

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background of the study**

Language is believed to be the chief tool of communication with which one may express her/his idea, feeling, or emotion to other people. The ability to use language correctly is not attained automatically but it needs a lot of time and effort. Learners must be good at four skills namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing, likewise, they must be good at vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation.

As one of the four skills, writing has traditionally occupied a place in most English language. In the classroom, writing may be used as one of the techniques to help the students to be interested in learning English. Students' writing can provide useful evidence of success or failures, or confusion. English does not serve only as a universal language but also as a tool to communication in oral and written form, to understand and figure out the information, mind, feeling, science, and technology and culture. English subject in school is directed to improve the four skills, listening, speaking, reading and writing. This students are to understand and create a variety of texts both for oral and written language. Each text has the potential to achieve communicative, structural, and linguistic characteristics that are different. Therefore, before teaching the students to be actively involved in the

understanding and creation of texts, teachers need training to understand and be able to create various types of text. The activity creates text writing activities conducted the approach the process of writing (writing process approach).

By using language people can communicate with each other. Using a language is not simply as we thought because there is a set of rules that must be followed, which is called grammar. Actually grammar is used to mean the structure of a language. Grammar of a language is a description of the ways in which the language uses patterns of structure to convey the meaning. It would be impossible to learn language effectively without knowing the grammar, because grammar helps learners to identify grammatical forms, which serve to enhance and sharpen the expression of meaning. Having a good grammar system of a language, learners will be helpful in delivering their ideas, messages and feelings either to the listeners or readers.

Reid (1993:156) states that writing is usually easier, better, and more successful when drafting, revising, and editing together in the groups that are part of the writing process. Teachers have high responsibility to develop student ability in mastering language skill especially in writing. The teacher must create interesting activities in the class in order the students can develop their ideas in writing. Although the teacher provides some interesting activities it does not mean that there is no problem. The problem is how to increase the students writing ability. There are several types of writing students have to go through namely: argumentative writing, descriptive writing, expository writing and narrative writing.

Based on the writer's experience, writing descriptive text is difficult to learn. The writer assumes that the difficulty is also faced by many students' particularly senior high school students. Descriptive is a type of text functioning to describe particular person, or thing and the students must use simple present tense in writing descriptive text. The students are also expected to use the spatial order in writing descriptive text.

Based on the explanation above, the writer would like to conduct this study under the title : **“A Study on the Ability in Writing Descriptive Text of the Tenth Grade Students of SMA Negeri 7 Kupang in the School Year 2016/2017”**

### **1.2 Statement of the Problems**

Based on the background, the writer formulates the problems in the following questions:

1. Are the tenth grade students of SMA NEGERI 7 Kupang able to write a descriptive text?
2. What is the ability level of the tenth grade students of SMA NEGERI 7 Kupang in writing descriptive text?

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

Based on the problem above, the writer states the objectives of this study as the following.

1. To find out whether or not the tenth grade students of SMA NEGERI 7 Kupang are able to write a descriptive text.

2. To identify the ability level of the tenth grade students of SMA NEGERI 7 Kupang in writing descriptive text.

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

This study is useful for the writer and English teachers teaching at the research school, and the students.

##### **1. For the Writer**

This study gives input to the writer to become a better teacher in the future.

The writer can improve her knowledge in writing a composition which is supported by correct grammar and lexicon/vocabulary.

##### **2. For the English Teachers**

Through the result of this study the teacher is able to know the level of the students achievement in writing descriptive text and know the aspects of writing descriptive text which is difficult for them.

##### **3. For the Students**

The result of this study can be a good information for the students about their ability in writing descriptive text.

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

This study is about writing. The writer focuses on analyzing the writing ability of the students. There are 5 elements of writing to be that assessed to measure the students writing ability, they are, grammar, vocabulary, mechanic, fluency and form. But in this study the writer only focused on

three (3) elements they are: Grammar, vocabulary and form. The analysis is based on the criteria proposed by Hughes (1941).

### **1.6. Definition of Term**

The writer then is going to clarify some terms, which are mainly used in this study in order to avoid misinterpretation of the readers.

#### **1. Writing**

It is opportunity to convey something about yourself, to communicate ideas to people beyond your immediate vicinity, to learn something you didn't know (McCrimon, 1984: 6). In this study, students can convey their ideas using descriptive text.

#### **2. Text**

Text is a unit of organization of written language, which serves to indicate how main ideas in a written text are grouped (Mc Crimon, 1984:193). Text in this study is a descriptive text written by the students.

#### **3. Descriptive**

It is a type or part of writing that is arranged according to what it looks like or is where the object being described (Smally and Ruetten 1986). Here the students are expected to make descriptive composition about "their family".

#### **4. SMA NEGERI 7 Kupang**

It is a one of the public Senior High schools Located on Jln Frans Borome Maulafa in Kupang city.