



The Effect of Interactive Digital News Mapping Media on News Text Writing Skills

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to determine: 1) the news text writing skills of class XII-AP students of SMK Pariwisata Imelda Medan before using interactive digital news mapping media; 2) the news text writing skills of class XII-AP students of SMK Pariwisata Imelda Medan after using interactive digital news mapping media; 3) the effect of using interactive digital news mapping media on news text writing skills. The research approach applied in this study is a quantitative approach through a quasi-experimental design with a one-group pretest-posttest design. This approach and design were used to determine the effect of using interactive digital news mapping media on news text writing skills. The population of this study was class XII-AP students of SMK Pariwisata Imelda Medan who participated in pretest activities for news text reading skills and participated in learning news text writing skills using interactive digital news mapping media. The sample used in this study was 30 students taken using a purposive sampling technique. Data on news text writing skills were collected using a news text writing skills test instrument. Data on news text writing skills were analyzed using a paired sample t-test. The results of the study showed that the mean news text writing skills of class XII-AP students of SMK Pariwisata Imelda Medan before using interactive digital news mapping media was 10.73 (53.67). The mean news text writing skills of class XII-AP students of SMK Pariwisata Imelda Medan after using interactive digital news mapping media was 15.73 (78.67). The paired sample t value was -8.403 at sig. 0.00. Thus, sig. 0.000 < 0.05 so that Ho was rejected and H1 was accepted, meaning that there was a significant influence of the use of interactive digital news mapping media on the news text writing skills of class XII-AP students of SMK Pariwisata Imelda Medan in the 2025/2026 academic year.

Keywords: interactive digital, media, news mapping, writing skills

Pengaruh Media Interactive Digital News Mapping terhadap Keterampilan Menulis Teks Berita

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui: 1) keterampilan menulis teks berita siswa kelas XII-AP SMK Pariwisata Imelda Medan sebelum menggunakan media interactive digital news mapping; 2) keterampilan menulis teks berita siswa kelas XII-AP SMK Pariwisata Imelda Medan setelah menggunakan media interactive digital news mapping; 3) pengaruh penggunaan media interactive digital news mapping terhadap keterampilan menulis teks berita. Pendekatan penelitian yang diterapkan dalam penelitian ini adalah pendekatan kuantitatif melalui quasi eksperimen dengan desain one group pretest-posttest design. Pendekatan dan desain ini digunakan karena untuk mengetahui pengaruh penggunaan media interactive digital news mapping terhadap keterampilan menulis teks berita. Populasi penelitian ini adalah para siswa kelas XII-AP SMK Pariwisata Imelda Medan yang mengikuti kegiatan prestes keterampilan membaca teks berita dan mengikuti pembelajaran keterampilan menulis teks berita menggunakan media interactive digital news mapping. Sampel yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini berjumlah 30 siswa yang diambil menggunakan teknik purposive sampling. Data keterampilan menulis teks berita dikumpulkan menggunakan instrumen tes keterampilan menulis teks berita. Data keterampilan menulis teks berita dianalisis menggunakan uji t sampel berpasangan. Hasil penelitian bahwa mean keterampilan menulis teks berita siswa kelas XII-AP SMK Pariwisata Imelda Medan sebelum menggunakan media interactive digital news mapping adalah 10,73 (53,67). Mean keterampilan menulis teks berita siswa kelas XII-AP SMK Pariwisata Imelda Medan sudah menggunakan media interactive digital news mapping adalah 15,73 (78,67). Nilai t sampel berpasangan sebesar -8,403 pada sig. 0,00. Dengan demikian, sig. 0,000 < 0,05 sehingga Ho ditolak dan sebaliknya H1 diterima, artinya terdapat pengaruh yang signifikan penggunaan media interactive digital news mapping terhadap keterampilan menulis teks berita siswa kelas XII-AP SMK Pariwisata Imelda Medan tahun ajaran 2025/2026.

