CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of several sections such as background of the study, research question, research objective, significance of the research, scope of the research, and definition of key terms.

A. **Background of the Study**

English is an important language in modern times. It plays an important role in the lives of people all over the world. Rao (2019) states that English is called as lingua franca, almost all people in the world use English as a tool in communicating which is used in various fields such as business, tourism, technology and global communication. By mastering English, people can communicate with people from different countries and cultures all over the world. It is also possible that English can increase job opportunities in the future. In Indonesia, English is only taught as a foreign language which means it is only taught in the classroom and not used in communicating in daily life, this is very different from other countries such as Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong which make English a second language.

In Indonesian education, English is taught starting from elementary school, junior high school, senior high school and in universities. The purpose of learning English is to master four important aspects namely reading, listening, speaking and writing. Reading and listening skills are referred as receptive skills while listening and writing are referred as productive skills. Masduqi et al (2023) explained that receptive skills which have another meaning as passive skills are skills where students only receive without producing anything. Receptive skills are the first element that students use when learning a new language. Furthermore, there are

productive skills consisting of speaking and writing which have another meaning as active skills. After receptive skills, students start learning to use productive skills to produce language.

Writing is the process of putting ideas, information and thoughts into text. Writing is important for students to master because it is one of the main ways to communicate effectively. This is in line with the view of Wibowo (2013), who said that people need to master writing skills in order to be able to communicate well. In the educational and professional world, writing is very useful for communicating ideas and thoughts in a structured way. The usefulness of writing for students is not only to improve English language skills, but writing can also improve students' critical thinking skills. By learning how to construct arguments supported by concrete evidence, students can prepare themselves for higher education and careers.

Effective writing which is not as easy as it seems, is the reality facing students today. Essentially, the challenge for students, especially in Indonesia, is to produce quality writing. Setyowati et al (2017) suggested that many students believe that if their writing is ungrammatical or long, they are not good writers. This belief is not entirely correct. Good writing is characterised by ideas that flow smoothly, logically and communicate effectively to the intended audience. In line with Rahmayanti et al (2020) who argued that writing skills require a continuous process for students and this skill is more difficult than speaking, reading or listening. Students must not only express their thoughts, but also organise their ideas to produce a coherent and integrated piece of work. Generating ideas is an important task for writers. Even when given a topic, students often struggle to develop their

ideas into good writing (Kusrini & Amalia, 2021; Saprina et al., 2021; Simanjuntak et al., 2023; Harmawan et al., 2023).

In SMK PGRI 1 Kediri, there is a class called Skapsa international Language Class (SILC). This class consists of combined students from regular classes who have more interest in English. SILC meets twice a week after school and is guided by a teacher who is responsible for this class. Students in this class are trained to be ready to participate in competitions in the scope of English such as speech competitions, story telling, and English debates. No wonder their speaking skills are quite good because they often practice with their friends and teacher. Once in a while, students also practice speaking with strangers in *kampung Inggris Pare*. However, despite their good in speaking skills, the students lack in writing skills. Therefore, this class was chosen as the subject of the study because the students already have high motivation and strong speaking abilities, yet they still face challenges in writing. Whereas writing skills are important especially for those who often participate in competitions. They still have difficulty in determining the main idea and ideas that support the main idea and combine them so that the text looks coherent.

In this technological era, people can communicate easily because of the rapid growth of information technology. Social media, as a communication system, makes it easy for users to share information by diving into the virtual world. This is a positive impact that can be utilized by teachers as a learning medium. The use of social media, which is easily accessible, helps teachers to send materials and assignments easily. In addition, social media, which has many interactive features, can be used for teaching and learning activities. There are many types of social

media applications that are favored by students such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and also Threads, which captured the world's attention, is Meta's latest text-based application. These applications can be used as a medium in teaching writing.

Threads is a new social media platform developed by Meta that focuses on text. It is designed for sharing thoughts and interacting through written conversations. Threads is integrated with Instagram which is easily accessible to students who are already familiar with using social media. The features in the Threads application such as content sharing, text editing, and voice note can be utilized by teachers in improving writing skill. In content sharing, students can share content such as photos or videos related to their writing. Then in the editing feature, students can edit interesting post about their ideas of something that happened lately. This feature can help improving their writing skill. After that, students can post their text so that other students can see and respond to each other.

B. **Research Question**

From the background of this study above, the research question of this research can be stated as follow: How can Threads application enhance students' writing skill in Exposition text in SILC (Skapsa International Language Class) at SMK PGRI 1 Kediri?

C. **Research Objective**

Based on the research question, this study aimed to enhance students' writing skill in Exposition text in SILC (Skapsa International Language Class) at SMK PGRI 1 Kediri by using Threads application.

D. **Scope and Limitation**

The scope of this research is the application of Threads application to improve students' writing skill. And the limit of this research is the application of the technique on exposition text in SILC (Skapsa International Language Class) at SMK PGRI 1 Kediri.

E. **Significance of the Research**

After conducting this research, the researcher expects that the results of this research can provide benefits for:

1. Students

For the students of SILC SMK PGRI 1 Kediri, the result of this study is expected to be a new solution in enhancing writing skill.

2. Teachers

Through the results of this study, the researcher expects that this study can be taken into consideration by teachers in using technology, especially Threads application as a new technique in teaching English.

3. Future researchers

This research is expected to provide a new knowledge and it can be used by future researchers as a reference if they want to conduct a similar study.

F. **Definition of Key Terms**

1. Writing

Writing, which is one of the skills in English, is the process of a person to express their feelings, thoughts and ideas through written symbols, starting from the arrangement of words in a sentence to a paragraph. In the field of education, writing is a person's ability to communicate information effectively. Defazio et al

(2010) stated that effective writing is a cognitive knowledge skill that involves learning, understanding, applying and synthesising new knowledge.

2. Exposition text

Exposition text is a text that explains information or knowledge according to existing facts, which aims to convince the audience or interlocutors. Exposition text is made as a forum for opinion for writers to discuss important topics or issues that are being discussed lately.

3. Threads application

Saputra and Waziana (2023) said that Threads application is a social media platform developed by Meta for content sharing. The application has features for users to easily share various types of content, including videos, images, and text messages. Like other social media platforms, Threads facilitates personal communication between users and helps them connect with nearby contacts. In addition, Instagram users can connect directly to follow other users using the Threads application.