

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This Chapter consists of four points to be treated i.e., background of the study, research problems, objective of the study, and significance of the study.

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

English as international language has an important role in the world. It is not only used in communication, but also in transferring information. There are four skills that students must be mastered in English they are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Kern (2000: 172) states that writing is functional communication, making learners, possible to create imagined worlds, of their own design. Writing as one of four language skills is considered as a difficult skill because the writer should make some aspects in writing such as content, organization, purpose, vocabulary, punctuation, and spelling in a balance way.

Amongst the four language skills, though there four skills, writing is the most challenging skill to learn. It needs competencies of many language aspects, including grammar, diction, cohesiveness, and vocabulary to express the researcher opinions, thoughts, knowledges, and feelings. Furthermore, the steps of writing may include planning, drafting, editing, and final draft (Harmer, 2004: 5). Through writing, people can express their idea, knowledge, and feeling to others. According to Pincars (1987: 4) Writing is one the most important basic skills that should be learn well and writing is one of the language skills that plays important role in human communication in which enable being to communicate and express

their feelings and opinions. In fact, many students face many difficulties when they begin writing especially in writing descriptive text. For instance, the students spend much time to think about what they will write and the words that they should use, because they cannot get ideas quickly also, they have so many errors or mistakes in their writing. It is because they practice writing text rarely and not carefully correct, they're on writing. Also, they may not be able to put their ideas cohesively in a text. Based on the curriculum in English education study program that descriptive text is taught in reading and writing subjects. In academic writing learning descriptive text to be a primary sub-material enhancing their writing skill that the reason is to measure analysis capacity of students about several objects in social environment like human, a thing, place and so on. Though the descriptive learning brings the students in organize information on specific object therefore students are able to create quality written with the result that the reader can imagine the information are written by students.

One of the text types which must be mastered of the university students is descriptive text. Descriptive text is a text which says what a person or a thing is like. Its purpose is to describe and reveal a particular person, place, or thing. So, we can say that the descriptive text is the text that describes what kind of person or an object describing, good shape, properties, number and others in particular. The goals of descriptive text are clear, namely to explain, describe or disclose a specific individual or object. So that, write descriptive become important for the students because through it, the students can express the ideas that exist in their thinking about thing.

The researcher has some reasons why the writer is interested in doing this research about the students' ability in writing descriptive text. The first reason is that descriptive text is useful for life, that human beings often describe things to others. The second is the Second semester students have already taught and studied the descriptive text in the senior high school but unfortunately, many students are not interested in writing about something, even though it is about their life. Based on the explanation, the writer is interested in conducting the research which is proposed to measure students' Writing skills entitled **“A Study on the Ability in Writing Descriptive Text of the EFL Learners”**.

## **1.2 Research Problems**

This study is conducted to answer the following questions:

1. Are the second semester students of English Education Study Program at Widya Mandira Catholic University able to write descriptive text?
2. What is the level of ability of the second semester students of English Education Study Program at Widya Mandira Catholic University in writing descriptive text?

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

In line with the research problems, the objectives of the study are to find out whether or not the Second semester students of English Study Program at Widya Mandira Catholic University able to write descriptive text and their level of writing ability.

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

There are two kinds of significances of the study, namely;

##### **1. Theoretically**

The result of this research is expected to give contribution to the development theory of writing especially in writing descriptive text for learner of English as foreign language.

##### **2. Practically**

The research of the research is expected to be a reference for teachers to develop learning methods or other methods or looking for a more effective. The result of the research can be a reference for the teacher and lecturers in teaching writing based on the students' ability. So that they can use the proper method to teach them. This research focused on the writing descriptive text.