Kata kunci: media interaktif, digital news mapping, keterampilan menulis, teks berita

Submitted
20/05/2026

Accepted
29/06/2026

Published
09/07/2026

Citation	Sihombing, B. R. M., Siagian, B. A., & Sianipar, V. M. B. (2026). The Effect of Interactive Digital News Mapping Media on News Text Writing Skills. <i>Jurnal Pembelajaran Bahasa dan Sastra</i> , Volume 5, Nomor 4, Juli 2026, 3017-3022. DOI: https://doi.org/10.55909/jpbs.v5i4.1514
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Publisher
Raja Zulkarnain Education Foundation

INTRODUCTION

Education in Indonesia is strictly regulated by Law Number 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System (Sisdiknas). Article 3 of this law states that the goal of national education is to develop the potential of students to become individuals who are faithful, pious, have noble character, are physically and mentally healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent, and become democratic and responsible citizens. In this context, education is not only directed at transferring knowledge but also at shaping character and skills relevant to students' future needs. One important aspect in achieving these educational goals is the development of language skills, particularly writing skills. Writing skills play a crucial role as a means of communication and a tool for developing students' critical and creative thinking skills. Writing enables students to organize ideas, convey information clearly, and hone analytical skills that support comprehensive learning. Therefore, language learning must pay serious attention to developing writing skills so that students are equipped to face the increasingly complex challenges of the modern world.

According to Anggraini et al. (2024), writing is a language skill that serves as a means of conveying messages, thoughts, information, and ideas to others through written media. Writing is understood not merely as the act of stringing letters or words together, but as a complex cognitive process that requires the writer to organize the message's content, choose appropriate diction, structure sentences logically, and construct coherent paragraphs so that the writing can be clearly understood by the reader. In this process, a writer must be able to filter ideas, sort out main points, and determine the best way to present information to achieve the writing goal. In other words, writing is a form of indirect communication that requires critical thinking skills, careful choice of language, and precision in constructing a systematic and effective writing structure.

Writing skills are a basic competency that plays a crucial role in the vocational high school

curriculum, particularly in Indonesian language. In the context of vocational education, writing skills aim not only to master linguistic aspects but also to support students' readiness for the world of work. Through writing activities, students are trained to organize information, convey messages clearly, and compose reports or professional texts according to the needs of their field of expertise. According to Abbas (2006), writing skills are the ability to express ideas, opinions, and feelings to others through written language. Accuracy in expressing ideas must be supported by accuracy in the language used, vocabulary, grammar, and spelling.

When writing news texts, writing skills are crucial because writers must be able to identify and formulate the 5W+1H elements (What, Who, Where, When, Why, and How) comprehensively and relevantly. These elements form the basic framework for news to provide complete information to readers. Furthermore, writers must choose appropriate diction, use standard language, maintain objectivity, and avoid unnecessary opinions. News texts also require a precise structure consisting of a title, lead, and body of the news, which are arranged hierarchically using an inverted pyramid pattern. Understanding this structure requires good writing skills to convey news effectively.

For vocational high school students, especially those learning Indonesian, news writing skills are crucial because they provide learning experiences that train critical thinking skills, analyze events, and process data into informative written reports. They also encourage careful distinctions between facts and opinions in the digital age of rapid information flow. This approach aligns with research by Sianipar (2018), which emphasizes that information literacy supports students' ability to write simple scientific papers through the use of technology and print media for critical thinking and vocabulary development. This allows vocational high school students to transform daily digital routines into cohesive, coherent, and accurate news texts that align with the global



demands of higher education accountability. This is particularly relevant for vocational high school students preparing to enter the workforce. The ability to write activity reports, information publications, or organizational documentation is highly needed in various professional fields, including tourism, hospitality, administration, and public services.

