



An Analysis Of Eighth Grade Students' Writing Skill In Using Canva Application At SMPN 9 Mandau

*Yola Novita Sari**

STAI Hubbulwathan Duri

*Corresponding Author. Email: yolanovitasari0@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

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Writing skill is a fundamental component of English language learning, yet many junior high school students' experience difficulties in organizing ideas, developing arguments, and presenting coherent written texts. The integration of digital learning tools is considered an effective approach to addressing these challenges. This study aimed to analyze students' writing skills through the use of the Canva application at SMPN 9 Mandau. The research employed a descriptive quantitative design involving 30 participants selected through cluster sampling. Participants were instructed to create narrative texts using Canva, and their writing was assessed based on seven components: main idea, argument, evidence, organization, readability, conventions, and overall impression. The findings revealed that 60% of the participants were categorized at an adequate level of writing skill, while 40% reached a high level. The results indicated that Canva contributes positively to students' engagement, organization, and motivation in writing, although teacher guidance remains essential to strengthen critical writing aspects.

Introduction

Writing skill is one of the most essential yet challenging skills in learning English as a foreign language. Writing requires students to integrate linguistic competence, cognitive processes, and creativity in order to express ideas effectively. According to Harmer (2004), writing is not merely the act of putting words on paper but a complex process that involves planning, drafting, revising, and editing. In junior high school contexts, students often face difficulties such as limited vocabulary, lack of coherence, weak argument development, and frequent grammatical errors. These challenges are commonly caused by traditional teaching methods that emphasize product-based writing rather than process-based learning. As a result, students tend to feel unmotivated and anxious toward writing tasks.

Technological advancements in education offer new possibilities for improving writing instruction. Digital platforms provide interactive and visually engaging environments that support student-centered learning. Canva, a graphic design platform, has gained popularity in educational contexts due to its simplicity and creative features. Canva allows students to combine text with visual elements, which can help them organize ideas more clearly and increase motivation. Therefore, this study investigates students' writing skills through the use of Canva as a learning tool.

Then, writing skill refers to the ability to convey messages, ideas, and information in written form accurately and coherently. Vurdien (2012) emphasizes that writing is a goal-oriented activity that involves planning, organizing, drafting, and revising. This process requires learners to think critically and systematically. Harmer (2004) further explains that writing involves encoding ideas into written language for communication purposes. Thus, effective writing instruction should address both linguistic accuracy and idea development. Writing skill can be evaluated through several components. Wittenberg University (2021) proposes a writing assessment rubric consisting of main idea, argument, evidence, organization, readability, conventions, and overall impression. These components provide a comprehensive framework for assessing students' writing performance.

The use of digital media in writing instruction has been shown to enhance student engagement and motivation. Wahyuni and Fatmawati (2021) found that Canva-based collaborative writing activities encourage students to participate actively and share ideas more confidently. Digital platforms also support multimodal learning, combining text, images, and layout. The use of digital media like Canva transforms writing from a tedious activity into an interactive experience. Visual Appeal: Eighth-grade students are in adolescence and are highly responsive to visual aesthetics. Compared to writing in a notebook, Canva offers a colorful and modern interface, which psychologically reduces stress levels. Sense of Ownership: When students can choose their own fonts, colors, and design elements, they feel in complete control of their work. This sense of

ownership automatically increases their intrinsic motivation to complete assignments with the best results.

The Canva app has real-time collaboration features that are crucial for language learning: firstly, active participation: the link-sharing feature allows students to work in small groups simultaneously. Students who tend to be quiet in class often feel more confident expressing their ideas through text or image selection on digital platforms. Secondly, sharing ideas: the process of mutually editing and commenting on a shared design creates a dynamic discussion space. This builds student confidence because they feel supported by their peers before the final product is assessed by the teacher. The concept of multimodal learning is at the heart of Canva's excellence. Writing is no longer simply arranging letters, but rather constructing meaning through various channels: firstly, text: the primary element of linguistic communication. Secondly, images: serve as illustrations that clarify the context of students' writing. Thirdly, layout: Teaches students about structure and organization. How students place headings, subheadings, and content in Canva is essentially a cognitive exercise in organizing logical thinking visually.

