



A THESIS

**THE IMPROVEMENT OF STUDENTS'
ACHIEVEMENT IN ESSAY WRITING THROUGH
COOPERATIVE LEARNING STRATEGY**

(A Classroom Action Research)

Iskandar Zulkarnain

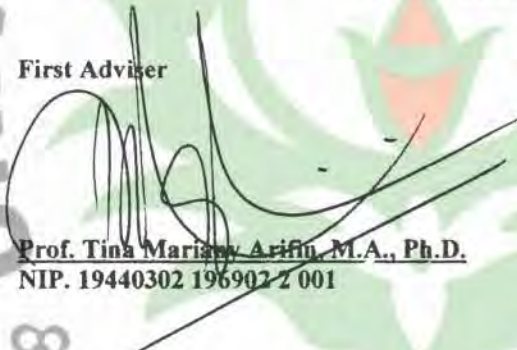
Registration Number: 045010148

English Applied Linguistics Study Program
Post Graduate School
State University of Medan

This Thesis was examined on February 24, 2010 by the Board of Examiners

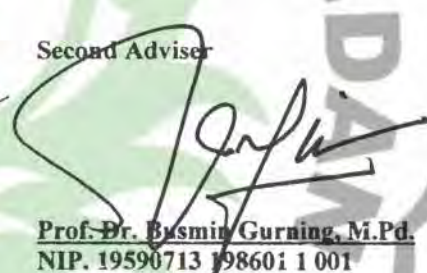
Approved By
Adviser Commission

First Adviser



Prof. Tina Mariyani Arifin, M.A., Ph.D.
NIP. 19440302 196902 2 001

Second Adviser



Prof. Dr. Busmin Gurning, M.Pd.
NIP. 19590713 198601 1 001

Head of English Applied Linguistics
Study Program



Prof. Dr. Busmin Gurning, M.Pd.
NIP. 19590713 198601 1 001

Director of Postgraduate



Prof. Dr. Beterik Manullang
NIP. 19471015 197412 1 001

APPROVAL

This Thesis was examined on February 24, 2010 by the Board of Examiners

Board of Examiners

Prof. Tina Mariany Arifin, M.A., Ph.D.



Prof. Dr. Busmin Gurning, M.Pd.



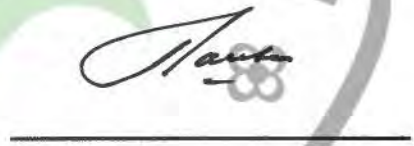
Prof. Dr. Lince Sihombing, M.Pd.

