REVEALING STUDENTS' MOTIVATION AND INTEREST IN WRITING RECOUNT TEXT USING *MYSTORYBOOK.COM*

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Abstract

Students' writing interest and ability found in the 4th semester students of English Department in Universitas Muhammadiyah Semarang (Unimus) tend to be relatively low. This background becomes the reason of undertaking this study. At this point, students depend on the miracle of paper and pen to create writing piece without considering various technology existed. In another word, the use of technology in writing is quite low or surprisingly hardly ever. In this study, students are acknowledged to an interesting site of writing such as *MyStorybook.com* as the media to enlarge and stimulate students' creativity in writing, especially in writing recount text. This study aims at revealing students' interest and motivation in writing recount text using interactive media. At least 15 students are interviewed and fill questionnaire with open-ended questions to identify their interests and motivation in creating recount text. The result indicates that *MyStorybook.com* offers invaluable opportunity and new challenge for students to write using some attractive assistance in it. In addition, students' creativity increases along with their imagination to visualize what kind of story they are trying to create by adding several picture and shape options in order to adorn their writing pieces in recount text.

Keywords: motivation, interest, recount, writing, mystorybook.com

Introduction

Writing skill is important to be taught to students (Trivelli-Bowen 2014) as this is one of the skills that has to be taught by Indonesian students in order to master the target language (English). It is also the most complicated skill that require the better understanding of grammar, vocabulary, content and context altogether. Whereas writing process is complex where the writer needs to elaborate his or her idea (Tiwari, 2005) to the readers. Besides, the mechanism of writing is not as easy as it looks like. Somebody has to pay attention to the correct capitalization, punctuation, and spelling as well. Thus, it is a must for learners to understand and apply the steps or procedure of writing.

The weakness of traditional way of writing is too much human errors such as misspelling, no capitalization, displacing the comma or another punctuation, and many more. This phenomenon does exist in the 4th semester of English Education students in Universitas Muhammadiyah Semarang. Many students failed in writing class because of some trivial mechanism, which actually can be prevented in advance. One of the ways in eliminating the error is by using technology. When somebody write text by the assistance of technology, several errors like misspelling and even grammar can be easily tracked.

Another thing to be noted is that students tend to keep their writing product once they finished it. They do not let their masterpieces of writing to be red publicly. In fact, there are several media that can be used by students to show off their piece of writing. Things like personal blog, notes feature in *Facebook*, or simply by writing caption in *Instagram* can help students to spread their writing for good.

This paper will introduce the use of *Mystorybook.com* site to enable students of writing class to create simple yet interesting story based on their experience or imagination. The most interesting thing in *Mysotrybook.com* is that someone can make up story and put pictures here and there and to make it.
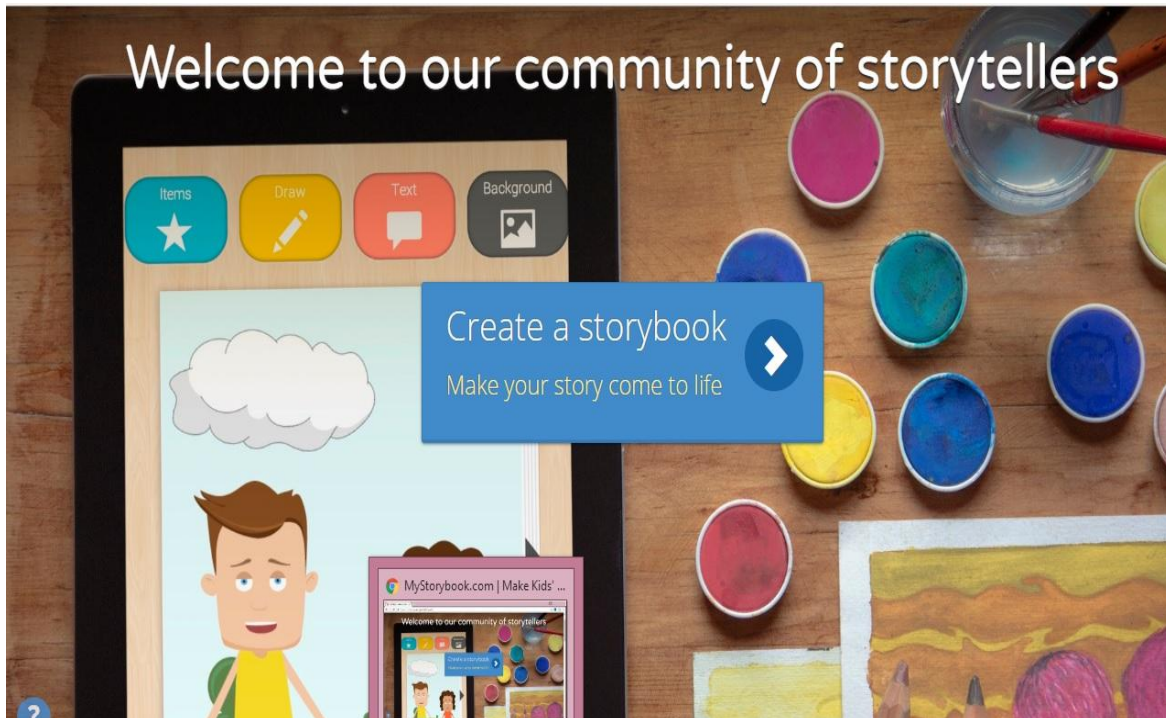
Figure 1. Display of *MyStorybook.com*

