

C. THE STUDY

C.1. Research Question

This study was conducted to gain information with the research question about:

What are the perceptions of junior high students in SMP Laboratorium Salatiga toward group work assessment in an English course?

C.2. Context of the study

This study was conducted in SMP Laboratorium Salatiga. It is located in Jl. Diponegoro 52-60 Salatiga, Central Java, Indonesia. The Junior high school was selected because the writer had her teaching practicum in the school. She found that the students at this junior high school were highly motivated and interested in learning and improving their English ability, as shown by the students learning behavior and their reputation for being champions in some English competitions.

C.3. Participants

The participants were eighth grader students of SMP Kristen Satya Wacana Salatiga with total of 70-75 students. There were 3 classes of eighth graders in that school. Each eighth grade class consisted of 23-25 students. The researcher selected the eighth grader based on a convenience sampling. They were students who have an English course as one subject of study in the school. The eighth graders had high motivation in participating in group work activity inside of the class and were also very active in learning English material by doing group work because the researcher had taught at this junior high school. The eighth grade participants were chosen since they had already experienced working in group.

C.4. Significance of the study

Through this study, we can see the perceptions of students toward group work assessment. The findings can be beneficial for teachers to know whether their students perceived group work assessment as a better way to assess their abilities or not. By doing this research, the writer hopes this study will provide information for teachers and stimulate teachers to use appropriate methods of assessing their students as well as learn how to improve group work assessment. Teachers can create new or more interesting group work activities to help the students to increase their contribution in English group work activity in the classroom. It can also help the students to be more active in participating group work activity so they will understand and master the English lesson better. Furthermore, after doing this research the researcher hopes that the result of the study could be one of the references that future junior high teachers could use to increase their methods of assessing students in English, especially in assessing group work.