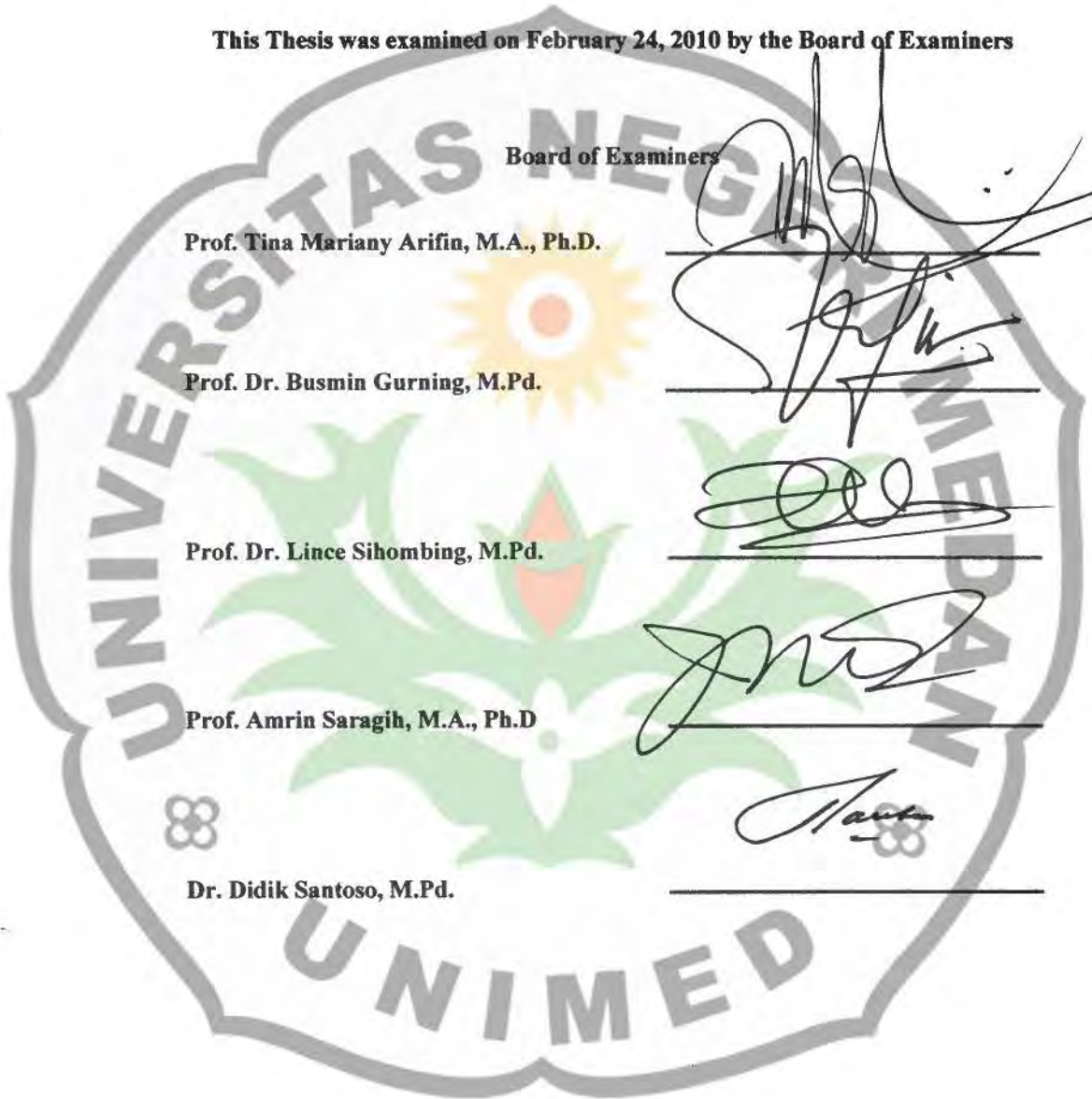


Prof. Amrin Saragih, M.A., Ph.D



Dr. Didik Santoso, M.Pd.





ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In the name of Allah, the most gracious and most merciful. May greetings be shaded to our Prophet Muhammad, his family and the noble friends. First of all, the writer owes a real debt of gratitude to Prof. Dr. Busmin Gurning, M. Pd., Head of English Applied Linguistics Study Program and also his second adviser, whose advise, encouragement, reviews, comments, suggestions and patience have been a feature of the writing process from the very beginning of this thesis. His unerring ability to spot his problems and mistakes saved him from many mishaps and inspired him to go further than he might otherwise have done. He is also grateful to Prof. Tina Mariany Arifin, M.A, Ph.D., his first adviser, for her robust criticisms, reviews and assistance were extremely helpful.

He would also like to thank to all lecturers of English Applied Linguistics Study Program for the treasure of knowledge they have transferred to him during the course of his studies. In particular, he would like to thank Prof. Amrin Saragih M.A., Ph.D., Prof. Lince Sihombing, M.Pd., and Dr. Didik Santoso, M. Pd who offered many valuable ideas and helped sharpen her observation

Thanks are also due to his wife, Hj. Nurhayati, S.Pd who had supported him in terms of motivation and love. Then, the heartfelt thank to his mother, Aisyah Simanjuntak and his mother in law, Hj. Khairiah, who motivated him to be a responsible man, including in finishing his thesis. And then, to his beloved daughter, Fadhilah Maulidina and his son, Fadel Rossi Anwar as the inspiration for him to be better, may this thesis can be a motivation for them to achieve their aims in the future. And also to his brothers and sisters who always asked him in terms of his graduation from post graduate program.