Based on the researcher's experience during the educational internship program at Imelda Tourism Vocational High School in Medan, findings indicate that students' news writing skills are still relatively low. This is evident in the inability of most students to structure news texts according to the correct structure, from developing headlines and leads to developing content. The researcher observed that students often struggle to formulate the 5W+1H elements as the core information, resulting in less informative and less clear reflections of events. These difficulties make students' writing appear less coherent, unfocused, and do not meet the characteristics of news texts, which prioritize accuracy of facts and clarity of information delivery. Furthermore, researchers also found that students still experience difficulties in organizing information into structured paragraphs. Many of them are unable to accurately identify main and supporting information, resulting in a less systematic presentation of news content. Students' lack of experience in reading and analyzing good news examples also contributes to their low ability to produce news texts that comply with the rules. These findings indicate the need for a more practical and practice-oriented learning approach, so that students can be helped in identifying facts.

This low news writing ability is influenced by several factors. First, students' lack of understanding of the basic structure of news texts and the characteristics of journalistic language makes it difficult for them to transform information into concise and easy-to-understand paragraphs. Second, low reading interest, especially for news, results in students lacking concrete examples of how good news stories are structured. Third, conventional, theory-focused learning methods

contribute to students' lack of active involvement in the writing practice process, thus hindering their optimal development.

Given this situation, more interactive learning media are needed that can facilitate students' systematic mapping of information. Therefore, researchers believe that implementing Interactive Digital News Mapping media can be an effective solution to improve students' news writing skills. According to Lestari (2024), the basic concept of interactive digital news mapping refers to the principles of interactive digital news mapping, which is a digital-based learning medium used to map, organize, and organize information visually, structured, and systematically, helping students understand the relationships between concepts more clearly. Within this concept, digital concept mapping facilitates students in connecting new information with prior knowledge, organizing facts coherently, and building a more meaningful understanding through clear and focused visual representations. Based on this principle, interactive digital news mapping was adapted as a digital learning tool that allows students to visually and interactively map news elements such as the 5Ws + 1H, event chronology, and supporting facts. This allows students to have a structured, logical, and ready-to-develop information framework before writing news texts.

METHOD

This study used a quantitative approach with an experimental design, which aims to test the effect of one treatment on another variable under controlled conditions. Sugiyono (2023), Balaka, (2012), Razak (2017) states that the quantitative approach is commonly used in various learning studies.

The study was conducted at Imelda Tourism Vocational School, Medan, in the 2025/2026 academic year, with a population of 198 students in grade XII. The study sample consisted of 30 students from grade XII Hospitality, selected using purposive sampling based on specific criteria. The data collection techniques used included tests,

observation, and documentation, where the tests were conducted through pretests and posttests to measure the ability to write news texts before and after treatment. The research instrument was a news text writing test assessed based on aspects of the 5W + 1H elements, text structure, content and development, and linguistic rules.

Data analysis techniques were carried out by scoring the results of student writing, tabulating the data, and calculating the average value, standard deviation, and standard error to determine the differences in student abilities before and after treatment. The influence of media on learning outcomes was analyzed using paired sample t-test by SPSS application.

RESULT

The results of this study indicate an improvement in students' news writing skills after implementing Interactive Digital News Mapping Media in the learning process. Based on data analysis, the average pretest score was 53.67 with a standard deviation of 14.01, while the average posttest score increased to 78.67 with a standard deviation of 11.28. This increase in average scores indicates that students' news writing skills experienced significant development after the treatment. Furthermore, the decrease in the standard deviation indicates that students' abilities became more evenly distributed after the learning process.

More specifically, in the pretest stage, students' initial abilities were still relatively low. This is evident in the distribution of student scores, which were still predominantly in the sufficient and insufficient categories, with only a small proportion achieving scores above the Minimum Completion Criteria (KKM). This condition indicates that students still experience difficulties in understanding and applying important elements in news writing, such as the completeness of the 5W+1H elements, news text structure, content development, and the use of appropriate language rules. This low initial ability was also influenced

by the lack of variety in the learning media used, resulting in students being less motivated and less active in the writing learning process.

