

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

In English language, there are four skills and three conjunctions to be mastered. They are: listening, speaking, reading and writing, also components of English such as: grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation. Writing is one of the four language skills which is important to learn. According to Kashani, Mahmud, and Kalajahi (2013), English is often studied in formal educational setting, such as schools, universities, and language institutes. In Indonesia, English language has been incorporated into the curriculum of English schools and colleges so that English can be taught to the Indonesian learners. Writing skill mastery is significantly helpful for learners in various educational and occupational tasks such as writing essays, writing thesis, business writing, and international correspondence.

Writing becomes the most difficult skill when it is learned by the foreign language learners. "Writing is a difficult skill for native speakers and non-native speakers; because writers must be able to write it in multiple issues such as content, organization, purpose, audience, vocabularies and mechanics such as punctuation, spelling, and capitalization" Rass (2001:30).According to Brown (2001): "writing is thinking process, because writing is a process of putting ideas down on paper to transform thought into words and give them structure and coherent organization."This means that writing is difficult for students as a non-native speaker. Students must be able write descriptive text by. Knowing the content,

organization, purpose, audience, vocabularies and mechanics such as punctuation, spelling and capitalization. Descriptive text is one of the genres in writing texts. Descriptive text is a text that describes the features of someone, something, or certain place. Descriptive text consists of introduction and description. Introduction is the part of paragraph that introduces the characters, and description is the part of paragraph that describes the characters. As stated before, writing is more difficult than other skills since it needs more components of language to support the construction of good piece writing. It involves many different components such as content, organization, grammar, vocabulary and mechanics.

Based on a preliminary research in a senior high school, the researcher found the following phenomena:

1. Some students are not able to express their idea in descriptive text well.
2. Some students are not able to write based on generic structure of descriptive text.
3. Some students are not able to organize their writing in generic text in their writing.
4. Some the student does not know how to write a text based on the text given by the teacher.

Jacobs (2008: 22) in writing a descriptive text, the students have to fulfill the five components of writing; they are content (developing ideas), organizing ideas, grammar, vocabulary and mechanics. Developing ideas is the most important thing for the students in writing descriptive text. By developing ideas, the students can make a good writing text and develop their ideas clearly in each paragraph. In organizing ideas, students have to identify the name of place and describe the detail

of the place in the supporting paragraph. In grammar, students have to choose the appropriate and accurate words to express the ideas. In mechanics components, students have to use the good punctuation, spelling and capitalization. From the indicators above, it leads to the data description and help the writer and the scorers to score the students test. From those indicators, the writers can see the student skill through their test and analyze it based on the indicator. Finally, the writer intended to find out the tenth grade students' ability in writing Descriptive text. The researcher takes entitled of this research "An Analysis of junior high school student's ability in writing descriptive text"

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background above, the researcher identifies some problems of this research as follows:

1. What is the student's ability level in writing descriptive text?
2. What are the difficulties faced by students' in the seven grade of SMP Negeri 11 Kupang in writing descriptive text?

1.2 The Objective of the Study

1. To find out the student ability level in writing descriptive text.
2. To find out the difficulty in developing the generic structure of descriptive text of the high school students'.

1.3 The Significant of the Study

1. For the Writer

The writer may get one solution to evaluate students writing ability. The writer may know the advantages of using descriptive text in teaching English language. And later, the writer may choose this method as one of the solutions to evaluate the teaching and learning process.

2. For the Teacher

The teacher can evaluate clearly in teaching English language using the descriptive text. This research can be given to the teacher as variation in teaching and learning English language

3. For the Students

The result of this research is expected to help the students to increase their writing ability.