

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

English is one of the international languages used by people in almost all countries in the world. In Indonesia, English is used as a foreign language that students learn from elementary school to university. In studying English subjects, there are four aspects of skills that must be mastered, namely Writing, Reading, Listening and Speaking. The students must learn all these English skills to master English well, especially writing skills because it is very useful for students' academic purposes.

Writing is one of the abilities that English language learners must master. Writing is a difficult talent that necessitates a method because so many factors must be considered. According to Brown (2001: 335), writing is the result of thinking, combining, and revising, which requires special knowledge of how to generate ideas, organize them coherently, insert discourse markers and rhetorical conventions in written texts, and revise texts for clarity, edit and copy for clarity, correct grammar and make final product.

Writing includes several components of language, namely content, grammar, vocabulary, and punctuation. Writing skills are difficult to learn and cannot be mastered quickly. They also demand constant practice. Additionally, students must possess the grammar and vocabulary necessary to convey their thoughts in writing (Fitriani et al, 2019: 632).

There are only five written texts to study in the middle school English program. They are: narrative text, descriptive text, narrative text, procedural text and report text. However, in this study, researchers will focus more on descriptive texts in secondary schools. Descriptive text is one of the teaching texts at all levels in Junior High School.

Fitriani et al. (2019: 633) stated that descriptive text is a type of text used to describe real-world objects (people, places, and things). This will help the

reader to understand the real object more clearly. Then the descriptive text consists of identification and description. Identification is the process of describing an object. Then the description is the process of how the object is described. According to Knapp & Watkins (2005: 97), any author or person can use descriptive text to explain a thing, person, animal, place, or event to the reader or listener.

The most difficult text is descriptive text. Therefore, teachers should avoid teaching monotonous ways of writing. They need to find a good strategy for teaching writing to keep students interested. Then Zainuddin (2015: 2) states that teachers must be able to promote successful learning content as facilitators and always keep the lessons entertaining.

When carrying out school learning, teachers can use creative, innovative and varied learning media to create an attention-grabbing learning atmosphere in which learning can be process-optimized and learning-success-oriented. Therefore, in order to arouse the students' interest and promote the students' motivation in the process of learning to write, it is recommended to use media to provide learning materials in the teaching and learning process. Brown (2001: 2) said that media are physical equipment or tools for instruction. The media can be used to motivate students in the learning process. One of the media that can be used by teachers in an effort to improve students' writing achievement is picture media. The picture media are given so that students can tell an event contained in a picture, train students' imagination power in developing an essay by looking at pictures (Asnafiah, 2021: 86).

In this study, the researcher focuses on the use of picture series as a learning media. Using the Picture Series media can help students and motivate them in their writing skills. There are several reasons why series of pictures can support the learning process of the students. First, the picture is a visual medium that is readily available and does not require a lot of money. Second, interesting pictures can stimulate students' imaginations (Sa'diyah, 2010: 5). According to Harmer (2007) in Puspitaloka (2016: 150), state that pictures are often used to represent situations to help students work with grammar and vocabulary. Based on

the statement, it is clearly said that pictures help students find information easily and help students work with grammar and vocabulary. In addition, series of pictures can be used in learning English, as they help students understand the text, get information easily, and help students work with grammar and vocabulary.

MTsN 1 Aceh Tenggara is one of the Junior High Schools in Aceh Tenggara located on Gumpang Jaya, as has been observed by the researcher that when in the learning process students experience many difficulties in various aspects of writing skills, especially in writing descriptive texts. The students have difficulty in making sentences with good and correct grammar, and students also have difficulty in developing their ideas into written form. This can be caused by the students lack motivation and get bored easily because of unattractive learning media, and also because of the limited vocabulary that the students have, so that it is difficult for them to put their ideas into writing.

Based on the above explanation, the researcher is interested in doing a research entitled “*The Effect of Using Picture Series on the Students’ Ability in Writing Descriptive Text at Eighth Grade of MTSN 1 Aceh Tenggara*”.

1.2 Identification of the Study

Based on the above research background, the researcher can identify some problems, such as:

1. The students are less motivated and bored of the process of learning to write because of the monotonous learning and the lack of application of interesting media in the learning process.
2. The students have few vocabularies for having lack of mastery.
3. The student’s ability in writing is still low. They are confused to begin their writing, so they have difficulties to put the ideas into writing.

1.3 Limitation of the Study

The researchers concentrated on research on students' writing abilities, particularly in creating descriptive texts, based on the study's identification above. In the majority of earlier studies, researchers looked at how students' capacity to

create descriptive texts was affected by media consumption, including videos, pictures, games, and films. Researchers in this study concentrated on investigating how picture series affect students' capacity for producing descriptive prose. And this study will be carried out for Junior High School's eighth grade.

1.4 Formulation of the Study

Based on the above research background, the questions discussed in this study are as follows: “Is there any significant effect of using picture series on the students’ ability in writing descriptive text?”

1.5 Objectives of the Study

Based on the problem of study, the objective of study is as follow: “To find out the significant effect of using picture series on the students’ ability in writing descriptive text”.

1.6 Significance of the Study

In theory, the researchers hope that the results of the study will provide useful information to help students improve their writing skills in descriptive texts. In fact, the significance of this research is as follows:

1. For students, the researcher hopes that students through the effect of using picture series are expected on the students' abilities in writing descriptive text and they can put their ideas into written form.
2. For the English teachers, this research can be used as input in teaching writing descriptive text lessons by using picture series media and used as an alternative for teachers to improve the quality of teaching writing and increase teacher professionalism.
3. For the researcher, this research can increase the knowledge and experience of researchers regarding improving students' writing skills, so that, later when they become a teacher, researchers are able to carry out their duties and obligations professionally.

4. For other researchers, the research is expected to give new information to further researchers about writing in descriptive text and also as a reference for future researchers.

