

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Writing is one of the basic competencies taught in class XI in the first semester, namely writing explanatory texts in English. Therefore, the purpose of this research is to decide to what extent the improvement of students' skills in writing texts, if it is seen how important writing is for students, students should be familiar with writing, but sometimes this lack of motivation of students in learning to write affects their grades, and the reasons why the researchers want to increase the motivation, ability, and value of these students have been observed from the results of observations, discussions with teachers, and when the researchers internship there. The research was conducted in Class XI MIPA 2 SMAN 7 Kediri City because the media used picture series.

The reason for choosing picture series in the learning media this time is that it is considered capable of increasing student learning motivation and student interest in writing accompanied by visual media images. It is also used to measure the extent to which students' knowledge and learning attitudes increase during learning. The method used in this research is the Classroom Action Research method with a cycle technique consisting of one cycle of action.

This chapter presents background of the study, problem of the study, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Study

English, this language is accepted world wide, and even in countries where English speakers do not speak. Even the world of education in Indonesia is based on polemics in learning English, moreover English is not the main language in Indonesia, but we are expecting to understand it because it is an international language. This encourages that being an English teacher is able to help the students in learning and developing English teaching skills that follow educational curriculum standards and will be applying to students.

Writing is one aspect of communication skills in written form. Writing is one of the language skills that plays an important role in human communication. It is used to communicate with other people in society and also to express our opinion in writing form (Syam, U. K., Sangkala, I. (2014) Writing skills are very useful skills for a student's academic needs. Writing is an important lesson, it is to increase understanding of learning and can also be used as a communication tool that people use to share information. Depend on Richards and Renandya (2002:303), they explain that writing is the hardest skill for second language learners to be mastered since second language learners have to put attention to various aspects of writing.

However, as we know writing is usually considered the most difficult skill to learn. According to Alice Oshima and Ann Hogue (1997) writing is academic because writing is not easy. It takes learning and

practice to develop these skills. Due to the need to master many English skills, such as reading, speaking, and listen. As we know that Writing is an important lesson to learn and a communication tool that people use to share the information. Harmer (2004) states that the writing process is a way of looking at what people do when they are writing the text. Of course, it requires several methods to include the author's ability to express his opinion or thoughts clearly. As stated by Hogue (1983) “ writing is a process of creating, organizing, writing and polishing.”

In learning English, the curriculum in Indonesia applying to Senior High Schools. For writing skills in the curriculum recommended by the government, the goal of writing learning in Senior high school students can understand and produce a short functional text and short essays in the form of certain text types. They are procedure, descriptive, recount, narrative, report, news item, analytical exposition, hortatory exposition, spoof, explanation, discussion, and review (Depdiknas, 2006). Explanation text writing skills are taught important in senior high school level. Explanation text is expected that students can give explanatory and write the main points which related in word processing.

Based on the previous explanation, in senior high school students have to understand writing skills. However, based on observations made during internship 2 and have a discussion with the teachers that have been carried out at SMA Negeri 7 Kediri, especially the teacher in class XI IPA

2, the researcher found several problems related to learning to write in the field. The problem is described below.

The first problem is the lack of motivation and interest of students in learning due to the inaccurate choice of learning media related to the material to be studied because in general, the variety of classroom writing activities that can encourage student learning motivation is still a little limited. The next problem came from the students. Students stated that they did not understand some components of the explanatory text, such as the generic structure and language features of the text. Besides, students still have difficulty generating and developing ideas. They are confused about what to write. That happens because they are usually only given examples of functional text. After that, they have to write or compose their text with limited guidance. Their problems are also related to spelling, punctuation, vocabulary, and grammar.

In this study, researchers focused more on improving students' abilities in writing explanatory texts, because it is one of the texts that must be mastered by eleventh-grade students. Researchers also realize that writing this text is not an easy thing. Through this research, it is hoped that students will be able to produce explanatory texts. In this case the researcher is going to describe the students' skill in writing Explanation text based on their writing test result.

