

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of background of study, statement of problem, objective of the study, the significance, and 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.

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. 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 cannot listen, speak, read, and write.

Nowadays, 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 students must master four 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, and share opinion or idea and state willingness by writing. Writing is one of student's activities in classroom. Sometimes, many students write text, but not many of them are able to write. For example the use of present tense which often makes students confused with its complexity.

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 Waldford (1984: 4) defines writing as useful tool for discovering and thinking. Then Serrano at all (1971:38) explain that writing, is an art, and like any other art, it has to be learned.

Based on the experience when she was teaching in SMA Negeri 1 Kupang she found the students difficult to write descriptive text and based on the explanation above the writer would like to choose the title **“An Analysis on the Ability in Writing Descriptive Text of the Tenth Grade Students of SMAN 1 Kupang in the School Year 2018/2019”**.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

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

1. Are the tenth grade students of SMA Negeri 1 Kupang able to write descriptive text or not?
2. What is the ability level of the tenth grade students of SMA Negeri 1 Kupang in writing descriptive text?

1.3 Objective of the Study

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

1. To find out whether or not the tenth grade students of SMA Negeri 1 Kupang able to write a good descriptive text or not.
2. To find out the level of their ability of the tenth grade students of SMA Negeri 1 Kupang 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 herself.

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 increased their ability.

2. The teacher

The result of this study can be 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.

1.4 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 herself on the ability in writing descriptive text. There are two elements that the writer would like to analyze, they are grammar and vocabulary. The reason is that many students cannot understand writing descriptive text easily.

1.4 Definition of Terms

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

1. Ability

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

2. Writing

Hampson (in O'Malley and Pierce, 1996: 138) states, "writing is a personal act in which writers take ideas of prompts and transform them into 'self-initiated' topics'. In this study writing is learning process of students in expressing their ideas or feeling in front 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 about things in general. We use to 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 tenth grade students of SMA Negeri 1 Kupang in the school year 2018/2019.

4. SMA NEGERI 1 KUPANG

SMA Negeri 1 Kupang is one of the state senior high schools located at Kupang city, East Nusa Tenggara Province.