Canva was founded in 2012 by Melanie Perkins, Cliff Obrecht, and Cameron Adams. It was designed to democratize graphic design by making it accessible to non-designers. In education, Canva is widely used to create posters, infographics, and digital storytelling projects. Masturoh et al, (2023), the use of Canva in the classroom significantly contributes to enhancing students' creativity, encouraging visual learning, and promoting the development of digital literacy skill. These outcomes are essential in preparing students to succeed in the 21st-century learning environment, where visual communication and digital competence are increasingly in demand. Therefore, the integration of Canva into various domains illustrates how it functions not only as a design platform but also as a powerful educational and professional media tool that supports modern learning and communication need.

Utami and Djamdjuri (2021) state that Canva increases students' motivation and creativity in writing classes by allowing them to visualize ideas. Rahmawati and Lestari (2020) argue that visual content created with Canva reduces cognitive load and improves comprehension. Similarly, Maulina (2021) notes that Canva helps students structure texts logically by supporting visual planning before writing. Sari and Handayani (2021) also report that students show positive perceptions toward using Canva in writing classes, as it creates an enjoyable and flexible learning environment. Nugroho (2022) highlights that Canva contributes to digital literacy development, preparing students for real-world technological challenges.

In preliminary research with the English teacher at SMPN 9 Mandau revealed that eighth-grade students often struggle with narrative writing. Common issues include poor paragraph organization, weak idea development, and limited use of vocabulary. Moreover, students tend to show low motivation when asked to write using conventional tools like textbooks and worksheets. These conditions indicate the urgent

need for a more interactive and visually engaging learning medium to support the writing skill.

By integrating Canva into narrative writing instruction, students are provided with a digital platform that facilitates planning, visual organization, and creative expression. This method is expected to increase students' motivation and improve their ability to write clearly and coherently. Furthermore, the integration of Canva is consistent with the theoretical framework proposed by Coe et al. (1983), in which writing is understood as a problem solving process that benefits from tools and strategies that help students think critically and organize their ideas effectively.

In previous studies: Utami and Djamdjuri (2021) and Sari and Handayani (2021) found that Canva increases motivation and engagement in writing classes. Wahyuni and Fatmawati (2021) also emphasized the effectiveness of Canva in collaborative writing activities. However, consistent with Maulina (2021), the results indicate that visual tools must be accompanied by teacher guidance to ensure deeper idea development. Nugroho (2022) supports this by emphasizing the importance of digital literacy guidance in learning environments.

Based on this rationale, the researcher is interested in conducting a study entitled: "An Analysis Of Eighth Grade Students' Writing Skill In Using Canva Application At SMPN 9 Mandau."

Method

This study employed a descriptive quantitative research design. According to Singh (2006), descriptive quantitative research aimed to describe phenomena systematically based on numerical data. The population was consisted of 90 eighth-grade students at SMPN 9 Mandau. The sample included 30 participants selected using cluster sampling, as recommended by Singh (2006) for educational research involving intact classes.

Table 1: The Population of the Research

NO	CLASS	TOTAL STUDENTS
1	VIII-1	30 students
2	VIII-2	30 students
3	VIII-3	30 students
	Total	90 students

The instrument used was a writing test administered through Canva. Students were asked to choose one narrative topic and design a short narrative text using Canva features. Documentation technique was used to collect students' writing products.

In this research, students' writing skill is measured based on the components adapted from the Writing Skill Rubric (Wittenberg University, 2021), which evaluates

writing as a cognitive and constructive process. The assessment emphasizes clarity of ideas, logical organization, appropriate language use, creativity, and mechanical accuracy. The specific and measurable indicators are: main idea/thesis development, argument, Organization, readability, Conventions, Overall Writing Quality. Students' writing was assessed using the Wittenberg University (2021) writing rubric. Each component was scored from 1 to 5. The total score was converted into percentages and categorized into very low, low, adequate, high, and very high levels based on Singh (2006).

Table 2: Classification Student Scores

Scores	Categories
0-20	Very Low
21-40	Low
41-60	Adequate
61-80	High
81-100	Very High

Source: Singh (2006)

Finding and Discussion

The findings of this study were obtained from the students' narrative writing tests created using the Canva application. The assessment was conducted using a writing rubric consisting of seven components: main idea, argument, evidence, organization, readability, conventions, and overall impression. The total score of each student was calculated and categorized into writing skill levels.

