

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

English is a subject matter in school. It covers four basic language skills. They are listening, speaking, reading and writing and sub skills are grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation. Teaching English means that teaching the students not only how to speak, how to read, how to listen, but also how to write. Moreover about English means talking about how to communicate in English. Communication is not only done in spoken but also in written. Most students consider that writing is the hardest skill to master, because the ability to write in foreign language is more complicated than the ability to speak, read, or listen. It is hard to teach students how to write because it involves many components such as structure, vocabulalary, form, punctuation, spelling and mechanics.

In junior high school, teaching English is really needed to improve the students' ability in writing and lead them how to write a narrative writing, argumentative writing, expository writing and descriptive writing. Writing helps the students to convey their ideas concerning the topics chosen by their own words correctly and vividly in order the reader can capture the ideas both its details and wholeness. So, the students must do it creatively to produce a good writing. In teaching learning process, the teacher is expected to facilitate or guide the students in writing. Though the students have been guided how to write well in a simple writing, the experience can tell us that the students who are required to write something in English find difficulties in writing. This assumption was raised by the

writer, based on information from the English teacher and also the writer's own experiences when she was in junior high school, in which she found very difficult on how to write well.

There are many types of writing; one of them is descriptive writing. The writer only focuses on descriptive writing. According to Schacter (2008;05) a descriptive writing is a kind of writing which describing a person, place or thing in a way that enables the reader to visuailize it. People consider that descriptive writing is an easy material, but in contrast, it is difficult because we have to write about the thing that exists and the thing that does not exist, something that can not be seen, felt, smelt, or even touched. Therefore, the writer was so intrested to find whether students will write a descriptive text better by looking or even touching pictures than only imagining it. In order to facilitate the students to communicate in good writing, the writer was tried to use with the suitable media such as pictures. Pictures can increase the students' sense and make them imagine what they see, write and analyze them in the thought. The writer thought that if the students can develop and improve their descriptive writing by looking pictures that can help them motivate in creating a descriptive paragraph.

Since the students have a lot of ideas in their mind, they should break them into the paragraph. Paragraph is a unit of organization of written language, which serves to indicate how the main ideas in a written text are grouped. (Longman Dictionary.1985:418). Full attention in arranging a good paragraph will bring students to write a descriptive text.

The writer focuses the students' writing on grammar use and the use of correct words. It means that in checking students' writing, the writer just focuses on two components: grammar and vocabulary.

Based on the statement above, the writer chooses a set of pictures for helping the students to build their ideas in writing a descriptive paragraph, and then the writer asked them to write the paragraph by using their own words based on the pictures given.

Based on the problem above the writer would like to conduct a study under the title **“A Study on the Ability in Writing Descriptive Paragraph Based on the Pictures of the Seventh Grade Students of SMPK Santa Maria Assumpta Kupang in the School Year 2013/2014.”**

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the background, the writer formulates the problem of the study as follows:

1. Are the seventh grade students of SMPK Santa Maria Assumpta able to write a descriptive paragraph based on the pictures ?
2. What is the ability level of the seventh grade students of SMPK Santa Maria Assumpta in writing descriptive paragraph based on the pictures ?
3. What might be the area of difficulties mostly faced by the seventh grade students of SMPK Santa Maria Assumpta ?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Going in line with the problem statement, this study has some objectives, as stated in the following:

1. To find out whether the seventh grade students of SMPK Santa Maria Assumpta are able to write a descriptive paragraph based on the pictures or not.
2. To find out and to know their level of ability in writing a descriptive paragraph.
3. To find the area of difficulties in writing a descriptive paragraph based on the pictures.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study is significant for those who have great concern in language learning particularly the English teacher of the researched school and the writer herself.

1. For the English Teacher

The result of the study will inform the teacher about the level of achievement of the students in writing and the aspects in writing which are difficult for students so that the teacher can emphasize during the teaching learning process of writing.

2. For the Writer

Through this study, the writer could enrich herself by reading the concept of writing and analyzing it.

3. For the Students

To give motivation for the students of SMPK St. Maria Assumpta Kupang to build their writing ability, particularly to improve their ability in writing a descriptive paragraph based on the pictures.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study is about writing. There are many types of writing such as narrative writing, expository writing, procedure writing, descriptive writing, etc. In this study the writer just focuses on analyzing descriptive writing particularly based on the pictures written by seventh grade students of SMPK Santa Maria Assumpta. There are two aspects that the writer evaluated namely grammar and vocabulary.

1.6 Definition of Terms

There are some terms in this study that are defined to help the readers understand this report.

1. Ability

Ability is a potential or power to do something physically or mentally (Hornby, 1987:2). In this sense, ability means the students' capability to write a descriptive paragraph based on the pictures given.

2. Writing

Lexically "writing" means any work done by someone using letters or words and a tool in hand and putting them in piece of paper (current English learner's Dictionary). In this study the writer means the activity of the students to write descriptive paragraph based on the pictures.

3. Picture

Picture is a visual representation or image painted, drawn, photograph, or otherwise rendered on a flat surface. A picture can also be defined as a visual representation of something such as a person, scene, produced on a surface, as in a photograph and painting. (<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/picture>).

4. Descriptive Paragraph

Descriptive paragraph is a type of writing that is arranged according to what looks like or when the objects being are (Smally and Ruetter, 1986:21). Here the writer means a piece of descriptive paragraph written by the students using pictures as the object of writing.

5. SMPK SANTA MARIA ASSUMPTA

This is one of private junior high schools in Kupang. It is the school possessed and managed by the BINAWIRAWAN foundation. It is located in Perintis Kemerdekaan Street Walikota Baru Kupang where the writer took the data for this study.