

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents six sub-chapters, they are the background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, and definition of terms.

1.1 Background of the study

Language is the important part in communication. Language is being the way to transfer an idea, thinking opinion, and feeling. In the world, there are so many languages and English is an important language to be learned because it becomes an international language. In Indonesia, English is the first foreign language. It is taught from elementary school as an alternative subject until high school as one of the compulsory subjects. It means that English has an important position so the Indonesian students need to learn English as well as possible. The ability to use language correctly is not attained automatically but it needs a lot of time and effort. Learners must be good at four skills namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing likewise, they must be good at vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation.

As one of the four skills, writing has traditionally occupied a place in most English language. In the classroom, writing may be used as one of the techniques to help the students to be interested in learning English. Students' writing can provide useful evidence of success or failures, or confusion. English does not serve only as a universal language but also as a tool to communication in oral and

written form, to understand and figure out the information, mind, feeling, science, and technology and culture. English subject in school is directed to improve the four skills, listening, speaking, reading and writing. Thus students are to understand and create a variety of texts both for oral and written language. Each text has the potential to achieve communicative, structural, and linguistic characteristics that are different. Therefore, before teaching school students to be actively involved in the understanding and creation of texts, teachers need training to understand and be able to create various types of text.

Reid (1993:156) states that writing is usually easier, better, and more successful when drafting, revising, and editing together in the groups that are part of the writing process. Teachers have high responsibility to develop student ability in mastering language skill especially in writing. The teacher must create interesting activities in the class in order the students can develop their ideas in writing. Although the teacher provides some interesting activities it does not mean that there is no problem. The problem is how to increase the students writing ability. There are several types of writing students have to go through they are: argumentative writing, descriptive writing, expository writing and narrative writing. Descriptive is a type of text functioning to describe particular person, or thing and the student's must use simple present tense in writing descriptive text. The students are also expected to use the spatial order in writing descriptive text

Based on the explanation above, the writer would like to conduct this study under the title: **“A Study on the Ability in Writing Descriptive Text of the Eighth Grade Students of SMPK STA. MARIA ASSUMPTA KUPANG in the School Year 2018/2019”**

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The topic of this study is specified into two problems. The problems are formulated in questions:

1. Are the eighth grade students of SMPK Sta. Maria Assumpta Kupang in school year 2018 / 2019 able to write descriptive text or not?
2. What is the ability level of the eighth grade students of SMPK Sta. Maria Assumpta Kupang in the school year 2018/2019 in writing descriptive text?

1.3 The Objective of the Study

Based on the background of problem, the writer formulates the statements of problems are as follows:

1. To find out whether or not the eighth grade students of SMPK Sta. Maria Assumpta Kupang in school year 2018 / 2019 able to write descriptive text or not.
2. To identify the ability level of the eighth grade students of SMPK Sta. Maria Assumpta Kupang in school year 2018 / 2019 in writing descriptive text.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study has some significance for the following persons: the English teacher, the writer, and the students

1. For the English teacher

This study is beneficial for the English teacher to know about student's ability in writing descriptive text.

2. For the Students

The result of this study can be good information for the students about their ability in writing descriptive text.

3. For the Writer

This study is useful for the writer to improve her own knowledge particularly about writing descriptive text.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study is limited to the students' ability in developing paragraph writing especially to make a descriptive text through the ideas which have been provided to be developed using their own words. The study is focused on the grammar, vocabulary, and form.

1.6 Definition of Terms

There are some terms that should be defined dealing with the study to make everything clear for the readers..

1. Ability

It is a potential or power to do something physically or mentally (Hornby, 1987:2). In this study, ability means the capacity of the students in writing a descriptive text.

2. Writing

Writing is a process of expressing ideas or thoughts in words on a piece of paper. Writing is actually is transferring information, message or idea in

grammatical sentence the information, message or idea is necessary to be expressed in a text.

3. Descriptive Text

Descriptive text is a kind of the text which describes person or a thing. Its purpose is to reveal a particular person, place, or thing. It is a type or part of writing that is arranged according to what it looks like or is where the object being described (Smally and Ruetten 1986).

4. SMPK Sta. Maria Assumpta Kupang

SMPK Sta. Maria Assumpta Kupang it is one of private junior high schools in Kupang city where the writer takes the data of this study. It is located in Perintis Kemerdekaan Number 1 street, Oebobo.