

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents six sub-chapters, they are background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study and definition of terms.

1.1 Background of the study

Language is very important in our life and it is used for communication. Brown (2001: 34) stated that the theory of language in communication language teaching is a system for the expression of meaning primary function, interaction and communication. English as an international language, has an important role in the improvement of technology and literature. It is acceptable around the world. English as the first foreign language in Indonesia, has been taught from the kindergarten. Indonesian students as a part of the society absolutely need English.

English can be learnt in daily activities, even in unconscious way. People are not alert that they are using language as a means to do communication. Language also plays an important role in human life. People use it as a means to communicate with people in another country. In Indonesia, English has the status of the first foreign language. Wilkins, (1992: 9) says that English takes up very important position in almost any fields of life such as business, commerce, the academic field, communication, art, science, etc. Based on the opinion, that is why learners learnt English as the first foreign language. It is included in the curriculum and considered as the first obligatory subject in junior high school,

senior high school and also in universities. Even nowadays, it is taught in some elementary schools and some kindergartens in order to produce Indonesian people having good qualities in communicating in English. Learning a language usually has a practical aim that is to enable the students to communicate in that language in other country.

There are four language skills of English. They are writing, reading, speaking and listening. Writing is one of four basic skills that is important to be improved. When people write they make a special contribution to the way they thought. Writing means giving a visualization of some ideas we have into words and sentence.

Based on writer experience, she found many difficulties faced by the students in writing. Many students complain that writing English is too difficult and it makes them bored. One of the strategies needed in teaching English to attract the students interested in learning English. Practicing new model for teaching makes the students interested in learning English in the classroom. The students will not be bored with the material given by the teacher.

By using picture, students are expected to help them in their writing. According to the writer's experiences when she was in senior high school, she found difficulties in writings descriptive text. The writers found errors the student made and the writer herself did the same errors as others did.

Based on the statement the writer is interested to do a study entitled **“A Study on Descriptive Writing Ability by Using Picture of the Tenth Grade Students of SMA Negeri 5 Kupang in the School Year 2017/2018”**.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The topic of this study is specified into two problems. The problems are formulated in questions:

1. Are the tenth grade students of SMA Negeri 5 Kupang in the school year 2017/2018 able to write descriptive text by using picture?
2. What is the ability level in writing descriptive text by using picture of the tenth grade students of SMA Negeri 5 Kupang in the school year 2017/2018?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on statement of problems above, the objective of the study are as follows:

1. To find out whether the tenth grade students of SMA Negeri 5 Kupang are able to write descriptive text by using picture or not.
2. To find out the level of descriptive writing ability by using picture of the tenth grade students of SMA Negeri 5 Kupang in the school year 2017/2018.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The result of this study may give contribution to the persons following their capacities:

1. The Writer

This study is useful for the writer to improve her own knowledge particularly about writing descriptive text by using pictures.

2. The Students at the Researched School.

By using pictures, the students are expected to be more motivated themselves in writing, especially writing descriptive text

3. The English Teacher at the Researched School.

This study is beneficial for the English teacher to know about student's ability in writing descriptive text by using pictures.

4. The Next Researcher

It can be used as meaningful information to do further research on similar object or other object.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study focuses on finding out students writing level of ability. There are some kinds of writings. They are narrative text, descriptive text, expository text, argumentative text, report text, recount text, news item, discussion text, procedure text, spoof text, hortatory exposition, explanation text, review text, analytical exposition, discussion text. This study is about writing but it is limited only the students ability in writing descriptive text by using pictures. The writing components that would be used to analyze students' writings in this study are grammar, vocabulary, and mechanics.

1.6. Definition of the Term

There are some terms that should be defined dealing with the study to make everything clear for the readers.

1. Ability

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

2. Writing

Writing means that activity or occupation of writing, and way in which a person writes letters to word writing (Hornby, 1987: 30).

3. Pictures

Picture is one of ways to make easy teaching learning English and that can make students interested to study English language (Wright, 1989: 17).

4. Descriptive Text

Descriptive text is a text of exposition that gives the attributes of a thing being described. It appeals to the five senses and deals with the concrete and the tangible. The aim of descriptive text is to create an image in the mind of the reader (Hyland, 2004: 214).

5. SMA Negeri 5 Kupang

It is one of public senior high schools in Kupang city where the writer takes the data of this study. It is located in Tamrin street, Oebobo.