

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of background of the 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

English is a global language that needs to be developed everywhere. Due to the ability to speak English, people have been able to obtain and provide information that is very important to develop oneself and the environment. Therefore, English has been incorporated into national curriculum of secondary school, high school, and college in Indonesia. This is in line with expectations stated in the preamble of the 1945 constitution that is to increase the nation's intellectual life.

In this world there are many languages, one of them is English. English becomes the most essential language in the world. Almost all the people from many different countries around the world use it to communicate. It is spoken by millions of people all over the world. In English language there are four skills to be mastered, they are, listening, speaking, reading and writing. One of the expressive language elements is writing skills. Writing is the skills of a writer to communicate information to a reader or group of readers.

Writing is an important skill which must be mastered in order to effectively transfer the new ideas, feeling and thought in form of written language. It is one of

the important competence that must be mastered by students because we know that language is not only in spoken form, but also used in written form. (Sa'diyah, 2010).

Writing is considered as a difficult skill because it involves many aspects. Some of them refer to ability to write correct and appropriate sentences. The content refers to the ability to think creatively and develop thought including all relevant information; stylistic skills refer to the ability to manipulate sentences and use language effectively; judgment skill refers to the ability to select, organize and order relevant information.

Writing encourages students to focus on accurate language use because they think as they write. It may well provoke language development as they resolve problems which the writing puts into their minds (Harmer: 2004). It is clear that writing skill is very important but in fact, many students still face difficulties, due to lack of vocabulary and grammar knowledge.

Based on my experience when I was doing my teaching practice at SMPN 10 Kupang, students found difficulty 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 SMPN 10 Kupang in the School Year 2019/2020**”.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

The problems is actually the specification of the topic. The problems of this study are formulated as follows:

1. Are the eighth grade students of SMPN 10 Kupang in the school year 2019/2020 able to write descriptive text ?
2. What is the level of ability of the eighth grade students of SMPN 10 Kupang in the school year 2019/2020 in writing descriptive text ?
3. What are the area of difficulties faced by the eighthgrade students of SMPN 10 Kupang in the school year 2019/2020 in writing descriptive text ?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

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

1. To find out whether or not the eighth grade students of SMPN 10 Kupang in the school year 2019/2020 able to write descriptive text.
2. To find measure the level of ability the eighth grade students of SMPN 10 Kupang in the school year 2019/2020 in writing a descriptive text.
3. To find out the areas of difficulties faced by the eighthgrade students of SMPN 10 Kupang in the school year 2019/2020 in writing a 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 writing descriptive text that they can improve or increase their ability.

2. The Teachers

The result of this study can be an input for the teachers of the English at the researched school so that they know the ability of the students in writing a descriptive text

3. The Writer

By doing the study, the writer implements his knowledge and skill on how to conduct a scientific research on language teaching.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study concerns with skills of language. There are four skills that can be studied such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing. There are also sub skills of learning and teaching language including English: vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, and spelling.

For this study the writer limits himself on writing especially descriptive text. There are two elements that the writer would like to analyze, they are grammar and vocabulary. Because grammar and vocabulary are more dominant in writing text.

1.6 Definitions 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 (Homy, 1987: 2). In this study, ability means the students capability to write a descriptive text.

2. Writing

According to White (1986:10), writing is the process of expressing the ideas, information, knowledge or some information to share and learn. Beside that Tarigan (1994) stated that writing is an activity to produce or draw graphic symbols of a language that is understood by people. Moreover, Muliyani and Hafiz, (2012: 225) say that people will understand the graphic symbols presented if they understand the language and the graphic itself. Writing is a skill to transfer ideas, experiences, and feeling into the written form. In this study, writing is something written by students in the form of the descriptive text.

3. Descriptive Text

Descriptive text is a text of exposition that gives information being described. It appeals to the five senses and deals with the concrete and the tangible things. The aim of descriptive text is to create an image in the mind of reader (Hyland, 2004: 214). In this study, descriptive text means as the writing material produced by the students.

4. SMPN 10 Kupang

SMPN 10 Kupang is a state junior high school located in Jl. Prof. Dr. Herman Johannes Kel. Lasiana – Kec. Kelapa Lima, where this study was conducted.