

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

In chapter one, the researcher explains the introduction of the research. This chapter describes the background of the study, research problems, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope, and limitations of the study, and definition of terms.

A. Background of the Study

English is a foreign language and a crucial language that students need to learn to communicate with their teachers, friends, or even people from another country. In learning English, several skills must be mastered, such as speaking, writing, reading, and listening. Learning to write is a very important activity for everyone, especially students because people will always be remembered through their writings. In addition, students are the future generation who will contribute to the future through their knowledge and experience. The ability to write is essential in academic contexts, commercial enterprises, and personal relationships within networks around the world (Weigle, 2002).

In Junior High School (SMP), there are some types of written texts that are taught to students, namely narrative text, procedure text, recount text, descriptive text, and so on. In this research, the researcher focuses on the descriptive text taught in the eighth grade of Junior High School. Sharples (1999) stated writing is an opportunity for students to think critically, express something about themselves, and experiment as well as convey the ideas that are in their minds by arranging them into good text so that other people can recognize it through their writing. Vocabulary and tenses mastery are the main

keys to good writing. We need to choose the correct vocabulary and organize words into sentences and develop them into paragraphs.

Emilia (2008) stated that a descriptive text is a type of text that aims to provide information about something or someone. In line with Emilia, Gerot, and Wignell (1994) stated that a descriptive text is a text type that aims to provide Information. A descriptive text is to describe something clearly about a person, place, thing, or event using appropriate details. An effective descriptive text contains sufficient and varied detail that conveys the feeling of the described object. Thematic detail is usually sensory and chosen to describe what the writer saw, heard, smelled, touched, and felt. (Yoandita, 2019)

So, a descriptive text can be concluded as text that provides descriptions or characteristics of people, animals, places, things, and so on so that readers can visualize what is described and feel the sensation or emotion. Descriptive paragraphs use simple present tense as students will describe facts or truths attached to something or someone. But, many students can't describe or even they have difficulties in writing descriptive texts.

From the result of observation in SMP Raudlatul Muta'allimin, the researcher found some background of the problem in this study. Students often mix up both personality and physicality appearance into a sentence. This means that students do not understand how to describe a person based on their physical appearance and personality. They can't describe parts, qualities, and characteristics of people, things, and places as a whole. Secondly, students have difficulty in making writing that is relevant to the topic. It makes students also to have difficulty in choosing words due to a lack of vocabulary, students also

have difficulty in using grammar. Finally, students tend to have difficulty in writing and have low participation in writing classes.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher would like to investigate the students' abilities and difficulties in writing, especially in descriptive texts. By analyzing students' text which is focused on the content, organization (identification and description), grammar, vocabulary, and mechanic of writing (spelling, punctuation, and capitalization). The researcher intends to conduct qualitative descriptive research with the title **“An analysis on the students' Ability and Difficulty in writing descriptive text at SMP Raudlatul Muta'allimin Lamongan.”**

B. Research Problem

Based on the above background, the research question of this research is formulated as follows:

1. How is the students' ability in writing descriptive text at the eight grade of SMP Raudlatul Muta'allimin Lamongan?
2. What are the student's difficulties in writing a descriptive text in eight grade of SMP Raudlatul Muta'allimin Lamongan?

C. Objective Study

The researcher formulated the research objectives as follows:

1. To investigate the students' ability in writing descriptive text in the eight grade of SMP Raudlatul Muta'allimin Lamongan.
2. To identify the difficulties of students in writing descriptive text in the eight grade of SMP Raudlatul Muta'allimin Lamongan.

D. Significance of the Study

This research is expected to provide information to students, teachers, and further researchers about students' abilities and difficulties in writing descriptive text

1. Students

For students to be aware of their strengths and limitations so they may strengthen their areas of weakness and develop their areas of strength in order to write effective and quality descriptive text.

2. Teacher

For teachers, the research can provide information on aspects of students' strengths and weaknesses in writing descriptive texts as well as other text genres.

3. Further Researchers

For further researchers, the result of this study can be an inspiration and guideline to conduct better research on students' abilities and difficulties in writing descriptive texts.

E. Scope and Limitation

This research aimed to examine students' abilities and difficulties in writing descriptive text focused on factors in terms of the content, organization, grammar, vocabulary, and mechanics. In terms of mechanics, the researcher analyzed the punctuation, spelling, and the use capitalization. This researcher was conducted on eight-grade students of SMP Raudlatul Muta'allimin Lamongan.

F. Definition of Keyterms

1. Ability

Ability is the potential or ability to do something. In other words, writing ability is the ability to perform a writing task correctly by writing procedures.

2. Difficulty

Difficulty is something to do. In this study, students have difficulty writing descriptive text.

3. Writing

Writing is the physical activity of putting words or ideas into letters or words to make paragraphs. This means that a person can express what is in their mind by using letters or words that the reader can understand.

4. Descriptive text

Descriptive text is a type of text that describes a particular thing, person, place, and or animal. The function of descriptive text is to describe something in detail and sequentially so that readers can see, hear, feel and touch it directly.