MyStorybook.com

This site is an online (Jessica Wood) tool that enable user to write story and share the writing publicly. First of all, user has to sign up for getting the account. By being the member, someone can create story book by developing the story. Besides, user can add the picture and change color and design the cover like professional. By all the ease and attractive media, it is expected that the user will be encouraged to write story.

Mystorybook.com also provides students with such amazing experience to write and create stories instead of writing in a piece of paper. In addition, the simple navigation enables user or students to design good storybook. Students, in other hand, are encouraged to the high level of creativity while using this application. Teacher is also being assisted because his role as facilitator makes students feel free to ask any questions to the teacher.

Unfortunately, the existence of good technology is not in line with good connection of internet which becomes the most demanding tools to run such technology-based learning process. Besides, the anxiety of students to write is becoming the major issue in creating piece of writing.

That is why, this paper would like to reveal about students' motivation and interest in writing recount/story.

Methodology
This study employed fifteen students in the fourth semester of Bachelor's Program majoring English Education at a Universitas Muhammadiyah Semarang. The writer asked the lecturer to teach writing using *MyStorybook.com.* It took four meetings to produce story that ready to be shared or published. After that, students and lecturers are invited to fill the questionnaire. Fifteen students and one lecturer completed and returned the questionnaires.

Findings and Discussion
The data was collected by using questionnaire with open-ended questions. This open-ended question was designed to fulfill the necessity to reveal the students' motivation and expectation in learning writing, especially writing story.

Based on the study, there are some attitude and motivation that appeared in this study such as external motivation, teacher's role, interest, learning activities, and topics.

1. External motivation

Students tend to feel that getting high score for their writing assignment is such prestige thing. It becomes the motivation for them to write. Another thing is that when they know that their writing is going to be published through social media, then they will compete each other to do their best, to make them deserve to be the best. In this case, the teacher asks them to post their writing piece into the social media, students will try their best to eliminate the mistake. Check and recheck again their grammatical error, misspell and any other writing mechanism. By using *Mystorybook.com*, students are being helped about their misspelling and grammar. So, they are trying hard to provide good writing piece.

2. Teacher's Role

Harmer (2001) said that teacher can play his/her role as anyone they need to do. Sometimes, they can be tutor and mediator that give them any information to the students. While in the other time, she can turn to be motivator that gives the students motivation and encouragement to reach or do the best they can do. Or, they can be the facilitator. It means that he or she will facilitate the discussion for instance or give assistance to the students in using particular application like *Mystorybook.com.*

By using this site, students are given the opportunity to be creative writer, designer and storyteller. 10 of 5 students are being helped by this application to make good writing piece.

3. Interest

S1, S2, S5, S10 are not really interested in writing. They do not know what to write at the classroom when the teacher is asking them to do so. Another students are being challenged to write using this application because it offers them with so many attractive features in it.

S11 for instance, is not really keen on writing, but after using this application, they are getting to love writing. In addition, they also feel that they are being more creative. Another students (S9, S14) said that they are interested in writing and getting more interested after finding this application.

4. Learning Activities

According to students (S4, S7, and S10), teachers need to give brainstorming to the students about the material. The delivery or interesting brainstorming and apperception in the beginning of lesson will make students feel comfortable with the writing activities.

In the other hand, students need to understand about the generic structure or language feature in creating story book.

5. Topics

Simple topic will help student to write easily. Some topic about daily activity or describing something is considered as trivial job instead of talking about persuasive or argumentative speaking.

Conclusion

The result indicates that *MyStorybook.com* offers invaluable opportunity and new challenge for students to write using some attractive assistance in it. In addition, students' creativity increases along with their imagination to visualize what kind of story they are trying to create by adding several picture and shape options in order to adorn their writing pieces in recount text.

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