Year 10 Second Language Learners (Malay Background)

Writing — Average (1)

Learner Background and Program Context

This student is a second language learner of Indonesian at school. Her first language is English. She was born in Australia and her parents were born in Malaysia. In Australia, she has studied Indonesian for 4 years and previously studied German for 1 year and Chinese for 6 years. The Indonesian program has three 50-minute lessons per week.

Features of Achievement in this Example

The student includes simple personal information and descriptions of family, relying on formulaic phrases and simple structures. She uses the classifier ekor for referring to animals; this is often not recognised as necessary by second language learners. She uses the simple expression ‘saya sangat suka’ repeatedly to refer to her preferences. The response is structured using paragraphs containing different topics rather than any particular cohesive devices that connect ideas across the paragraphs. There is a reliance on simple description using familiar verbs such as suka, bermain, pergi, and menonton, with few me- verbs that would extend the range and complexity of meaning.