After being treated with interactive digital news mapping, posttest results showed significant improvement. Most students achieved good or even excellent scores. This improvement was evident in the increasing number of students achieving scores above the Minimum Competency (KKM). Furthermore, students demonstrated improved skills in systematically structuring news texts, developing news content logically and informatively, and using language more effectively and in accordance with journalistic principles. The media used helped students map news information visually and structured, making it easier for them to organize their ideas before writing.

The paired sample t-value is -8.403 at sig. 0.00. Thus, sig. 0.000 < 0.05 so that H_0 is rejected and H_1 is accepted, meaning that there is a significant influence of the use of interactive digital news mapping media on the news text writing skills of class XII-AP students of Imelda Tourism Vocational School, Medan, academic year 2025/2026. Thus, the alternative hypothesis (H_1) is accepted, which means that the media has a significant influence on improving students' writing skills.

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study align with learning theory, which states that the use of interactive digital media can increase student engagement in the learning process. Interactive digital news mapping media allows students to learn visually, contextually, and actively, enabling them to more easily grasp concepts and develop writing skills more effectively. Furthermore, the results of this study support previous research showing that the use of digital media in language learning can improve literacy skills, particularly in writing.

Based on these results and discussion, it can be concluded that the use of interactive digital news mapping is effective in improving students' news



writing skills. This media not only helps students understand the elements and structure of news texts but also encourages them to be more active, creative, and systematic in composing their writing. Therefore, this media can be used as an innovative alternative in Indonesian language learning, particularly in improving news writing skills at the vocational high school level.

Based on these conclusions, it is recommended that Indonesian language teachers utilize interactive digital news mapping as an innovative learning alternative to improve students' writing skills. Students are expected to be more active in practicing writing and utilize digital learning media to deepen their understanding. Schools are also expected to support the use of digital media by providing adequate facilities. Furthermore, future researchers are advised to develop similar research with a broader scope or by adding other variables to enrich the study in the field of writing learning.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research results and discussion, it can be concluded that the use of interactive digital news mapping media has a significant impact on the news writing skills of class XII-AP students at SMK Pariwisata Imelda Medan in the 2025/2026 academic year.

First, students' news writing skills before using interactive digital news mapping media were still relatively low. This is indicated by the average pretest score of 53.67, with a score range of 30–80. Of the 30 students who took the test, only 2 students (6.67%) met the Minimum Completion Criteria of 75, while 28 students (93.33%) did not. These results indicate that students' initial skills in writing news texts, particularly in the aspects of completing the 5W+1H elements, news text structure, content development, and language rules, still need improvement.

Second, students' news writing skills improved after interactive digital news mapping media. The average posttest score increased to 78.67 with a score range of 50–95. A total of 20 students (66.67%) successfully achieved the Minimum

Competency (KKM), while 10 students (33.33%) were still below the KKM. This improvement in learning outcomes indicates that interactive digital news mapping media is able to help students understand the concept of writing news texts in a more structured, interesting, and easy-to-understand manner, thus improving the quality of students' writing.

Third, the results of the hypothesis test prove that the use of interactive digital news mapping media has a significant effect on students' news writing skills. The results of the paired sample t-test showed a calculated t is -8.403 at sig. 0.00. Thus, sig. 0.000 < 0.05 so that H_0 is rejected and H_1 is accepted, meaning that there is a significant influence of the use of interactive digital news mapping media on the news text writing skills of class XII-AP students of SMK Pariwisata Imelda Medan in the 2025/2026 academic year.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to thank the rector of HKBP Nommensen University, Medan, the dean of the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, and the head of the Indonesian Language and Literature Education Study Program for their support throughout the preparation of this research. He would also like to thank his supervisors for their guidance, direction, and motivation, which enabled the successful completion of this research. He would also like to thank the Imelda Tourism Vocational School, Medan, for granting permission and assisting with the research. He would also like to thank his family and friends for their prayers, support, and encouragement throughout the preparation of this thesis.

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