

# THE EFFECTS OF HAMBURGER METHOD ON EXTENDED WRITING AMONG ESL STUDENTS

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## ABSTRACT

This paper consists of a collection of applied research techniques in writing using an easy method to expand essay writing through Hamburger Method. This research is aimed to gauge student's ideas and later expand into a few paragraphs using proper organizational structure which includes introduction, body paragraph one, body paragraph two and body paragraph three followed by conclusion which is known as Hamburger Method. This technique can also be used for a single paragraph likewise topic sentence, supporting sentence one with examples, supporting sentence two with examples and supporting sentence three with examples followed by concluding sentence. Many educators who have difficulty in teaching writing can absorb this method and teach the students for their writing class. It will be very essential especially for factual, descriptive, argumentative or persuasive writing. This research will be using a qualitative approach with three types of instruments as a collection of data which is document analysis, observation and an interview session. The findings claim the research upholds the Hamburger Strategy and was proven to be worthwhile as it gives good feedback from students through interview, observation and documentation.

## KESAN KAEDAH HAMBURGER TERHADAP PENULISAN LANJUTAN DI KALANGAN PELAJAR ESL

### ABSTRAK

Kertas kerja ini terdiri daripada koleksi teknik penyelidikan guna dalam penulisan menggunakan kaedah mudah untuk mengembangkan penulisan karangan melalui Kaedah Hamburger. Penyelidikan ini bertujuan untuk mengukur idea pelajar dan kemudiannya dikembangkan kepada beberapa perenggan menggunakan struktur organisasi yang betul yang merangkumi pengenalan, perenggan isi pertama, perenggan isi kedua dan perenggan isi ketiga diikuti dengan kesimpulan yang dikenali sebagai Kaedah Hamburger. Teknik ini juga boleh digunakan untuk perenggan tunggal begitu juga ayat topik, ayat sokongan satu dengan contoh, ayat sokongan dua dengan contoh dan ayat sokongan ketiga dengan contoh diikuti dengan ayat penutup. Ramai pendidik yang mengalami kesukaran dalam pengajaran menulis boleh menyerap kaedah ini dan mengajar pelajar untuk kelas penulisan mereka. Ia akan menjadi sangat penting terutamanya untuk penulisan berfakta, deskriptif, argumentatif atau persuasif. Penyelidikan ini akan menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan tiga jenis instrumen sebagai pengumpulan data iaitu analisis dokumen, pemerhatian dan sesi temu bual. Penemuan itu mendakwa penyelidikan itu menyokong Strategi Hamburger dan terbukti bermanfaat kerana ia mendapat maklum balas yang baik daripada pelajar melalui temu bual, pemerhatian dan dokumentasi.

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## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Introduction

In a research paper, introduction is a setup of a topic or a plan on the area of a research. It has several goals. Firstly, presentation of the topic and attracting the reader. Next, is giving the reader a summary and a background of the research. Then, outlining the plans. Followed by describing the specific problem in the study. Finally, providing an overall of the structure of the paper (Freedman, Leora and Plotnick J; Sacred Heart University; University College Writing Centre, 2022). In this chapter the researcher clearly defines the Hamburger, relates on background studies, problem statement, research questions research objective, research gap, limitation of the study, significance and a brief summary of this chapter.

Language is a very prominent way of communication. It expresses our belief, emotion, opinion and perceptions. With the advance of technology, a common language should be used globally for people to understand and get connected to each other.



Therefore, one language which is superior and has been in use commercially for international trade, businesses and undeniably in the education sector is the English language. This language should be given special attention as it will interconnect everyone around the world, opens the corridor for reputable universities, serves a better job prospect and unites the nation. To emphasize, it is vital for every individual to master this language. Therefore, schools should motivate and educate students on the importance of this language. It is estimated that 1 billion nations widely converse in English. What more, 67 countries around the world, holding on to English firmly as their formal language as for 27 other countries claimed it as their second formal language (Nishanthi; International Journal of Trend Scientific Research, International Open Access Journal, 2018).



It is indubitable that it has become the international and the first ranked language in the world (Ghosh I; Visual Capitalist, 2020). Thus, students should be able to grasp the language from a very young age. For academic purposes, English is divided into four components: Reading, Speaking, Listening and Writing. Of all the components, writing skill is the most difficult to master. However, this is not going to be true for long as the researcher has come out with effective measures with the use of Hamburger Strategy that can solve their core problem in writing.

It is evident, over the years from the researcher's study, students were really struggling with essays. This is quite common among students in an independent school especially when it relates to factual essays. They could only write an essay with a word limit of 100 words whereby an essay for form six needs a word count of 250-350 words.



After analyzing all these problems, it can be said that this method is effective for students to do their essay. With all the documentations, observation and interview sessions with students, problems and methods are being identified and believed to work well with the students from intermediate and low proficiency.

Writing is a very important skill for every student. After acquiring their best knowledge from reading, listening and speaking they will draw conclusions in writing. Writing is the most difficult task for every individual. Writing without a framework is like building a house without a concrete or support. Therefore, this research is done to initiate and expand their writing using Hamburger Method as writing needs a reasonable construction of words (Atenea, 2019).

