

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter consists of background of the study, statement of problem, objective of the study, the significance, definition of the key term. Each section is presented as follows:

### **1.1 Background of the study**

According to Halliday(1998) : Nowadays along with the development period, English has become very important in education and social life . It is used and taught as one of the lessons in school starting from the elementary school until university level (. For example : the one who wants to have a job in board firstly, she or he should learn the language used in the targeted country or at least she or he should know English.

In the international education and society, English writing ability is very important especially in wider world of work. This reality makes teacher thinks that writing ability should be mastered by their student.

According to Serrano and Edna(1971); In the fact of teaching English as a foreign language, student's English ability theoretically consist of English knowledge and English performance. Here English student should have four basic of skills. English knowledge involves vocabulary, structure, and writing itself. While English performance involves four basic skills : listening, speaking, reading, writing. For these explanations, it can be understood that English knowledge will

be nothing if student has not performed daily activities. English knowledge is just a grave if the students can not listen, speak, read, and write.

Nowdays, students must be able to write English text, because it's one of the basic skills for English learners in their life. By writing the word in English people can believe that he or she is an English student but in fact, some students are always afraid of making mistake. The student must master four skills in the language learning process. All these language skills are related to each other. The students must be trained adequately in all the four basic skills to make them easily practice and use the language. Beside those four main skills the students should also master the sub skills, namely vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation.

Writing is one of language skills. Writing is not easy as the students think, because they should use correct diction, chronologies, and spelling of word. The students express their feelings, thinking, share opinion or idea and state willingness by writing. Writing is one of the student's activities in classroom. Sometimes, many students write text, but not many of them are able to write the text based on the correct structures and features of the text itself. Therefore, the teacher are expected to be able to guide the students when they study to write. For example the use of present tense which often makes students confused with its complexity.

In fact, some students in Indonesia get a lot of difficulties in learning English. Including the students of SMPK Sancta Familia Kupang. The writer wants to know the student's ability in grammar especially in simple present tense and to use it in writing descriptive text.

According to 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 the verbs and pronunciation as well and others marks of pronunciation, and Walford (1984: 4 ) defines writing as useful tool for discovering and thinking. Then Serrano et al ( 1971: 38 ) explain that writing, is an art, and like any other art, it has to be learned.

Based on my experience when I was teaching in SMPK Sancta Familia Kupang that students found it difficult to write descriptive text and based on the explanation above the writer would like to choose the title **“A Study on the Ability in Writing Descriptive Text of the Eighth Grade Student’s of SMPK Sancta Familia Kupang in the School Year 2018/2019”**.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problems**

In this study, the writer formulates the problem of the study as follows:

1. Are the eight grade students of SMPK Sancta Familia Kupang in school year 2018/2019 able to write descriptive text ?
2. What is the ability level of the eight grade students of SMPK Sancta Familia Kupang in the school year 2018/2019 in writing descriptive text?
3. What are the area of difficulties found by the eighth students of SMPK Sancta Familia Kupang in school year 2018/2019 ?

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

Based on the questions stated above, the study will be carried out with the following objectives.

1. To find out whether the eighth grade students of SMPK Sancta Familia Kupang in school year 2018/2019 are able to write descriptive text or not.

2. To find out the ability level of the eighth grade students SMPK Sancta Familia Kupang in school year 2018/2019
3. To find out the area of the difficulties found by the eighth grade students of SMPK Sancta Familia Kupang in school year 2018/2019 in writing descriptive text.

#### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

The significance of this study is for those who have great concern in language teaching or language learning particularly the English teacher of the researched school, students, and the writer himself.

##### **1. The students**

Through the result of the study the students can be informed about their ability in using simple present tense so that they can improve or increase their ability.

##### **2. The teacher**

The result of this study can be an input for the teacher of the English at the researched school so that they know the ability of the students in using simple present tense.

##### **3. The writer**

By doing the study, the writer can know how to conduct a research and implement the knowledge got when having the Research

#### **1.5 Scope and limitation of study**

This study concerns with skills of language. There are four skills that can be studied such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Here, the writer limits himself on the ability in writing descriptive text.

There are two elements that the writer would like to analyze, they are grammar and vocabulary.

### **1.6 Defenition of terms**

Concerning this study, there are some important terms that should be defined. Those terms are presented in the following.

#### **1. Ability**

Ability is potential or power to do something physically or mentally (Hornby, 1987:2). In this study, ability means the students capability to write descriptive text using simple present tense.

#### **2. Writing**

Hamps-Lyons ( in O'Malley and Pierce, 1996: 136 ) states, “ writing is a personal act in which writers take ideas of prompts and transform them into ‘self initiated’ topics” In thi study, writing is learning process of students in expresing their ideas or feeling in form of procedure writing.

#### **3. Descriptive text**

According to Raymond Murphy (2003 : 4 ) Descriptive text is a text that says what a person or a thing is like. Its purpose is to describe and reveal a particular person, or thing.

“Descriptive text uses the simple present and talks talk about things in general. We use it say that something happens all the time or repeatedly, or that something

is true in general”. In this study descriptive text is a piece of writing produced by the eighth grade students of SMPK Sancta Familia Kupang in the school year 2018/2019.

#### **4. SMPK SANCTA FAMILIA KUPANG**

SMPK Sancta Familia Kupang is a private junior high school located at Jl. Oebolifo No. 3 Sikumana, where this study was conducted.