Last but not least, to his colleges at UMSU and special thanks to Handoko and Edi who pursued him to study in postgraduate school and motivate him from the beginning till finishing his thesis.

Medan, March 06, 2010

The writer,

Iskandar Zulkarnain

Registration Number: 045010148



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
AKCKNOWLEDGEMENTS	i
ABSTARCT	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iv
LIST OF TABLES	vii
LIST OF FIGURES	viii
LIST OF APPENDICES	ix
CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the Study.....	1
1.2 Research Problem.....	3
1.3 Objective of the Study.....	4
1.4 Scope of the Study.....	4
1.5 Significance of the Study	5
CHAPTER II: REVIEW OF LITERATURE	7
2.1 Classroom Action Research	7
2.2 Students' Achievement in Writing.....	8
2.3 Writing	8
2.4 The Nature of Writing Ability.....	9
2.5 Writing Process	10
2.6 Expository Writing.....	11

2.6.1 The Persuasive Exposition	12
2.6.2 The Classification of Exposition	13
2.6.3 The Process of Exposition.....	14
2.6.4 The Definition Exposition.....	15
2.6.5 The Comparison and Contrast Exposition	16
2.6.6 The Cause and Effect Exposition.....	17
2.7 Cooperative Learning Strategy.....	18
2.8 Writing Assessment.....	24
2.9 Conceptual Framework	29
CHAPTER III: RESEARCH METHOD	31
3.1 Research Design.....	31
3.2 Location of the Research.....	32
3.3 Population and Sample of the Research.....	33
3.4 The Procedures of the Study	33
3.4.1 Preliminary Study.....	35
3.4.2 Planning.....	35
3.4.2.1 Preparing Appropriate Strategy.....	35
3.4.2.2 Designing a Lesson Plan of the Writing Class	36
3.4.2.3 Preparing Media, Observation Sheets and Field Notes.....	37
3.4.2.4 Preparing the Criteria of Success	37
3.4.3 Implementation	39

