

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter the researcher describes the background of the study, the problem of the study, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and the limitation, and the definition of key term.

A. Background of The Study

Learning English, there are four language skills that should be learned. They are listening, speaking, reading and writing. Based on the curriculum, the final objectives in teaching English are the students have competence in communicating both oral and written English in globalization era. The crucial in K-13 is that teacher should present the material so properly that the students are expected to have least a good quality of English. To make the students have competence in English, they have to master four components of skills. Those are writing, reading, listening and speaking. Those skills are compulsory learned by the students. But the fact in learning English, the students still have difficulties especially in writing process. It is one of language competences, which must be mastered by students. One of the language skills those are important for learner is writing. It is a skill by which someone can express his or her ideas in written form. However, writing not only expresses an idea in a piece of paper but also has structural text.

There are some requirements that have to be fulfilled to create a high quality text. The students still face difficulties in writing a narrative text.

This research is aimed at describing the ability and difficulty of the eight grades of students at MTs Ma'arif Udanawu in writing narrative text dealing with generic structure, applying language feature of narrative text, vocabulary, and mechanics. The design of this research is descriptive in nature. In research preliminary study on MTs Ma'arif Udanawu. She found that the students have been learning narrative text in seven grades. So, the researcher wants to know their ability and difficulty in their grade eight.

Writing plays an important role for students who are in the process of learning a language¹. In Indonesian school, students are required to learn to write different text types. There are some types of text that should be learned by eight graders, they are: Recount, Narrative, Procedural, News Item and Descriptive. In learning writing there are many type of text. But, in this research focus in narrative text.

One way that can be used to find out students' ability about their writing is by analyzing their writing. Analyzing it is very important to do because it can help English teacher to find out the students' ability and difficulties in writing. Further, Emilia (2005) stated that research about analyzing students' text is very important to do because by knowing the

¹Siahaa Junita, *An Analysis of Students Ability and Difficulties in Writing Descriptive texts*. Journal of English and Education 2013,1 (1), 114-121

students' difficulties, it can lead the teacher to help solve the students' problems.²

Research about students' ability and difficulties is important to do to help both teachers and students. However, in Indonesia, research about students' ability and difficulties in writing each of type text is not many. So, in this research the researcher has a desire to find out the students' ability and difficulties in writing, especially in Narrative text.

From the elaboration above, this research is intended to find out eight graders' ability and difficulties in writing narrative text by analyzing the students' used scoring rubric by J.B. Heaton (1989)³. The results of the study are expected to give contribution for language learning in theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this study is expected to give a real portrait about Indonesian students' ability and difficulties in writing Narrative text. Practically, this research is expected to give much information about students' difficulties. Especially for the students they would know their ability and understand how far their level of understanding in writing narrative text. So, they will have a better improvement in writing. And then for English teacher, this study may give information to know the students ability and difficulties in writing narrative text.

²Emi Emilia, *A Critical Genre Based Approach to Teaching Academic Writing In A Tertiary ELF Context In Indonesia*. (A Ph. D thesis, university of Melbourne, 2005)

³J.B. Heaton. *Writing English Language Test*. New York: Logman Group UK 1989

According to James C. Raymond (1980), “an experienced writer will often labor over a single paragraph for more than an hour – not counting the thought and research that went on before the actual writing”.⁴ Writing text is the ability of the students to arrange the idea from one paragraph to others and make efforts to connect the idea cohesively and coherently so that is meaningful.⁵

Writing a text with correct structure and feature of the text is not easy. Sometimes, students just write and ignore about the grammatical rule. Therefore, the students need hard thinking and knowledge if they want to write something, because writing is a specific skill. It needs practices to make it good. Students have to get interested in reading. It is because both writing and reading are related to each other. Writing is a more complicated skill than reading, listening and speaking. Robert M. Gorrel and Charlton Laird (1962) agree as they state that: Writing requires thinking, and thinking is always complicated and hard. Writing is complicated also because the writer needs to do everything at once, and the student of writing needs to study everything at once. A writer produces words, sentences, paragraphs, and extended composition all the same time; words must be spelled, sentences punctuated, and paragraph unified.⁶

⁴ James C Raymond, *Writing is An Unnatural Act*, (New York: Harper & Row Publisher, 1980), 2

⁵ Doni Ramli, “An Analysis in Students Error in Writing Recount Text”, *Research Journal*, 1 (2013), 4.

⁶ Robert M. Gorrel And Charlton Laird, *Modern English Handbook*, (New Jersey: Eaglewood Cliffs N.J., 1962) 1.