Table 3: Total Students' Categories levels

Categories	Total Students
Very Low (0-20)	0
Low (21-40)	0
Adequate (41-60)	18
High (61-80)	12
Very High (81-100)	0

Based on the data analysis, out of 30 students who participated in the study, 18 students (60%) were classified at an adequate level of writing skill, while 12 students (40%) achieved a high level. No students were categorized into low or very low levels. This indicates that the majority of students demonstrated sufficient writing skill. The majority of students (60%) were at a sufficient level. In the context of using Canva, this indicates that most eighth-grade students are able to construct sentences and paragraphs using visual features, but may still face challenges in the following areas: Grammar: Appropriate tenses or sentence structure; Vocabulary: Repetitive word usage; Organization: The interconnectedness of sentences in their designs. The fact that no students (0%) fell into the 'Low' or 'Very Low' categories is a very strong finding. This indicates that using the Canva app can increase motivation: Canva's visual elements help

students who typically struggle with writing on plain paper. Canva's templates provide a framework so students don't have to worry about where to start.

However, improvement is still needed, especially in the areas of argument and evidence. Canva helped students organize their ideas visually, but it did not fully enhance the depth of their writing skill. Students showed good ability in organizing Main Ideas, maintaining readability, and giving a positive overall impression through their work. However, areas such as Argumentation and Evidence Support still need more instructional reinforcement, as some students scored relatively lower in this category. This result indicates that most students were able to produce acceptable narrative texts using the Canva application.

In terms of writing components, the students showed stronger performance in organization and readability. Most students were able to arrange ideas in a logical sequence and present their texts in a clear and visually appealing format. The use of Canva features such as layout templates, font selection, and visual arrangement helped students structure their writing more effectively. However, weaknesses were identified in the argument and evidence components. Several students had difficulty developing ideas in depth and providing sufficient supporting details in their narratives. Although the main ideas were generally clear, the supporting explanations were often limited or repetitive.

The use of Canva as a learning media has proven to be beneficial in enhancing students' writing skill. The majority of students were able to write better-structured, more engaging texts by utilizing visual tools like infographics, posters, and narrative slides. While no students reached the highest or lowest extremes, the balance between Adequate and High performance indicates a healthy progression of writing skill among the eighth graders. This suggests that integrating digital media like Canva in English writing classes can motivate students and improve both engagement and outcome quality, especially in a creative learning environment.

Overall, the findings suggest that the Canva application contributed positively to students' writing performance, particularly in organizing ideas and improving text readability. Nevertheless, the results also indicate the need for continuous teacher guidance to help students strengthen critical writing aspects, especially in developing arguments and supporting evidence.

Conclusion

Based on data analysis of eighth-grade students' writing skills at SMPN 9 Mandau using the Canva app, researchers concluded that the use of this digital medium had a positive impact on student learning outcomes. Overall, students' writing skills fell into two main categories: Adequate (60% of students) and High (40% of students). The most significant finding was the absence of students in the low or very low categories. This indicates that the visual features and templates in the Canva app serve as effective scaffolding to boost students' confidence in composing texts, enabling the entire study

sample to exceed the minimum threshold for writing competence. However, the predominance of students at the adequate level indicates that students still require further guidance to achieve more complex linguistic accuracy and deeper originality of ideas.

The suggestion for English teachers: It is recommended that students focus not only on the final design results in Canva, but also on the mechanical aspects of writing, such as grammar and vocabulary. Teachers can provide dedicated feedback sessions on drafts before students undertake the final design process in the app. For Students: Students are expected to utilize Canva's features in a balanced manner; in addition to exploring visual creativity, they must continuously practice the sharpness of coherence and cohesion in each sentence to achieve a very high level. For future researchers: this study focused on a general overview of writing skills. Future researchers are advised to conduct experimental or classroom action research to determine the extent to which specific aspects of writing (such as Organization or Mechanics) improve through continued use of Canva's features. This study concluded that Canva is a digital learning tool to improve students' writing skills, particularly in organizing ideas and increasing motivation. Nevertheless, teacher guidance remains essential to enhance critical writing components such as argument and evidence development.

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