

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

English in Indonesia is taught at various levels of education, such as Primary School, Junior High School, Senior High School and Universities as a first foreign language. It is considered important because it is an international language. However, many Indonesia learners of English still find it difficult to learn as it has many rules to obey.

There are four language skills namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Writing as one of the language skills is very important for some reasons. The first reason is that writing is important for senior high school students to communicate or share information and idea such as to write letter or to compose stories. Secondly, writer help the students to prepare the global competition for their future, for example get a job in a foreign country. Thirdly, Writing can help the students to focus on accurate language use, such as grammar and vocabulary. It may well provoke language development of the student because they think as they write.

Writing is an activity expressing one's thoughts, ideas, and feelings expressed in written language that is expected to be understood by readers and serves as an indirect means of communication. Writing skill is the most difficult and complicated language skill to be learned almost by all the students in every level of education. It is probably because the process of writing usually takes more time

to think and needs a lot of ideas. There are some aspects of writing, like: spelling, capitalization, word-choice, and grammar, and ability to make the sentences to become the coherent in a written discourse. It means that before student produce an essay they have to comprehend those of aspects related to the aspect of writing.

According Richard (1985) there are various types of texts in writing that can be used such as procedure, explanation, narrative, descriptive, recount, report, news item, analytical exposition, spoof, discussion, functional, and reviews (Depdiknas: 2016), in this research, the researcher focused on measuring student ability in writing a descriptive text because it is one of the texts which should be mastered by the Eleventh Grade students SMK Negeri Ile Boleng. The researcher also realized that writing a descriptive text was not an easy thing to do. Through this research, the students were expected to be able to produce descriptive text appropriately.

1.2 Problem Statements

The problem of this study are formulate in the questions that should be answer in the data analysis. The problem statements in detail are presented below:

1. What is the writing ability level of the Eleventh Grade Students of SMK Negeri Ile Boleng?
2. What are the difficulties encountered by the Eleventh Grade Students of SMK Negeri Ile Boleng?

1.3 Objective of the study

In line with the problem statements, the objectives in detail are presented in the following:

1. To find out and to know the level ability the eleventh grade students of SMK Negeri Ile Boleng in the school years 2019/2020 in writing.
2. To find out and to know the difficulties encountered by the eleventh grade students of SMK Negeri Ile Boleng in writing.

1.4 Significance of the study

This study is useful for the writer and English teacher teaching at the researched, school, and the students.

1. For the Writer

This study gives input to the writer to become a better teacher in the future. The writer can improve her knowledge in writing a composition particularly descriptive text which is supported by correct grammar, vocabulary, and form.

2. For the English Teacher

As the source for English teacher of the researcher school in evaluating the material especially in teaching writing by using descriptive text, so the teacher can plan the next teaching process more effectively.

3. For the Students

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

1.5 Scope and Limitation

There are many kinds of writing such as argumentative writing, narrative writing, descriptive writing, and expository writing. This study is focused only on descriptive text. In writing descriptive text the writer focuses only on the grammar, vocabulary, and form.

1.6 Definition of Terms

The writer is going to clarify some terms, which are mainly used in this study in order to avoid misinterpretation of the readers.

1. Writing

It is opportunity to convey something about yourself, to communicate ideas to people beyond your immediate vicinity, to learn something you did not know (McCrimon, 1984:6). In this study, students can convey their ideas using descriptive text.

2. Text

Text is a unit of organization of written language, which serves to indicate how main ideas in written text are grouped (McCrimon, 1984: 193). Text in this study is a descriptive text written by the students.

3. Descriptive Text

Descriptive text is a kind of the text which describes person or a thing. Its purpose is to 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 (Smalley and Rutten 1986).

4. SMK Negeri Ile Boleng

It is one of the private Senior High Schools located in Adonara Island located in Jl. Anggrek No. 7 Lewopao village-East Nusa Tenggara.