Writers’ Workshops for L1 School Reading Texts

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A Step-by-Step Guide to an Effective Model Used in Central Sulawesi, Indonesia
Structure of Presentation

1. Location and Nature of the Project
2. Background to Grade 5 Writers’ Workshop
3. Grade 5 Writers’ Workshop – Steps Taken
   A. Orientation to the Task
   B. Drafting
   C. Translation of Externally Authored Texts
   D. Editing of Own Texts
   E. Editing of Locally and Externally Authored Texts
   F. Field Test and Translation
1. Location and Nature of the Project

2008-2015+ SIL/YABN
• 70 mins per week
• 2 Language Groups
• 16 schools (3, 13)
• Grades 2-6
• 1000 children

• Orthography determined in 2008 by Language Development teams helped by SIL linguists
• No written texts previously
Key Desired Outcome: Graduates regularly read and write in their local language, and have significant understanding of their local heritage and culture
2. Background to Grade 5 Writers’ Workshop

- 32 stories in each language for Grades 2-4, mostly locally authored
- All texts to date were narrative
- Outside facilitation was necessary
- Workshop facilitation team spoke national language but not target languages
- 5 days
• Workshop Aim:
  • 6 (x2) original texts (narrative/non-narrative)
  • 8 (x2) translated texts (non-narrative, about the region)

= 6 participants; 1 original text & 1-2 translations per participant

• Our criteria for writers:
  • LD Team members if available (knowledge of orthography)
  • Fluent in local language and Indonesian
    - Literate and motivated
3. Grade 5 Writers’ Workshop - Steps Taken
A. Orientation to the Task

i. Characteristics of texts at different grades

ii. What will your title be?
iii. Structure of a narrative text (national language)

How to Write an Interesting Story

Introduction

Story setting becomes clear

Time taken to tell story

Climax of story

Story moves towards climax

Story moves towards a close

Ending
iv. Identify the beginning, middle and end of a non-narrative text (national language)

v. What makes a text interesting?

vi. Will your text be narrative or non-narrative?

vii. Analysis of content of non-narrative text – key points
B. Drafting

i. What will your key points be?

ii. (Oral outline to a partner)

iii. (Repeat with a different partner)
iv. Local language orthography
v. Draft writing
vi. Word count

Grade 3 – 250 words
Grade 4 – 275 words
Grade 5 – 350 words
Grade 6 – 450 words
C. Translation of Externally Authored Texts To Local Language

i. (Translation Principles)

ii. Homework: Draft Translation
i. Inserting paragraph breaks into a non-narrative text

ii. Inserting paragraph breaks into author’s own writing
iii. Opening and closing sentences
iv. Moral values check
v. Text structure check
vi. Text enrichment
vii. Redundancy check
viii. Typing
i. Accuracy and naturalness check
ii. Spell-check
i. Preparation for Field Test of clarity and acceptability

ii. Field Test

iii. Revision of texts

iv. Translation of Locally Authored Texts to national language

v. Peer editing of translation
12 locally authored stories

16 translated texts
If you require the
- writers’ workshop schedule
- document ‘How to Check Texts’
- soft copy of the graded materials guide
please write to:

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