The ability of every student in writing is different. There are some students who have good ability in writing but many of them have average or low ability. One way that can be used to find out students knowledge about English is by analyzing the student writing. Analyzing students writing is very important to do because it can help English teacher to find out the students ability and difficulties in writing.⁷ Further, Emilia stated that research about analyzing student's text is very important to do because by knowing the students difficulties, it can lead the research to help solve the students' problems.⁸

Some previous studies have been done in the area of analysis of students writing. One of them is a study by Dini Utami Mulyaningsih (2013). She investigated students' ability in writing narrative text. She divided the students' achievement in low, middle and high. The findings revealed that the students representing the middle and high achievers had good control about the schematic structure of narrative text. They also were able to use appropriate linguistic features⁹. On the other hand, it was also revealed that the low achievers were still confused in identifying the schematic structure of descriptive text. Moreover, the low achievers still needed a lot of improvement as they still made a lot of mistakes in the text they wrote. Other previous studies have been done in the area analysis of

⁷Lock, G., *Functional English Grammar: An Introduction for Second Language Teachers*. (Cambridge University Press., 1996) 3.

⁸Emi Emilia, *A critical Genre-Based Approach to Teaching Academic Writing in a tertiary ELF Context in Indonesia*. (A Ph.D thesis. University of Melbourne, 2005) 5.

⁹Dini Utami mulyaningsih *An Analysis of The Students Ability in Writing Narrative Text* . journal of English and education 2013, 1(2), 16-22

student writing in descriptive text by Juanita Siahaan (2013). She investigates students' difficulties in writing deceptive text¹⁰.

Furthermore in this study to know the students' ability, the researcher will divide the students' ability become three category; high, middle and low ability based on their ability based on their writing score. In analyzing the students writing, it uses scoring rubric. Based on according Robert (1962) in defines writing process.

The problem may be caused by some aspects; the first is rare opportunity to use English as a foreign language, not as main daily communication. The second is that the students do not have enough practice in writing text. So the students may make mistake like, determining the main idea, using the suitable word, and arranging the sentences. Therefore, the students need to master the structure of the English language, should have enough vocabulary, and also know the spelling of the words in order to be able to write correct sentences and a arrange them into a good paragraph. The third, the techniques used by teacher do not support the students 'motivation to write the paragraph. Based on the above explanation, the writer was interested in conducting a research entitled "An Analysis on the Students' Ability and difficulty in Writing Narrative Text at Grade VIII of MTs Ma'arif Udanawu Blitar.

¹⁰Juanita Siahaan, *AnAnalysis of Students' Ability and Difficulties in Writing Descriptive Texts*. Journal of English and Education 2013, 1(1), 114-121

B. Research Problem

In this research the writer has two research problems that related to the title and based on the background of the study.

1. How is the students' ability in writing narrative text at grade VIII of MTs Ma'arif Udanawu Blitar ?
2. What are the difficulties in writing narrative text at grade VIII of MTs Ma'arif Udanawu Blitar ?

C. The Objective of The Study

Based on the research problems, the objectives of this study are:

1. To know and describe the ability in writing narrative text of the grade VIII of MTs Ma'arif Udanawu Blitar.
2. To know and describe the difficulties in writing narrative text of the grade VIII of MTsMa'arif Udanawu Blitar.

D. The Subject of The Study

In this subject focused in writing narrative at VIII grader in MTs Ma'arif Udanawu blitar.

E. The Significance of The Study

This research was expected to be benefit for English teacher. By having known students' ability in writing narrative text, she/he could take solve this problem such as giving explanation and exercise in writing narrative text and give more exercise of writing narrative text.

The results of this study are expected to give contribution for language learning in theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this study is expected to give a real portrait about Indonesian student's ability and difficulties in writing narrative text.

Practically, this research is expected to give much information about students' ability and difficulties. Especially for the students, they would know about their ability and understand how far their level of understanding in writing narrative text. So, they will have a better improvement in writing. And then for English teacher, this study may give information to know the students' ability and difficulties in writing narrative text. The writer expects that the research will be useful for the writer herself, so it will broaden her knowledge in teaching writing especially narrative text.

F. The Scope and the Limitation

The scope and limitation of this study focuses on the students' in narrative writing ability and difficulties. The scope of this research only classifies the student's ability into three categories; high, middle, and low. It classifies based on the students writing score.

There is limitation of this study. The limitation is in analyzing the student writing ability and difficulties. The writer also limits the student's assignment by selecting the topic tests are favorite story tales, happiness moments and embarrassing moment. It is chooses because the topic

should be general, means that favorite story tales it can easy to write the story.

G. Definition of Key Term

Same key terms that are used in this research are explained as follow:

- a. Writing is the process of selecting, combining, arranging, expressing and developing in effective sentences or text, especially in writing narrative text. It is a process, such as; planning, drafting, revising and editing.
- b. Narrative text is text that recreates an experience through time or description of past events. Narratives tell stories about a person or group overcoming problems, show how people react to experiences, and explore social and cultural values, in purpose to entertain the audients.
- c. Ability is student's competence to develop narrative text. The definition ability in this research is the skill or quality that is needed to write a narrative text in good paragraph and correct grammar.
- d. Difficulty is problem, thing or situation that causes problems. Its mean the obstacle that the students face in writing narrative text.