

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

English has become increasingly crucial in this era of globalization. English is an international language that people use when they want to communicate. It would be easy to interact and develop connections with people from any nation in business operations, study, and exchange of ideas, introductions, and others if you mastered English. As one of the international languages, of course it makes English impossible regardless of the skills that must be mastered, especially by students. In English, there are several skills namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Goodwyn & Branson (2005) states because reading, writing, speaking, and listening are required to some extent in every other academic subject as well as in life, "English" is crucial and frequently referred to as the most important of all school topics. All these skills must be mastered by students.

In Indonesia, in English lessons taught in schools there is material about writing, which is one of the requirements for passing English lessons by having good competency in writing paragraphs. One of the language skills in learning English is writing, this is the skill that student need to develop. Writing is also seen as an indication of a student's competence in their English studies. Writing has always formed part of the syllabus, Harmer (2004). Many students cannot write texts in English perfectly because writing is not a very easy skill for students to master. It also makes learning about writing skills from teachers very much needed. Since writing is a useful skill, it also helps in improving student capacity for expressing their thoughts and feelings.

From writing student also getting some advantages. Writing can contribute to the development of thinking abilities. Certain types of writing projects may, in fact, improve intellectual energy, creativity, and critical thinking abilities. A study by Klein & Boals (2001) discovered, for example, that when individuals write about key life experiences, their memory for such events improves. Writing have the ability to heal emotional health, Pennebaker (2004). There is also evidence that shows that writing improves physical health. Writing activities have been shown in several studies to provide individuals with a variety of intellectual, physiological, and emotional advantages.

Difficulty is a condition where there are obstacles in achieving goals. However, many students still lack the capacity to create descriptive text properly due to a variety of circumstances. As Broughton (2003) has categorized there are several aspects that need more attention, these are; (1) Mechanical problems with the script of English (2) Problems of accuracy of English grammar and lexis (3) Problems of relating the style of writing to the demands of a particular situation (4) Problems of developing ease and comfort in expressing what needs to be said.

Furthermore, the kids in junior high school had to study a variety of texts in English subject, namely descriptive, recount, narrative, and procedure text. By presenting them, student will be aware and comprehend the variations between one text and another. A descriptive text is included in the type of text that is not too difficult but there are still some difficulties face by students Yoandita (2019) Husna (2013). A descriptive text also one of the types of texts that Indonesian junior high school students must write. According to Ervina (2017), Junior High School students are stepping up to higher level so they are believed to be able to compose ideal text also with the types of academic texts. Descriptive text is use to describe everything in the world such as describe people, things and places. Descriptive text is a text which is purposely to describing something related to a specific individual, place or thing, Yoandita (2019).

Writing in an academic setting is considered more challenging than other skills, and students believe that this skill requires greater concentration, critical thinking, and long-term learning. Moreover for some people especially for students on seventh grade of junior high school, writing can be really difficult not just because they need to generate the idea but they also need to write down their ideas into understandable text and good paragraph. As a matter of fact, Richards & Renadya (2002) state no doubt mastering writing is the most challenging skill for second language learners.

Based on the explanation above, it is discovered that writing is an important skills for students to learn, but many struggle with it, particularly when writing descriptive text. As a result, it is important to investigate these phenomena. The researcher was interested to analyze the difficulties face by students at SMP Yos Sudarso Parindu. Therefore, the researcher conducted a research entitled “An Analysis on Students’ Difficulties in Writing Descriptive Text”. The seventh grade student of SMP Yos Sudarso Parindu was participated in this study.

B. Research Problems

This study aims to answer a seemingly simple question, as follow:

1. What are the student's difficulties in writing descriptive text of the seventh grade?
2. What are the causes of student's difficulties in writing descriptive text of the seventh grade?

C. Research Purposes

This study is intended to:

1. To analyze the student's difficulties in writing descriptive text on the seventh grade
2. To find out the cause of student's difficulties in writing descriptive text on the seventh grade

D. Significances of Study

The researcher expects that this research will be a valuable source of knowledge for readers, providing advice, comprehension, and valuable contributions. This study is intended to provide a theoretical and practical contribution.

1. Theoretical Benefits

To give information about what are the problems faced by student in writing descriptive text. With expectation that student will improve their writing by paying attention of the difficulties.

2. Practical Benefits

a. For the English Teacher

This research is useful for english teacher to find the solution of student difficulties. The teacher also expected to apply the right learning strategy to teach writing descriptive text.

b. For the Student of Grade 7 of Junior High School

This research makes them conscious in writing descriptive text properly by improving the students understanding and decrease student difficulties in writing descriptive text. The causal factors to the difficulties of writing descriptive text can be use by student as a reference to improve their understanding. So, students can be more aware of descriptive text parts which are considered difficult.

c. Other Researchers

This research hopefully can be use as a source material and they can use as reference to develop their relevant research in writing descriptive text

E. Scope of Research

1. Research Variable

Research variables are everything that will be the object of research observation, it can be related to people, objects, transactions or events, characteristics or traits. Sugiyono (2018) states that “research variables are attributes or traits or values of people, object or activities that have certain variations set by researchers to be studied and then drawn conclusions”. This research is conducted at junior high school level. Furthermore, the researcher only analyzes students' difficulties in writing as a single variable.

2. Research Terminology

The researcher provides the explanations below, which are used in this study in order to describe clearly and avoid misinterpretation.

a. Writing

Writing is one of language skills in English that is used to express ideas. According to Nunan (2003) Writing is the mental activity of generating ideas, considering how to communicate them, and putting them into sentences and paragraphs that the reader will understand. Writing is an activity to express the idea, experience, event, information, explanation and knowledge. In writing, the writer will be involved in the process of building the larger units of ideas. Therefore, in this study, writing is an activity to write down the ideas with organized text into a clear statement that can be understood.

b. Descriptive Text

Descriptive text refers to a type of writing that mainly to describe a person, place, thing, or event. According to (Boardman & Frydenberg, 2002) descriptive text is a text that describes about something looks like. In this research, descriptive text is a text which is written to describe a particular person, place or thing by their appearance.

c. Difficulties in writing

Difficulties in writing can be devastating to a student's education. Difficulties is a situation or condition of something which hard to accomplish, deal with, or understand. According to Rass (2001) the cause of difficulties in writing is must balance multiple issues such as content, organization, purpose, audience, vocabulary, punctuation, spelling, and mechanics such as capitalization.

d. Analysis

Analyzing is to examine methodically and in detail the constitution or structure of something, typically for purposes of explanation and interpretation.