on the pre-test score, both the

students of experimental and control group's scores are low averagely. Then they were given treatments. The special treatments were given to the experimental group in form of applying English online newspaper as media in the learning of grammar by me. In addition, the control group was given treatments without English online newspaper by the teacher. They were taught by textbook instead. Each group was given treatments for 8 x 40 minutes which consisted of four meetings. In each meeting, the learning process was divided into three main parts, they were opening, main activity, and closing. After they were given treatments, post-test was conducted. The data were obtained from the students' scores of multiple choices test. They were pretest and posttest scores from the experimental and the control groups. The total score for the experimental group were 790 for the pretest and 875 for the posttest. Therefore, the score difference between the pretest and posttest for the experimental group was 85. While the total scores for the control group were 980 for the pretest and 1200 for the posttest. Therefore, the difference of the total scores between the pretest and the posttest for the control group was 200. The following is the simple table for the pretest and posttest students' scores:

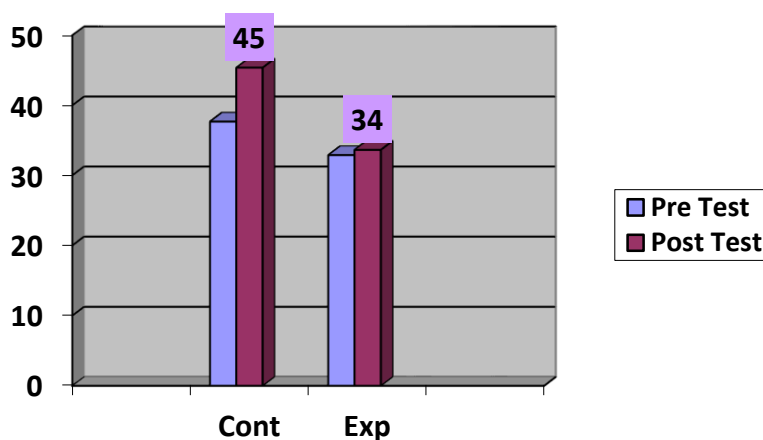
**Table 1 Different Score between Experimental and Control Group**

Group	Total score of pre-test	Total score of post-test	Difference between pre-test and post-test
Experimental	790	875	85
Control group	980	1200	220

Most of students of both groups understand the use of article, preposition, and the difference between adjective and adverb. It was shown by the result of the test because there are gains between the score of pretest and posttest. Unfortunately, the use of online newspaper did not affect the test result because the control group which did not learn grammar through online newspaper got the better improvement rather than the experimental group.

The result of the average score in pre-test, post-test of experiment and control group were presented in the chart below.

**Figure 1 The Result of the Average Score in Pre-test and Post-test of the Experimental and Control Group**



The average pre test's score of control group was 37.69 and experimental group was 32.91. From the score, it can be concluded that the two groups were homogenous because there was only slight difference in the pre-test result between the experimental group and the control group. After both groups received different treatments, the score of the experimental group was lower than the score of the control group. The average post test's score of control group was 45.38, and the average post test's score of experimental group was 33.65. It can be concluded that using online newspaper is not effective in the learning of grammar because there is no significant difference of the post-test result between the experimental group and the control group, and the score of control group is higher.

Therefore,  $H_0$  (null hypothesis) was accepted, which meant "using online newspaper is not effective to teach grammar". Then  $H_a$  (using online newspaper is effective to teach grammar) was rejected.

And finally, based on the research that has been conducted, it was not proved that using English online newspaper in the learning of grammar is effective.

The use of English online newspaper in improving students' grammar is not more effective than using textbook. The measurement showed that the posttest score of the grammar achievement of the experimental group was lower than the control group's. From this statement, it

can be said that English online newspaper is not effective enough to be used in improving students' grammar. However, the grammar improvement of the experimental group is lower than the control group. It may be caused by some factors. The first is the language level of English online newspaper and textbook is quite different. The language used in English online newspaper is more sophisticated than textbook, so that the students got difficulties in understanding the passage. Vocabularies used in English online newspaper are general, whereas textbook's vocabularies are agreed with students' ability. The second reason is the different interests of the students. It causes their willingness to read are different. It is also caused by the interestingness of textbook is higher than English online newspaper. The third reason is different interest of students. According to Asgari (2013) students who are updated by the newest issue enjoy learning through what they have known, whereas student who are not updated are not interested in the issue that is discussed in the class.

The forth factor is I did not do difficulty level analysis in selecting passages from online newspaper that I gave to the students, so that it was possible the passages were too difficult for them. The passages should be analyzed the difficulty level by particular formula to match the difficulty level to the students level. The last factor is the media that I chose is not suitable for junior high school students. I chose Jakarta Post which is adults reading, so it was too heavy for

junior high school students. Online newspaper for kids should be chosen because it was suitable for children.

In addition, based on the interview the students were not familiar with the learning media. Most of them usually read Indonesian reading. Few of them were interested in English because they do not understand some vocabularies, so there were difficulties in catching the message. Many of them like reading Indonesian novels and teen magazines, and they do not like read newspapers. They read novellas and magazines just for fun and entertainment, whereas they read newspaper if only there were school assignments and it needed newspaper as the source to finish.

However they said that reading online newspaper has advantages because it can improve their skill in translating the sentences in the passage of online newspaper into Indonesian. Some of them also said that they understand English sentences and utterances by reading online newspaper.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the detailed analysis and research findings discussed in previous section, the conclusion can be derived as follows.

There was no significant difference of students' achievement in grammar ability between the students who were taught by using English online newspaper and those who were taught by using textbook for the eight year students of SMP Negeri 8 Batang in the academic year of 2015/2016.

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