

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

Writing is the art of expressing ideas. Through the writing activity people can get the information and they can enlarge their knowledge. It can be a personal experiences, feelings, opinions, knowledge, and desires. According to Pranoto (2004; 9), writing is pouring ideas into written form or telling something to others through writing. During this activity, the writer's goal is to convey information that can be understood by the reader. This activity has the aims of providing understanding such as; informative, persuasive, literary, and expressive discourse (Tabelessy, 2019). Therefore, writing is the way to communicate by sharing experiences, considerations, thoughts, and sentiments with a written form.

Writing is the one of skills which should be mastered for English learners, which is complex process that requires multiple understandings. It requires other elements, such as; grammar, punctuation, and spelling. There are some difficulties in mastering writing skills such as; lack of vocabulary, lack of understanding of grammar, confusion about text structure. These are the reasons that makes students afraid to write ideas, and lack of written exercise or may always avoid that activity (Nugroho and Nadira, 2020). Haldfield and Haldfield (2005) show that the students only see writing as a useless process, unprofitable work, and difficult work because it has become a homework activity. Even though, the teachers have done the best way for the students to guide them in understanding writing, it still does not the best lesson for them.

Based on these issues, the researcher's purposes an easy way to attract students' interest in writing. The activity is writing letter. This activity is an enjoyable thing for the students so far, they think writing is a difficult process. In this case, the researcher used pen pal project as a strategy in teaching writing. Pen pal is a term that describes an activity of exchanging

letters to be friends with someone. With this strategy, the researcher believes the students have an open mind towards the new culture, enrich themselves with other people's habits, and allow the students to increase their writing motivation because it suits the learning topic. The topics given are activities that related to their daily life. Pen pal strategy makes the students become better at writing and providing the participants with the opportunity to interact in English and communicate ideas (Larotta and Serrano, 2012). By writing letters about pen pals on the web, it is easier for the students to convey their individual styles to their pals.

Pen pal project in writing itself has been studied by several researchers. The researcher added relevant studies that support this research. A study conducted by Brand and Dalton (2016) find that pen pal allows students to think and discuss what they want to write. Pen pal also provides a place to exchange culture, habits, and personal experiences within the author's environment. Nadira (2020) in her study finds that there is a positive response which by using this strategy makes the students give feedback to their age learning to write. The feedback that will be generated is an increase in social and language skill. So, these statements that supports the researcher is theory based on Manchon (2011), writing could be international and communicative that responds to other individuals through letters.

By the result of previous studies that have been stated, the pen pal project in teaching writing skill has shown its benefits not only make it enjoyable but also trains the frame of mind in organizing a topic. The students are able to connect their past experiences in the written form. Different from previous study above, the researcher focused on the use of pen pal project and teaching writing skill. Most of the previous studies' design research concerning the pen pal project in teaching writing skill used qualitative, quantitative, and mix-method. The researcher could not find any related studies that used systematic reviews.

Therefore, the researcher used a systematic review as the method to extract the information that can be synthesized. The systematic review is

research to identify, selecting, assessing, and synthesize the relevant studies. By doing so, in the systematic review, the data will be merged and analyzed in that way. Based on the background, the researcher considers that necessary to conduct the research with the title “A Systematic Review of Pen Pal Project in Teaching Writing Skill”.

B. Research Question

The research question for this systematic review is “how do the pen pal project contribution of in teaching writing skill?”

C. Research Purposes

Based on the research question above this study aims to investigate the contribution of the pen pal project in teaching writing skill.

D. Significances of The Research

There are two significances obtained such as theoretically and practically as following:

1. Theoretical Significance

The result of this study provides a reference for researchers who want to use pen pal strategy by systematic review and increase the use of research result that are shown in fact.

2. Practical Significances

By conducting this research, the research hopes that result of this research will be useful for the reader, especially:

a. To University Students

It will be a guidance for the students in learning and developing their knowledge in pen pal strategy by systematic review.

b. To Teacher

This research will help to find new references especially in this smartphone or technology era in developing teaching techniques or strategies that are following the times.

c. To Another Researcher

It can be used continuing previous research that has been achieved. So that the research to be carried out can built on existing knowledge or idea.

E. Scope of Research

1. Research Variable

Research variable are the things that shape what is defined by the researcher to be studied in order to explain the relationship with the observed phenomena (Sugiyono, 2016). In this research, there are two variables, they were:

a. Independent Variable

The independent variable is variable that is often called a stimulus, predictor, and antecedent. The independent variable is the variable that influences or is the cause of the change (Sugiyono,2016). The independent variable of this research is pen pal project.

d. Dependent Variable

The dependent variable is the variable that affected or becomes a result due to the independent variables (Sugiyono, 2016). The dependent of this research is the students' writing skill.

2. Research Terminology

The research terminology in this research as following:

a. Pen pal project is term that describes an activity of exchanging letters to others to be friends with someone.

b. Writing skill is the way to express the idea, information, knowledge, experience, and understand the writing to acquire the knowledge or some information shared and learned.

- c. A systematic review is research that focuses on a specific question which is to identify, selecting, assessing, and synthesize the relevant studies.