

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a means of communication, to share idea from one to another. There are many languages in the world and one of them is English. As an international language, English plays important roles in all aspects of life in the world. Several countries use English as their second language or foreign language beside their mother tongue, so English is so familiar to them.

In our daily life, language is considered important because it has a great function as medium of communication among community members. It means that, all human daily life activities are made possible by means of language because it belongs to human beings and intimately tied up their life. In addition to its function as medium of communication, language is also used as a tool to express everything such as self-expression, thought, ideas, feeling and emotion.

In Indonesia, English is a first foreign language which is taught as compulsory subject at elementary school, senior high school, and elective subject for many university students except those majoring in English. In learning English, we will recognize about language skills and sub skills. The language skills comprise listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Sub skills are vocab, grammar, and pronunciation.

We use English to understand our world through listening and reading and to communicate our feeling, need, and desires through speaking and writing. By having more knowledge about language skill we have better chance of

understanding and being understood and getting what we want and need from those around us.

As one of the four language skills writing is important for us, because by writing we can express our mind also interact with readers. Through writing we can share our feelings; these can be expressed by words, phrases, sentences, or paragraph. In general, people tend to express what they see or feel about something or someone through writing as well as talking.

This is in the line with what is stated by Braine and May (1992: 60) that writing clear sentences requires us to learn the rules of English grammar and mechanics such as the correct use of verbs and pronouns as well as commas and other marks of punctuation. Students in junior high school are directed to know and understand five kinds of text, such as descriptive text, procedures, recount, narrative, and report text.

In this study, the writer focuses on the ability in writing recount text by students of their experiences. Recount text is a text that tells us the events or experiences that happened in the past. Its purpose is not only to inform but also to entertain. There are three kinds of recount text which are studied by the Eighth grade students of junior high school, based on standard of KTSP 2006, namely personal recount, procedural and biographical recount, Recount text has generic structure, namely orientation, sequences of event, and sometimes closed by re-orientation.

1. Orientation is introducing the participants, place and time.
2. Event is describing series of event that happened in the past.
3. Re-orientation is stating personal comment of the writer to the story.

It is very important for students to know, learn and understand the generic structure of the text, which is chosen by the writer to study. By teaching the generic structure of recount text, students can know well the structural texts they read. By knowing the generic structure of recount text, the students can write a short and simple text which are well structured (writing task), listen the text or transactional and interpersonal conversation (listening skill), and practice a short and simple monolog in recount text (speaking skill).

During conducting the teaching practice at SMPK St. Theresa Kupang the writer found that many students still have low ability in writing or reading. Inspired by those facts, the writer is interested in doing a study under the title: **A Study on the Ability in Writing Recount Text of the Eighth grade Students of SMPK St. Theresia Kupang in the School Year 2018/2019.**

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Statement of the problems is actually the specification of the topic of a thesis or research. In this research, the writer tries to describe the students ability in writing recount text. So, the problems are formulated as follows:

1. Are the eighth grade students of SMPK St. Theresia Kupang able to write recount text?
2. What is the level of ability the eighth grade students of SMPK St. Theresia Kupang in writing recount text?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Going in the line with the problem statements previously stated, this study has some objectives:

1. To find out whether or not the eighth grade students of SMPK St. Theresia Kupang able to write recount text.
2. To find out the level of ability of the eighth grade students of SMPK St. Theresia Kupang in writing recount text.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The term “significance” means the “meaning” or “importance” (Hornby, 1989: 1185). Significance of the study is the meaning, importance, or value for human being. The study is expected to be useful for the following people.

1. For the English Teachers

The result of this study may help the English teacher of the researched school to know the students’ ability in writing recount texts.

2. For the Writer

Through this study, the writer can improve his knowledge that he has already got especially in writing recount texts.

3. For the Students

It will be useful for the students to know the importance of recount text to improve their writing skills.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study deals with finding out students' ability in writing recount text. There are 3 (three) types of recount text: Personal, Factual, and Imaginative. The writer limits his study on Personal recount text. The writer analyze the 5 (five) aspects of writing as proposed by John Anderson, they are grammar, vocabulary, mechanics, fluency, form/organization.

1.6 Definition of Term

In this part the writer would like to define some operational terms appearing within this writing.

1. Ability

Ability is the capacity or power of someone physically or mentally that can be developed through optimum exercise (Chaplin, in Peloi, 2006). In this study ability means the capacity of the Eighth grade students of SMPK St. Theresa Kupang in writing recount text.

2. Writing

Writing is the act of making marks that represent letters or words by using a tool held in hand, especially with a pen or pencil on paper (Hornby 1987: 1221). In this study, writing is the action done by the students to produce recount texts.

3. RecountText

Recount is a text which retells events or experiences in the past (Hood, 2000). In this study, recount text means a text that is written by the eleventh grade students based on their own theme.

4. Texts

It is the main written or printed part of a book or page, contrasted with notes, illustration, (Hornby, 1995 :123).So, recount texts is a text that tells us about what had happened in series of event in sequence.

5. SMPK St. Theresa Kupang

SMPK St. Theresa Kupang is one of the public junior high schools located in Jl.Jendral A. Yani No. 52A Kupang where the writer conducted the study.