Speaking is a skill that should be mastered from a young age. If at all students are not able to converse, it could be a wrong approach to study or the person they mingle with. Therefore, they should be encouraged to speak in school. Once they acquire speaking skills, they will gradually have some ideas in writing. Writing can only be expanded when they have some development of ideas on what to speak which will further be constructed into sentences.

After studying and focusing on their weakness, Hamburger Method is a way to help them in their writing by following the breakdown of the method (Tacoma Community College, 2020). This is because the students were struggling to do more sentences and always had a word limit of below the stipulated word count (Alaxendra Bets, 2022). This is the core reason for introducing Hamburger Method for the body paragraph where they will have a topic sentence, supporting sentence with explanations and examples followed by the concluding sentence (Tacoma Community College,



2020). This will easily open their mindset on how to have a proper outline added with the vocabulary and linking words which will be sufficient for a paragraph or for an entire essay.

Students tend to use simple sentences especially those who lack vocabulary and knowledge on certain aspects before the use of Hamburger Method. This can be a great improvement as at least these students are able to relate a few sentences and have a proper guideline of doing an essay. For those advanced learners, they will have a better outline and be able to excel and expand their essay and make them interesting with the addition of lexicon and transitional signals.

## 1.2 Definition of Hamburger

Hamburger Strategy is a technique that precises the parts of each paragraph and components. It is a method that defines and draws out clearly the topic sentence, supporting sentence and the concluding sentence for each body paragraph (Elshaer B. R; The Islamic University of Gaza Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies Faculty of Education Master of Curricula & Teaching Methods, 2018).

## 1.3 Background of Study

Research carried on the year by A Maryam (2021), demonstrates students' challenges in choosing a title, designing a good start and developing the continuing paragraph



when given topics on writing is due to myriad of reasons such as the style, the development of sentence structure, the reasons for writing and other language challenges. Some of them could be listed as grammatical errors, the use of improper linking words and lexicon (Maryam A, Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung, 2021). Also in the year 2018, Richard has stated that students have few core reasons refraining to learn writing. Firstly, the difficulty in initiating the essay and overpowered by the practice. Secondly, the challenges in developing and using mechanisms in writing. Thirdly, students are very slow in contributing the exact words to show ideas (Bailey R. Journal of Learning and Student Experience, 2018). Moreover, students are stunted with ideas as the thoughts are wavering and it is hard to jot it down on plain white sheets which could be presentable (Portillo E. J. F & Miguel S, International Journal of Language and Literary Studies; Morong National High School- *Senior High School, Morong, Rizal, Philippines*, 2021).



Studies revealed that during high school teaching, students were not writing with the expected speed or as per requirement for their college years. Studies further indicate that students have a hard time to start their writing piece as they are overwhelmed by the task and not comprehending the topic. It is a challenge for them to use the elements or mechanics in writing though. Another problem is they cannot keep the writing flow as they fight against keeping their thoughts on going (Richards R. G; AdLit, n.d.). There are some extent whereby they have difficulty in retrieving the right number of words. There are numerous of trouble at the beginning level to start their ideas smoothly. With this method, it is reckoned this fills the gap of writing among high school students in extended writing (Richards R. G; AdLit, n.d.).





Through observation, it is apparent that students are not able to construct sentences easily in spite of learning English from primary. They have limited words and are unable to construct sentences. Moreover, they have a strong influence of their first language and this could be the probability as well. Indeed, less exposure in reading materials could also be the contributing factor.

#### 1.4 Problem Statement

The researcher feels that the students at the high school are unable to write an essay within 40 minutes. Students tend to spend longer time to project their ideas into paragraphs. They are unclear on how and where to start. Some students begin an essay without any proper guidelines. Students do not have a proper lead or main ideas to elaborate in the following body paragraphs. In most cases a student's first idea starts in the introduction. There is no concluding sentence for each paragraph. The paragraph is considered incomplete without a concluding sentence. Therefore, the researcher feels there is a necessity to introduce Hamburger Method for students to write their narrative or descriptive in an academic writing format which will be useful for their tertiary studies in the future (Hidayat K. H; Langkawi Journal Association for Arabic and English, 2018). Research done by Huni Hikmah Hidayati in 2018 where the researcher had an interview with 10 English educators from various places in East Java, Indonesia and the study revealed there are internal and external sources involved. Internal reasons could be the mother tongue interference, incompetency of the language, students' perception on reading and their enthusiasm. External causes could be the ambience of the classroom, limited time frame and teaching tools (Hidayat K. H; Langkawi Journal



Association for Arabic and English, 2018). All these could be taken into consideration added in with lack of ideas on how to initiate writing. Most of the students have no proper guidelines on how to start an essay and expand accordingly. Some could write but there were no standardized frameworks to follow. Students at high school were having difficulty in writing (Hidayat K. H; Langkawi Journal Association for Arabic and English, 2018). This will further lead to difficulty when they sign up for IELTS and MUET if they fail to obtain the minimum requirement to pursue their education. Thus, the researcher has adapted from Hidayat K.H (2018), who has proposed that Hamburger Strategy is the best method for writing which also complies to the researcher's study.

