

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background**

In this globalization era, people are competing in learning English as it is one of the languages used in the world and accepted widely as an international language. Most aspect of human's life needs English, for example in science, technology, business, social, and politic. Therefore, it is important to learn or to know English in order to be able to communicate with the people from another country.

Because of its important rule in international communication, many people learn English, both as second language and as foreign language.

In order to be able to use English, people must know the language skills. Language skills are divided into two major divisos namely main skills and sub skills. Main skills covers: listening, speaking reading and writing skills and sub skills covers: grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation. These skills are interrelated to each other to develop someone's command of English.

As shown above, one of the language skills is writing. Writing is considered by the many people as a difficult skill to master. Saddler and Hayller (2004; 11) state that writing is a special craft and it takes hard work to master. Very few professional writers say that it is an easy skill.

There are various genres of writing text, such as descriptive, narrative, hortatory exposition and recount. In this study, the writer wants to know the students' abilities and difficulties in writing a recount text.

Recount text is a text to tell the readers what happened in the past through sequence of events (Sudarwati 2007). By writing recount text students can be helped to hone their memory because they have to remember the events they experience in the past. The purpose of recount text is to give the audience a description of what happened in the past and when it happened in the past. The generic structure of this text is orientation, events and reorientation. In writing recount text the researcher focused her analysis on grammar, mechanics, and form or organization of recount text.

In researcher's experience when she was in senior high school, she faced some problems in writing recount text. The main problem was not only related to the ideas but also the lack of vocabularies and grammar to write correctly. Furthermore, during her teaching practice at SMA N 7 Kupang with the twelfth grade students in social class, she found that they did the same way as the writer did. As addition, they also had difficulties in memorizing the events in the past so they had nothing to write because they failed to remember the events accurately. In fact they have to know a sentence grammatical, have more about vocabularies.

Therefore the writer wants to have deeper understanding about the students' knowledge in recount text especially regarding their progress, difficulties, and their ability in writing recount text. The information about the students' ability level and difficulties is needed by the teacher in order to design the appropriate teaching methods and strategies in improving students writing ability.

Based on the explanation above the researcher was interested in doing the study with the title: A STUDY ON THE ABILITY IN WRITING RECOUNT

## TEXT OF THE TENTH GRADE STUDENTS OF SMA NEGERI 7 KUPANG IN THE SCHOOL YEAR 2014/2015.

### **1.2 Problem Statement**

It has been stated before that the problem statement is actually the specification of the topic. The problem statement of this study is formulated in questions. The questions are the following:

1. Are the tenth grade students of SMA Negeri 7 Kupang in the school year 2014/ 2015 able to write recount text?
2. What is the students' level of ability in writing recount text?
3. What are the areas of difficulties faced by tenth grade students of SMAN 7 Kupang in school year 2014/2015?

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

This study has some objectives. The objectives go in line with the problem statement above. The objectives of the study in detail are stated in the following:

1. To find out whether the tenth grade students of SMA Negeri 7 Kupang in the school year 2014/2015 are able to write recount text or not.
2. To find out the students level of ability in writing recount text.
3. To find out the areas of difficulties faced by the tenth grade students of SMAN 7 Kupang in the school year 2014/2015.

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

This study is beneficial for the following people:

1. For the English teacher:

It will be a useful input for him or her about student's ability in writing recount text, so he or she may do good preparation for the teaching, especially in teaching writing recount text.

2. For researcher herself:

It is the good chance for the researcher to apply her knowledge and do scientific writing.

3. For the students of the research:

This study enables the students to know their ability in writing recount text.

#### **1.5 Scope and Limitation**

There are various types of Writing such as Narrative text, hortatory exposition text, descriptive text and recount text. However in this study the researcher focused her study on writing Recount text. The researcher analyzed the students' writing as proposed by Anderson in the book of Hughes (1990) but focused only on the form (organization), grammar, vocabulary and mechanics to determine the students' ability.

#### **1.6 Definition of Terms**

The following are terms in the title that should be defined, to help readers to understand this study.

1. Ability

Ability is a capacity or power to do something (Hornby, 1995; 2). In this study, ability means the fact that the students are able to write recount text or not.

2. Writing

Referring to Nunan's idea writing can be defined as a creative activity which is connected in thinking process about ideas, feeling, and experiences expressed into a written text in the progressive process to make the readers understand (Nunan in Reis 2008; 2). In this study, writing means the students' composition in form of writing recount text.

3. Recount text.

Recount text is a text telling the reader what happened in the past through sequence of time (Sudarwati, 2007; 30). In this study, recount text means that how the students tell their past experience in a written form.

4. SMA Negeri 7 Kupang

It is one of the state senior high schools located in Kupang East Nusa Tenggara Province.