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Proceedings

The 8th International Seminar

The Faculty of Language and Literature

Satya Wacana Christian University

Engaging with Literature Creatively

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PREFACE

The theme of this year's seminar: "Engaging with Literature Creatively" highlights the crucial role of literature in the language discipline and society because of the many benefits it offers.

The purpose of the seminar is to enhance literary awareness, as awareness of literature still obtains a small segment in English teaching, especially in Indonesia. We all know that Literature can be a powerful tool for teaching, building and transforming individuals and communities, yet little has been done to improve the experience for readers and maximize the impacts of texts by exploring innovative approaches and the way they are implemented.

We would like to offer our appreciation to all invited speakers (Prof. Alan Maley, Prof. Jayakaran Mukundan, and Prof. Kirk Branch), paper and workshop presenters, and participants who are taking part in this seminar. We are grateful to have financial supports from our generous sponsors which have made this seminar possible. Finally, the seminar would not have been running without the support of hard-working and dedicated committee members and students of the Faculty of Language and Literature. It is their commitment that made the preparation of this event a very rewarding and humbling learning experience for me.

This publication presents some of the unedited full papers of the 8th International Seminar's participants. We do hope that these papers will enrich our understanding and deepen our insights on issues surrounding literature awareness.

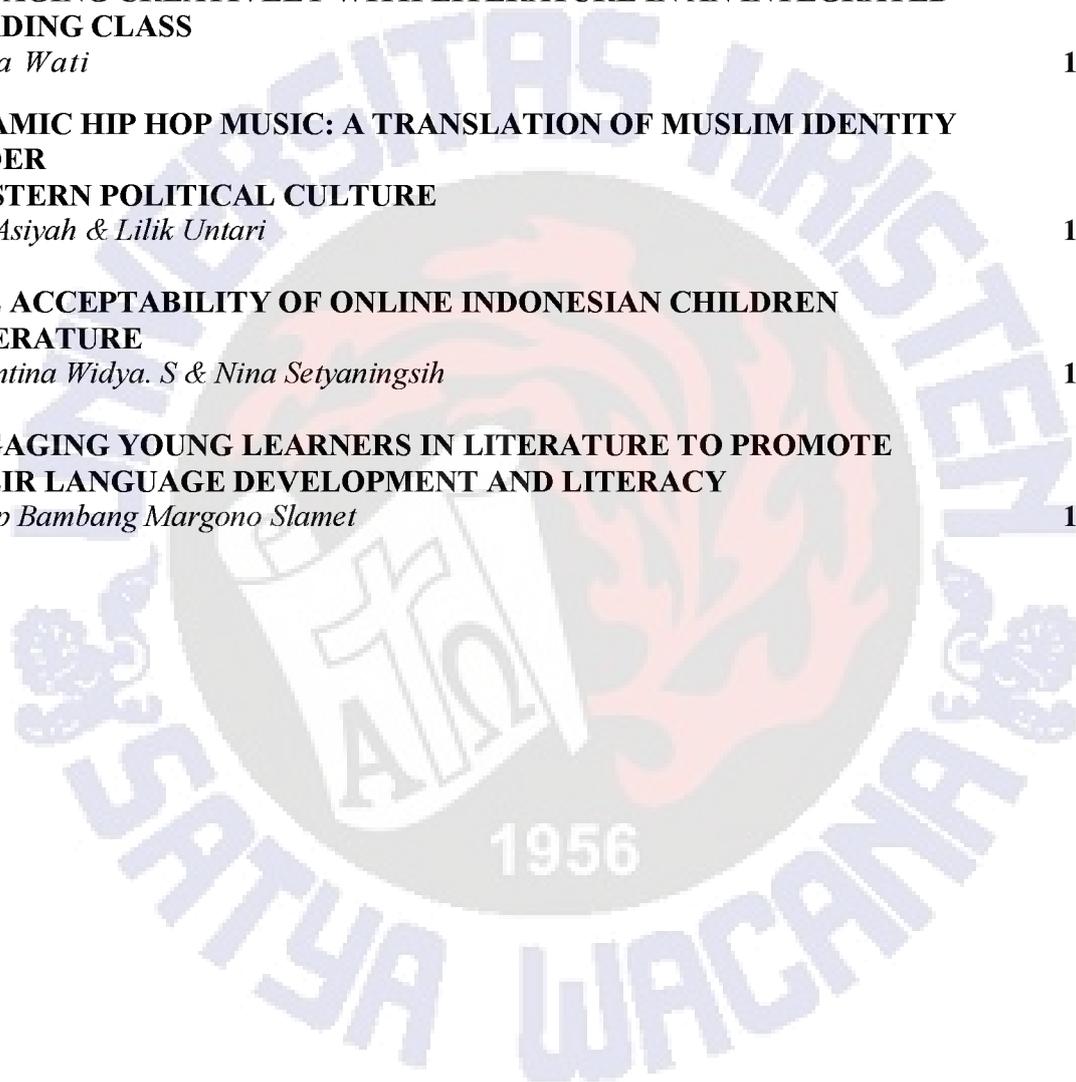
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FUN WRITING FOR CHILDREN: *HURRAY, I CAN WRITE!*

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Abstract

Writing. What comes to your mind when you hear this word? Hard, frustrating, tiring, or easy, fun, and pleasing? It depends on what kind of experiences we had in the past dealing with writing itself. The more fun and enjoyment we get from writing, the more we love writing. On the other hand, the more frustrating moments we face, the more discouraged we are. This paper tries to present some ideas that can make children addicted to writing. The central problem to be answered in this paper is. "How can we, as teachers and parents, encourage children of young ages to write?" Teaching writing to children It does not have to start from high-level topics which require much knowledge and lots of experiences, but writing can be started from our daily life and simple things in ordinary life. This paper is based on document reviews and observations on a six-year-old child whose spirit in writing was started since she was around 5. What is meant by documents in this case is the child's writing. In order to find more information on how to encourage children to love writing, three teachers of young learners' education were also interviewed. This paper will hopefully inspire kindergarten and primary school teachers, as well as parents, to encourage children to love writing.

Introduction

In Indonesia, kids are normally taught how to write the alphabets and numbers since they are in kindergarten, though some children, due to certain reasons, like lack of interest or ignorance, delay this process. Some children, once they are able to read and write skillfully, are so self-motivated and continue to develop writing habit, and do not stop at the point of writing the alphabets or numbers, but words, sentences, or even stories. They may retell famous stories that they know, or tell stories of their own imagination and experiences.

Parents and teachers should help them grow this positive talent. Once children find encouragement and spirit to write more and better, they will be motivated to do so. On the other hand, if they do not find supports from their surroundings, they may feel frustrated or