

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Language is a tool of communication. There are several forms of communication, there are spoken and written language. The purpose of communication is to send a message from the writer or speaker to the reader or listener. Dash (2007 : 2) states that language is system of conventional spoken or written symbols by means of which human beings, as a member of social group and partisipants in its culture, communicate.

The fact that the human is a social mankind, they certainly realize that they cannot survive without interacting to another people. Because of that, people start to make their own way to interact, and then a language was born.

English is one of international languages. It is used by most countries in the world. According to Dunedey and Hockly (2010 : 1) over the past view decades, English has become global language. Approximately 470 million people around the world curently speak English, and that number is growing. Most people speak English as a second or foreign language than monolingual English 'native speaker'. It means, nowadays English language is global language used by most people around the world.

There are skills in English language which should be mastered by students, they are reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students are hoped to be able to master all of English skills.

Writing is one of important skills to be mastered by students. They used it to communicate to each other, to share of ideas and emotion clearly. Verghese (2007 : 78) said that learning to write a second language is not merely learning to put down on paper the conventional, symbol of the writing system that represents the utterances are has in mind, but it is also purposful selection and organisation of ideas, facts, and experience. In addition, writing is a thingking process and it is more much than an exercise in transcription or copying.

Writing as a process to get product is influenced by some elements such as vocabularies, grammar, organization, spelling, and punctuation. In the writing English subject, students have to know and understand those elements. Students have been learned kinds of text in writing skill. They should produce written simple functional text in the recount text, narrative text, news items, procedures, and descriptive text.

Based on the curriculum of junior high school which recommended by the government, there are some texts which have to be mastered by the students at junior high school. One of the texts is descriptive text.

According to Kane (1988 : 253) Description is about sensory experience how something looks, sounds, tastes. Mostly it is about visual experiences, but description also deals with other kind of perception. In addition they said the meaningful of descriptive text is describes the experiences related to the senses, such as what form, sound, taste. Most descriptive text is about the visual experience, but in fact the experience apart from the sense of sight can be used in the descriptive text.

In learning descriptive text, students may have difficulties in learning it. Students may be confused what to write although they know the topic which has been given by the teacher. They are confused to write their idea about the topic. Based on the problems identified, the writer conducts an action research using Estafet Writing at the eighth grade of SMA N 1 Kauman Ponorogo. It is expected that the writer as a teacher will be able to motivate the students to learn the materials, enjoy to the lesson and make them not to get bored.

Because of that problem, the writer wants to try a method that is Estafet Writing. According to Syathariah (2011 : 42) Estafet writing is one method of active learning or learning by doing which aims to students associate learning as a fun activity. It is a method that involves students learning together. Writing activity using this method make students actively develop imagination and instantly produce a paper.

The writer hopes by using this method, the students can make it easier to write what should write in descriptive text. This method is expected can help the students to make a descriptive text.

1.2 Statement of problem

Based on the background of the study, the statement of the problem of the research is “How can estafet writing method improve students writing ability at the tenth grade of SMA N 1 Kauman Ponorogo in 2014/2015 academic year?”

1.3 The Purpose of Study

According to the statement of the problem, the purpose of the study is to improve students writing ability by using estafet writing method in the tenth grade of SMA N 1 Kauman Ponorogo in 2014/2015 academic year.

1.4 The importance of study

The researcher hopes this research will give contribution to :

1. English Teacher

This study can be an example for the teachers when their students find difficulties in learning writing, especially writing descriptive texts. In this study, there are strategies that can be used when the students find difficulties in learning writing and how to overcome those problems.

2. Students

It can motivate students in their writing interest. It will be helpful for the students to understand how to improve writing skill.

3. Researcher

The researcher hopes the result of this research give solution in teaching writing.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study is focused on the estafet writing method to improve the students English writing ability in descriptive text.

The subject of this research focuses on the tenth grade students of SMA N 1 Kauman Ponorogo 1 in the 2014/2015 academic year.

1.6 Definition of key term

Writing : Process of transferring information, which is considered to be the most difficult to master. Writing in English is such kind of a complex process of the students. This skill is obviously a complex process, and competent writing is frequently considered as the last language skill to be acquired (Scott and Yterberg in Jannah, 1990 : 69).

Descriptive text : Kind of text with a purpose to give information. The context of this kind of text is description of particular things, person, animal, or others, for instance : our pets or person we know well. It differs from reports which describe things, animal, person, or other in general. The social function of descriptive text is to describe particular person, place or thing (Gerot and Wignell in Mursyid, 1994 : 2).

Estafet writing : *Salah satu metode active learning atau learning by doing yang bertujuan agar siswa mengasosiasikan belajar sebagai sebuah kegiatan yang menyenangkan.*
(Syathariah, 2011 : 41-42).