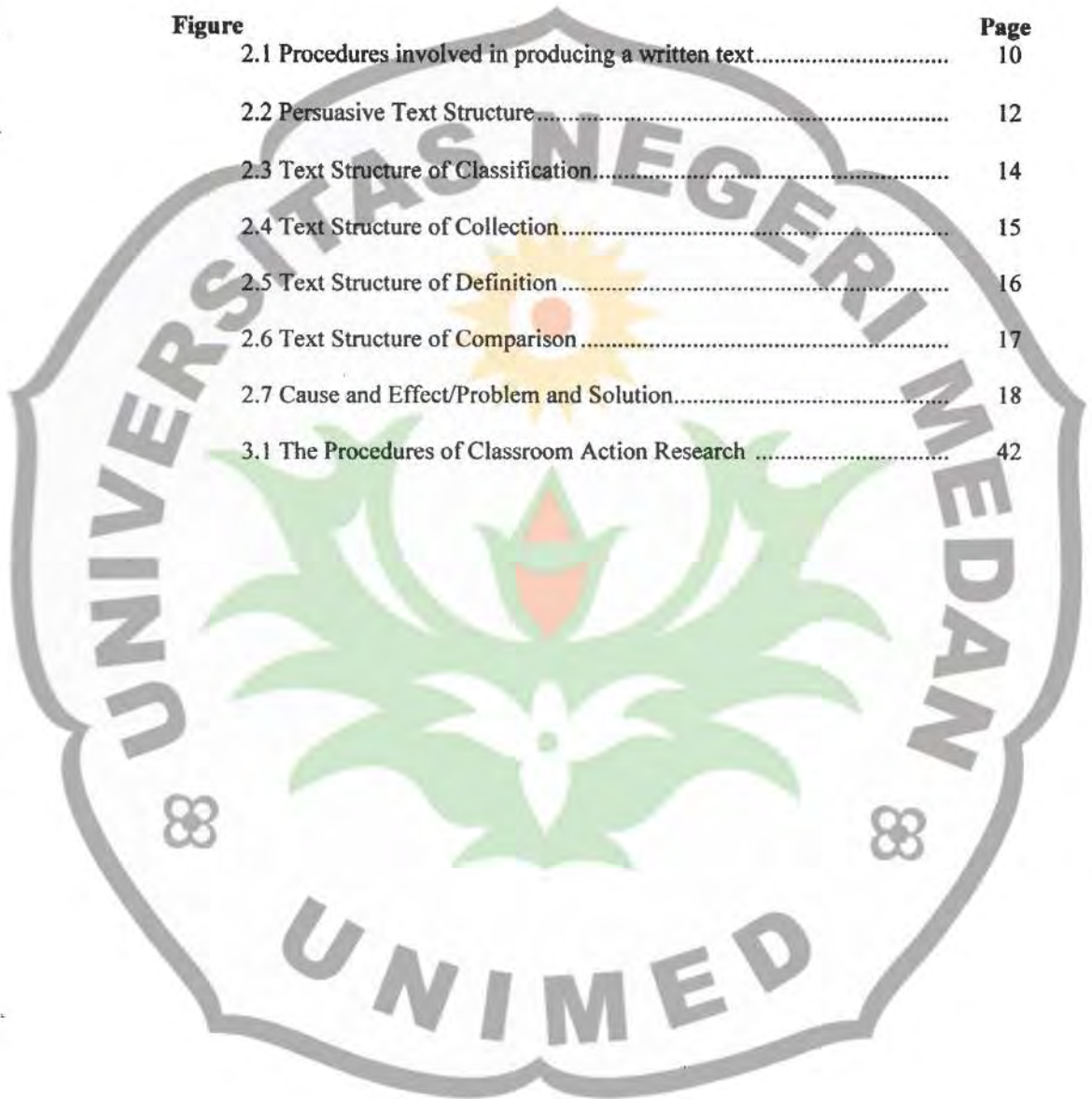
3.4.4 Observation	40
3.4.4.1 Data and Data Sources	40
3.4.4.2 Instrument and Technique of Data Collection	41
3.4.5 Reflection	41
CHAPTER IV: DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS	43
4.1 Analysis of Findings in Cycle 1	43
4.1.1 Quantitative Analysis	44
4.1.2 Qualitative Analysis	53
4.1.3 Reflection of Cycle 1	68
4.2 Analysis of Findings in Cycle 2	70
4.2.1 Quantitative Analysis	70
4.2.2 Qualitative Analysis	77
4.2.3 Reflection of Cycle 2	89
4.3 Discussion and Findings	91
CHAPTER V: CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS	94
5.1 Conclusions	94
5.2 Suggestions	94
REFERENCES	96

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
2.1: The Content Descriptors in Writing Test	26
2.2: The Organization Descriptors in Writing Test	26
2.3: The Vocabulary Descriptors in Writing Test	27
2.4: The Language Use Descriptors in Writing Test	28
2.5: The Mechanic Descriptors in Writing Test	29
3.1: Summary of Reflection	42
4.1: Students Score in Cycle 1 and Cycle 2	43
4.2: The Students' Score in Cycle 1	44
4.3: Collaborator Observation of Researcher in Cycle 1	47
4.4: The Result of Observation to the Students	48
4.5: Distribution of Students' Response in Cycle 1	49
4.6: The Students' Score in Cycle 2	70
4.7: Collaborator Observation of Researcher in Cycle 2	72
4.8 The Result of Observation to the Students	73
4.9: Distribution of Students' Response in Cycle 2	74

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
2.1 Procedures involved in producing a written text.....	10
2.2 Persuasive Text Structure.....	12
2.3 Text Structure of Classification.....	14
2.4 Text Structure of Collection.....	15
2.5 Text Structure of Definition.....	16
2.6 Text Structure of Comparison.....	17
2.7 Cause and Effect/Problem and Solution.....	18
3.1 The Procedures of Classroom Action Research.....	42



LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix	Page
A	98
B	99
C	100
D	101
E	102

