

# **CHAPTER 1**

## **INTRODUCTION**

In this chapter the researcher presents about background, statement of the problems, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, definition of terms.

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Language is known as a tool of human communication. It means that by using the language people can share ideas, opinions, information, and knowledge to others. There are many languages in the world and one of them is English. As an international language, English plays an important role in all aspects of life in the world. Several countries use English as their second language beside their mother tongue so English is so familiar to them.

In Indonesia, English is still a foreign language which is taught as compulsory subject at elementary schools, junior high schools, senior high schools, 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. Whereas the language sub skills cover vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation.

As one of the four language skills, writing is important for us because by writing we can express our mind and 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. But to master writing skill especially descriptive text is not easy. Therefore, before teaching school students to be actively involved in understanding and creation of text, teachers need training to understand and able to create various types of text and create interesting activities to help the students to understand English skills especially writing skill. The activity creates text writing activities conducted the approach the process of writing (writing proses approach)

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's ability in mastering language skill especially writing. The teacher must create interesting activities in the class in order the students can develop their ideas in writing. There are several types of writing students have to master namely: argumentative writing, descriptive text, expository writing, and narrative writing.

Based on the writer's experience, when she did her teaching practice at SMAN 2 Kupang the writer found many students found it difficult to learn writing descriptive text. Descriptive is a type of text functioning to describe particular person, or thing and the students 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 of the Tenth Grade Students of SMAN 2 Kupang in Writing Descriptive Text in the School Year 2018/2019”**.

### **1.2 Statements of the Problem**

Based on the background, the writer formulates the problems in the following questions:

1. What is the ability level of the tenth-grade students of SMAN 2 Kupang in writing descriptive text?
2. What are the difficulties encountered by the tenth-grade students of SMAN 2 Kupang in writing descriptive text?
3. Are the tenth-grade students of SMAN 2 Kupang able to write a descriptive text?

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

Based on the problem above, the writer states the objectives of this study as the following.

1. To find out the ability level of the tenth-grade students of SMAN 2 Kupang in writing descriptive text
2. To find out the difficulties encountered by the tenth-grade students of SMAN 2 Kupang in writing descriptive text.
3. To find out whether or not the tenth-grade students of SMAN 2 Kupang able to write a descriptive text.

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

This study is useful for the writer and English teachers 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, lexicon/vocabulary, mechanics, fluency, and form.

2. For the English Teacher

Through the result of this study the teacher is able to know the level of the students' achievement in writing descriptive text and know the aspects of writing descriptive text which is difficult to them.

3. For the Students

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

4. For the English Education Department

The result of this study can give information to the teachers and students of English Education Department of FKIP of Unwira about English Assessment of the students of senior high school.

#### **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**

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). Here the students are expected to make descriptive composition about “their family and their favorite pet.

### **4. SMAN 2 Kupang**

SMAN 2 is a state senior high school located in Jln. S.K. Lerik Kupang, East Nusa Tenggara province.