The writing process that must be most important is conceptual abilities, therefore the student have to extensive knowledge if they do you want to write something and also understanding about the topic. In learning Explanation text, students may have some problems in learning it maybe they still confused to write although they know the topic. That way the choice of appropriate learning media can give an impact on them.

By looking at the above problems, the researcher concludes that one of the factors is in the selection of learning media, therefore the researcher will apply the media to overcome the obstacles found in the field. According to Harmer (2008), the media can effectively help students improve their writing skills. One of the media that can be used to improve students' writing skills is a picture. In this study, researchers used picture series to improve students' writing skills.

According to Wright (1992), picture series have two advantages. First, a series of pictures is very useful for helping students to retell or understand something because they can represent places, objects, and people. Second, series pictures help students understand the general context and interesting and serialized images will increase students' creativity to write. The use of picture series is expected to solve problems and improve students' writing skills.

The content and meaning contained in the photo will support the purpose of teaching and learning to make students more interested,

according to Nunan (2004:58) states that many communication activities can be stimulated through the use of pictures. Moreover, picture series gives some inspiration to students when begins to write. Because the clear contrast and authenticity of the photo show a good situation, with simplicity and memories that will create a certain impression, of course, its purity has aesthetic and has practical value and message.

The name of learning media is Picture series, Harmer (2007: 182) argues pictures can also be used to create situations or context in the classroom. In the teaching and learning process, picture series can provide many benefits and give a real impression to students. Picture series can help students to make it easier to understand the meaning of a word, sentence, or text. By using picture series, students can imagine objects or situations. Hence, in this study, the picture series will be applied as a media to improve writing skills.

Based on the above explanation, Picture series is a good way to teach speaking, write and read. A draw is a picture series that are many inside students interests to help in the learning process. Researchers take picture series as a media for learning English high school students because it is believed that high school students are mature enough to start composing words with the help of pictures, it is believed by the researcher that many students attracted by the picture series, they are happy and easy to understand the lesson. This is reinforced by the existence of previous

research that uses this method and is proven to be able to improve student learning outcomes.

Aschawir (2014: 90), said that picture series is one of the alternative media that can give some contributions to dig up students' potential in writing. Picture series can make students interested in answering and understanding all questions about pictures when the teacher gives assignments. Picture series are expected to be able to help students' imaginations when writing an essay or expressing what is intended.

Based on the explanation above, the writer interested in conducted a research entitled: Improving Students Ability in Writing Skill trough Picture Series.

B. The Problem of the Study

Based on the identification study above, the researcher tries to improving writing skill, the students ability in writing Explanation texts through picture series. Therefore, there must be a new formula as a solution to these problems to improve students' writing skills in high school. "How can picture series improve students' ability in writing explanation text?"

C. The Objectives of theStudy

The objective of the study to know how picture series can improve students' ability in writing explanation text through using Picture Series.

D. Scope and Limitation of the Study

This research is Classroom Action Research (CAR). This research is developmentally oriented. Teachers and students were expected to achieve the goal of the teaching that was producing writing text appropriately. This ability can have an impact on the results of the increase in the implementation of learning, with the hope that students are able to acquire and improve knowledge of grammar and vocabulary and limited to discussing the effective media Picture Series on students' abilities in writing explanation texts, so that students are able show progress at the end of the study.

E. The Significance of the Study

This study will be useful for the reader to know the result research on the use of picture series as a learning media used for teaching and learning English, it is hoped that it can become valuable information and contribution for educators and students. Picture series are a good learning media to use in teaching writing in class. The result from this research will be useful for readers to know the importance of picture series in improving students' writing skills. Then the teachers can improve teaching writing explanation text using picture series as a learning media. This research later can be very useful for teacher information and a reference for readers in particular further researchers through picture series.

F. Definition of Key Terms

1 Writing Skill.

Writing is regarded as a productive skill especially in writing descriptive paragraph. It aims at assisting students in expressing their idea written.

2 Picture series.

Picture series is one of the good ways to use in teaching speaking, writing and reading. Picture series is a series of images that many in the interest by students to help in the learning process