

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provided a general introduction to present in this thesis. It begins with the research reason that express in research background. In introduction, the writer will write the background that introduce about the research would be conducted by the writer. There are some points in part of introduction, those are background of the study, research question, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, hypothesis of the study, and definition of the key terms in this chapter

A. Background of the Study

Writing, as one of the English skills, is important to be improved particularly in academic life. When student's writing skill was improved, students will be able to perform specific writing assignments, for example, essay question on an examination and writing a paper. In addition, writing skill is required when students are given a free choice of topic and they should write about something that students are interested in. Furthermore, writing activity has been applied in academic life which has beneficially improved student's writing skill. In senior high school syllabus, the importance of improving writing skill is stated clearly. For instance, in competency standard and basic standard (SKKD) for writing, the syllabus states that students should be able to express the meaning in short functional

text and simple essay in daily life context. The students should express and develop the topic of the text, organize the paragraph in a text, use appropriate vocabulary, construct sentences and use convention in writing. The passing grade for English lesson in this school is stated at 76.00. Although the writing skills of eight grade of students aren't good enough and need to be improved. It was revealed through an interview that the researcher conducted with them prior to the research. According to them, English was difficult, especially for writing. They had low writing skill. Their low writing skill was indicated by some indicators having been gathered in the pre-research. They were: (1) difficulties in expressing their ideas. Many students feel difficult to find the ideas when writing process. Students find it difficult to write because they do not understand in arranging the words in order to form a good sentence and creating sentences into a good paragraph, the ideas of the story are not well developed and the use of conjunction are ambiguous in some cases; (2) confused about grammar or tenses that should be used; (3) difficulties in learning and memorizing English vocabulary. The limited of vocabularies make the students difficult to express their ideas; (4) difficulties to develop the text. It is caused by the lack of cohesiveness and coherence.

The students do not have a good guidance of how to write systematically. They also have limited knowledge about words transition; (5) have problem in punctuation. The students write the sentence in wrong word order and carelessly punctuate the text that may lead to misinterpretation. Other problems are seen from the situation in the classroom, like; (1) students cannot answer

when the teacher asks questions and they seldom ask to the teacher; (2) they keep on maintaining their activity which has no relation with the lesson like drawing, joking, chatting, daydreaming; (3) some of them are indicated not too interested in the lesson, it seems that they get bored when they have to wait and see the model of the lesson; and (4) students refuse to present their writings in front of the class. They do not want their writings being read or known by other people.

As the system of communication, language is used to express thought by one person to another. As stated by Delahunty & Gavey (2010:5), Language is a system that connects thoughts, which cannot be heard, seen, or touched, with sounds, letters, manual signs, or tactile symbols (e.g., Braille). People will be easy getting confused with another if there is no language.

So that, language is an effective tool to communicate, interact, and give information about other people and society. It is the reason why many people need to study English. The English curriculum stipulates that English subject should include four skills. They are reading, listening, speaking and writing. Writing is one of the important skills that should be taught and mastered by students. It is the activity of people to perform their oral language into the symbols or graphics.

Furthermore, it is one of the productive skills which have to be learned by language learners besides speaking. Writing involves communicating a message by making sign on a page. It means that in doing writing we need to

convert our oral message into a symbol. According to Harmer (2007:31), writing has always formed part of the syllabus in English learning process. Students often find some difficulties in mastering writing skill. Writing is a process of thinking in its own right that requires a lot of effort to reorganize idea and thoughts. In writing process, students have to be more creative to organize ideas into a text. Richards and Renandya (2002:303) explain that the most difficult skill for second or foreign language students to master is writing. Not only in organizing concepts, but also the difficulties are in translating these concepts into a readable text. Teaching writing for students who learn English is one of the important things that have to be done well because it will influence the students' ability in increasing their writing ability. It is commonly believed that an appropriate teaching media will have a contribution to the success of students' writing ability. Furthermore, it will be true that teaching writing will be influenced by the teaching media which is used by the teacher.

One of the media which can be applied in this digital era is social media. As stated by Handayani, Cahyono, and Widiyati (2018:113), Instagram is an online mobile photo and video-sharing. The advent of social media can be a proper educational instrument which attracts students' attention in learning process. Social media is an important part of students' daily life activity. They can interact and share their stories to others directly. Generally, Instagram is a social media which is very popular and widely used by teenagers. Handayani (2017: 24) states that students tend to spend their time accessing it. They usually upload their photos or video with description, and interact with others

by giving comments on it or by sending direct messages. Thus, Instagram seems to provide a fun and ideal atmosphere for students to produce writing text.

