

## **ABSTRACT**

### **AN ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' ABILITY AND DIFFICULTIES IN WRITING DESCRIPTIVE TEXT (A Study at SMA Muhammadiyah 2 Bandarlampung)**

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Writing skill is one of the skills that must be mastered by students who learn English. However, most students often find it difficult to write texts in English. Therefore, this study aims to determine and analyze the ability of students at SMA Muhammadiyah 2 Bandarlampung in writing a descriptive texts and what difficulties students face when writing a descriptive text. This study uses a quantitative descriptive method by using test to analyze students' abilities in writing a descriptive text. This research was conducted in one of the classes, namely class X MIPA 3 SMA Muhammadiyah 2 Bandarlampung.

The data in this study were obtained through writing test given to students, after that data analysis was carried out according to the writing scoring rubric adapted from Brown (2004). Data analysis was carried out after the researcher with the English teacher scored the results of the descriptive text writing test that the students were working on. The findings in this study indicate that the writing ability of students of class X MIPA 3 at SMA Muhammadiyah 2 Bandarlampung is still in the average category. In addition, most students still have difficulty in several aspects of writing, including difficulties in developing the main idea or topic of their writing. Then the next difficulty faced by students is the lack of understanding of organizational aspects, most students find it difficult to determine which text should be placed in the identification paragraph and which text should be placed in the description paragraph.

The last difficulty faced by students is the lack of mastery of students in the vocabulary aspect, so students often use words that are not in accordance with the context and also often mix Indonesian words into the English text they write. It can be said that the ability to write a descriptive text in class X MIPA 3 at SMA Muhammadiyah 2 is still in a minimum level and need to be improved. Teachers can use existing writing strategies such as brainstorming, outlining, and memorization to improve students' writing skills, especially on aspects that are less mastered by students such as aspects of vocabulary, organization, and grammar.

***Keywords: descriptive text, writing ability, writing difficulties***