Briefly, based on the researcher's study, students have difficulty in constructing sentences due to less exposure to reading materials in English. This has stunted the students' thinking skills thus, it is a real challenge to expand writing just because they have limited information and vocabulary. Teaching them the use of Hamburger Method will ease them in their construction of an essay.

## 1.5 Research Objectives

- To identify the writing challenges among ESL learners.
- To look into the use of Hamburger Method among ESL learners.
- To find out the perception among the ESL learners on the effectiveness of Hamburger Method.

## 1.6 Research Questions

- What are the writing challenges faced by ESL learners?
- How is the Hamburger Method being used in the ESL writing classroom?
- What are the perceptions on the effectiveness of using Hamburger Method by ESL learners?

## 1.7 Research Gap

There were some research on Hamburger Method which was done in Indonesia but none was specifically on extended writing in Malaysia. Thus, the research is done to assist ESL students at high school in Malaysia to construct a paragraph easily within the time frame with lots of information and for those who do not have any idea how to start an essay. This will reduce the student's time to wonder how to kick start their essay.

## 1.8 Limitation of Study

There are a few restrictions that the researchers might need to follow as every study will have its drawback. Some of the limitations are that the data that will be collected might have other aspects to investigate like lots of grammar mistakes, no proper coherence as they do not use linking words and the most common one is the limited vocabulary. The sources of information that will be received is only based on a mediocre or intermediate class. Probably the good classes might have better proficiency and



understanding in writing. This study might be only looking into one aspect of the entire essay which is relatively small. If students are extremely weak and cannot write and read at all, this strategy might not be effective. Some students simply might not understand the concept at all. This strategy too might have weakness as this layer of essay style will not be used for narrative, report and letter writing.

Writing that required formats will not be suitable with the use of Hamburger Method. Moreover, if the students do not have sufficient knowledge, prior knowledge or content knowledge, it will be difficult to incorporate this sort of strategy in writing. Besides, the sample study could not be relevant because it is only tested based on only one school.

Indeed, lack of research from the previous method can also be the setback. Moreover, lack of exposure in this field can be another leading factor. Students might not understand the rules of data collection as they are weak in some areas or with low proficiency. It is not proven that if the students are from the first few good classes, they are not necessarily good at all subjects. They might be good in subjects like Maths and Science but their language proficiency will be lower. Therefore, this study is worthwhile for these reasons. Students who lack guidance are unable to fulfil the requirement of Hamburger Strategy. Another limitation of this study is it is only based on one school's findings (Devari H.; Department of English Education Faculty of Tabiya and Teacher's Training Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University Jakarta, 2020).





## 1.9 Significance of Study

This study will be very useful for all levels and those teachers who want to teach weaker students. It is used to help students to organize their ideas in a cohesive manner, recognizes the organizational structure and develops ideas in a solid way with proper outline. Students who have no idea will also benefit from this writing as it gives them tips on how to kick start the entire essay. When students learn to write using this Hamburger Strategy, there is always the tendency of remembering the components of each part and paragraph (Devari H.; Department of English Education Faculty of Tabiya and Teacher's Training Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University Jakarta, 2020). It does not only benefit the weaker ones, also will be handy for those who are good proficient users of the targeted language.



A study also shows that it has improved the creativeness of the Palestinians of 12<sup>th</sup> Grades in writing skills using Hamburger strategy. The researcher from this study has also claimed that it provides further knowledge on the sequence of procedures for training teachers to adopt using this method in the classroom (Basima Ramadan Elshaer, n.d.). The study also states that it gives an idea on how to teach writing effectively in an ESL (English as a Second language) classroom. Basima has further claimed it can help the course designers to follow this study, change and adapt the strategies accordingly.

Therefore, Hamburger Method is being introduced in this study to expose and help students to form question words which may later help in creating a paragraph according to the content or frame. This method is very helpful especially for those weaker students who have no idea on how to start an essay. As for those students who



have high proficiency were ignorant doing essay writing without any specific steps. Hence, they tend to get good marks however they are not able to score excellent grades as they have not comprehended the requirement of the Hamburger Method which is vital for them to excel. With this, this research has an aim for teachers to teach or assist students in their writing. Writing will no longer be as difficult as it was. Every teacher will be able to teach using this simple outline or approach. It is apparent that teachers were not able to teach successfully and impart their knowledge to students in writing as they themselves were not exposed to a proper guideline, as a matter-of-fact Hamburger Method is the best way to hinder this challenge.

### 1.10 Summary

The Hamburger Method will be essential especially for those students who wish to further their studies. For those at the beginner level, teachers can use this method to see performance. Past researchers have proven performance by using Hamburger Method. According to Angelina S.M, The Hamburger Strategy used at Ma Ma Arif Nu 5 Sekampung , showed an increase in the student's learning activity by 84%. This clearly shows students remarkable efficiency and performance in using Hamburger Strategy in writing (Angelina S. M.; State of Institute of Islamic Studies Of Metro, 2019)