Researcher conducted an interview on Monday, 21 November 2020 with an English teacher at SMP Negeri 4 Pare. The researcher asked some questions to the teacher. The first question is about the problems in learning writing. The teacher explained that students writing competence is low. She found many grammatical errors on students' writing task. Besides, they are lack of vocabulary, get difficulties to spell some words and organize sentences or in using a correct tense. The second question is about media that is used by teacher while teaching writing. Yet, there are still many students cannot pass the passing grade.

The third question is about social media that is used in learning English. The teacher has ever used social media as teaching media that was Picture. The fourth question is about the passing grade grade criteria (KKM) of English Subject for eight grade students of SMP Negeri 4 Pare. The teacher said that the passing grade criteria (KKM) of English Subject is 76. There are still 55 percent of students that can not pass the passing grade. Thus, she has to find another media in order to make the students more understand about writing. In addition, the researcher also got information about students' writing ability by doing interview with some students of SMP Negeri 4 Pare. They said that they had low motivation in learning writing and got difficulties on constructing their

ideas into a good text. Besides, they also said that they felt lazy to consult with the dictionary while did writing. In this research the researcher proposed Instagram as a medium of teaching writing to be more effective. Instagram is easily access in anywhere and anytime. The students can upload some pictures and post it on Instagram, so the others also can see it. In conclusion, the researcher found that cause of the problem of the students' writing ability is still low. It makes the students lazy to follow the lesson. They get difficulties and confused to construct their ideas into a text and spell some words. Furthermore, they need new atmosphere while learn English especially in writing aspect. The researcher uses Instagram as a media in teaching English to improve students writing ability and make the students more interest and enjoy to write.

According to Purwandari (2017), the use of Instagram can encourage the students to be more active and creative. Instagram can motivate the students during the process of learning. In addition, the students are interested using photograph in Instagram during learning descriptive text. She stated that photograph in Instagram was effective to help them in improving students' writing skill. Based on the explanation above, the researcher conducted a research on **“THE EFFECTIVENESS OF USING INSTAGRAM AS TEACHING MEDIA IN TEACHING WRITING DESCRIPTIVE TEXT AT SMP NEGERI 4 PARE”**.

The researcher conducts an experimental research to know that Instagram is effective in teaching writing descriptive text.

B. Research Problem

Based on the background of the research, the researcher formulates the research questions as follows, “How is the effectiveness of using Instagram as teaching media to teach writing descriptive text for the students of SMP Negeri 4 Pare?”

C. Objectives of the Study

Based on the formulation of the problem above, the aims of the study is to know the effectiveness of using Instagram as teaching media in teaching writing descriptive text for students in SMP Negeri 4 Pare.

D. Significance of the Study

Theoretically, this study can expected expand teacher’s skill in using *Instagram as teaching media* to improve the students’ writing. In addition, this research is expected to be a reference for other researchers who want to learn *Instagram* as teaching media intensively in teaching writing descriptive text.

Practically, based on the result of this study, teacher is suggested to apply the *Instagram* as teaching media to improve the students’

competence in English. Hopefully, this study can provide benefits to make the students enjoy in learning English.

E. Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study is focused to find out the effectiveness of using *Instagram* as teaching media in teaching writing descriptive text. This study is limited to the eight grade of SMP Negeri 4 Pare. This study was still had weakness, the researcher didn't conduct the treatment because of miss understanding on the way in gathering the data.

F. Research Hypothesis

Based on the problem statements presented by the researcher, the research hypotheses are:

Ha : There is effectiveness of using Instagram as Teaching Media in Teaching Writing Descriptive text at SMP Negeri 4 Pare.

Ho : There is no effectiveness of using Instagram as Teaching Media in Teaching Writing Descriptive text at SMP Negeri 4 Pare.

G. Definition of the Key Term

1. Writing

Brown (2001:336) explains that writing is thinking process. Moreover he states that writing is also an action process

of sharing and organizing our ideas and even expresses our feeling, then putting them on paper.

2. Descriptive Text

As stated by Pardiyono (2016:19), description or descriptive is a kind of text that is made to provide information to the readers about visual or mental illustration of a subject, about what something looks like.

- **Instagram**

According to Salomon (2013:408), instagram is mobile application that allows users to turn their mobile snapshots into interesting images instantly. Then they shared it to others on the network.

- **Picture**

Ruswinarsih (2015:14) says that picture is a painting, drawing, and sketch of something, especially as work.