

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter focuses on the area of the study that involves background of the study, research questions, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope, and limitation, and definition of key terms.

A. Background of The Study

Writing is a skill to organize thoughts and write ideas that are often performed in daily life. Writing is also useful for students in completing education successfully. The students should get sufficient writing practice. These practices are supposed to stimulate the student's skill in writing and expressing thoughts in a good message. Without practice, it is impossible to write well and effectively because writing is not a natural ability which one can automatically and easily acquire this ability. Students should have enough writing practices to acquire this skill. These practices are intended to stimulate the students' skill in writing and expressing thoughts in a good passage. (Kartawijaya, 2018)

To be able to write well, the students need to understand how to produce a good writing. The teaching writing explains how to write paragraphs, essays, texts. All of them are related to the students' ability in every component of writing, such as how to organize the essay, how to use the correct grammar and sentence structure, how the content of the essay is, how to use the appropriate mechanics and how to use the vocabulary of the writing (Gusman, Mukhiyar & Kusni, 2014).

Writing is a very complex task. The first step is to select the topic, organize the structural framework, express the theories, ideas, opinions and form them into a text or essay for the readers that is understandable and readable. Therefore, students should learn and master English because they have many benefits for students' present and future lives. Mastering English helps you increase your educational opportunities, participate in discussion, improve the quality of life by providing job opportunities.(Fareed, Ashraf, & Bilal, 2016).

In this case, the researcher did the preliminary and asked the teacher related to writing ability. It was found that the students' ability in writing was lacking because they still made a lot of errors in their writing. Many students could not write well in English. According to the teacher, they had problems mostly in using the correct grammar and sentence structure.

Also, the other problem that the teacher mentioned was the students were lack in writing practice. They only wrote when they had an assignment. Sometimes they did not write if the teacher did not give assignments to them. In fact, when the teacher asked the students to write an essay or text, they just took it from the internet then submitted it as their assignment.

In school, writing cannot be avoided. All students will be assigned to write some kinds of essay. One of the essay is called cause and effect essay. Cause and effect essay focuses on why or how things happen and what the results or consequences are (Julie Robitaille, 2007). Cause and effect essay is one of the kind of essay in which students need to correlate two or more variables in cause, effect,

or both pattern. As any other text, cause and effect essay involves choosing topic and gathering ideas related to the topic. It also requires students to use correct grammar and suitable vocabulary in order to deliver their ideas clearly. More importantly, students need to pay attention to its structure and purpose thus their essay has clear direction. In writing essay, students need to develop their thesis statement through some orderly paragraphs. Moreover, each paragraph has to have clear main idea and supporting ideas.

Essays are the most common academic paper that might seem easy for an essay writer. Second-year students in SMA have learned essay writing. But in fact, some students still face some difficulties in writing essays. They could not make good writing. In addition, according to Kiefer (2016), essay is a writing that explains what a term means. In a way, all essays represent what you think and feel, about a given topic. It can be concluded that essays represent your effort to communicate those thoughts and feelings to others or readers.

Although that writing essay is important and needed in school, essay written by students is still categorized as average. A study showed that students' ability to write cause and effect essay by using block organization was average. This study assessed the essay using Jacob's (1981) scoring rubric, which consist of five aspects, namely content, organization, vocabulary, language use and mechanics (Ningsih, Nurcholis & Saputra, 2020). The other study aimed to find out the ability of the English Department students in writing cause and effect essay had also been done (Rozalinda, Rozimela, & Anwar, 2020). The researcher scored the essay based on its text structure, namely introductory paragraph, body paragraph, and

concluding paragraph. The result showed that the students' ability in writing introductory paragraph was categorized as good, the body paragraph was categorized as poor, and the concluding paragraph was categorized as good.

According to the previous studies, the students' ability in essay writing is still average. They still face some difficulties in essay writing, especially in writing competencies. Based on this, the researcher wants to conduct a study that is aimed to find out the eleventh grade students' ability in writing cause and effect essay. Therefore, the title of this study is "An Analysis of Eleventh Grade Students' Ability in Writing Cause and Effect Essay at SMAN 1 Kediri".

B. Research Problem

Based on the background of the study above, the problems of the research can be formulated as follow:

1. What are the eleventh grade students' abilities in writing cause and effect essay at SMAN 1 Kediri?
2. What problems are faced by the eleventh grade students of SMAN 1 Kediri in writing cause and effect essay?
3. What solutions are done by eleventh grade students and English teacher of SMAN 1 Kediri to overcome their problems in writing cause and effect essay?

C. Research Objective

According to the problem of the study, the researcher has some purposes:

1. To describe the eleventh grade students of SMAN 1 Kediri abilities in writing cause and effect essay.
2. To describe the problems faced by eleventh grade students of SMAN 1 Kediri in writing cause and effect essay.
3. To describe the solution to overcome the problem faced by eleventh grade students of SMAN 1 Kediri in writing cause and effect essay.

D. Significances of the Study

1. For the teacher

By conducting this research, the result is expected to be useful contribution for teacher in teaching English cause and effect essay writing by knowing the ability in writing cause and effect essay of eleventh grade students of SMAN 1 Kediri, the problems they faced, and the solutions to overcome their problems in writing cause and effect essay.

2. For other researchers

For other researchers, this study can become their source of information in investigating writing ability particularly cause and effect essay.

E. Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this study is the students' ability in writing cause and effect essay of eleventh grade students of SMAN 1 Kediri. The researcher limits on class XI MIPA D at SMAN 1 Kediri. The researcher analyzed the students' ability in writing cause and effect essay by focusing on the aspects of writing essay or the structure of cause and effect essay such as the introduction, supporting paragraphs or body paragraph, conclusion, mechanics and style (grammar, sentence structure, punctuation, spelling, capitalization) and vocabulary.

F. Definition of Key Terms

1. Writing Ability

Writing ability is a particular ability that helps writers to express their ideas into words in meaningful form and to communicate with the message (LinguaLinks Library, 1999). In this research, writing ability is described as an ability to express the students' ideas in written form.

2. Cause and Effect Essay

Cause and effect essay discusses why things happen (reasons) and what the results are (consequences) (Robitaille & Connelly, 2007; Oshima, 2005). Causes are the reasons why something happened. They occur before the event and make the event happen. Effects are the results or consequences of an event. They come after the event as the direct results of the event.