

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

English, as an international language has a very important role in the language of science, technology, and international communication. It is more crucial to be mastered rather than many other languages in the world. English is not the language with the largest number of native or first language speakers. It has become a *lingua franca*. It can be defined as a language widely adopted for communication between two speakers whose native language different from each other and where one or both speakers are using it as a second language. Harmer (2002:1) defined English language is very important to student. Therefore, students need to study English for communication with other people in the world. In this new global era student must have English language ability for communication.

English teaching is aimed to develop both spoken and written communication capability, which is reflected in four skills. The skills enable students to take part in information exchange, to establish interpersonal relationship and to obtain knowledge as to enjoy study language of English.

There are four skills in English: writing, reading, listening and speaking. In the research, writer chooses writing, because it is important skill for student to learn English teaching. For many students, writing is difficulty skill. It has structure and grammatical function when student make sentences.

Student must have grammatical knowledge and sufficient vocabulary. They need to know some of writing especially conventions (punctuation, paragraph construction etc) just as they need to know how to pronounce spoken English appropriately. Part of our job is given them that skill (Harmer, 2001: 79).

Writing is an exploration where writer can go to somewhere writer have never known before. Writer can achieve what is impossible to achieve in this world. Writer can be the hero, the winner, and whatever writer want (Marsudiono, 2008: 1). From the definition of writing above can write anything writer wants. Writer can write experience in our life and make story for other people. Writing is not private but everyone can read.

The success of teaching and learning process depends on several factors, such as teacher, learner, the techniques, and media that are used in teaching learning process. The most important thing in teaching learning process is teaching technique. The teacher has to use the appropriate techniques to bring the students a better understanding about the material that the teacher explains and create a joyful atmosphere at class, so it will ease to understand material.

In junior high school, improving students' writing skill is not easy. In fact, students of eighth grade of SMPN 2 Ponorogo face problem of low vocabulary and the English students do not use the media in the learning process. The reasons are; first, the students of SMP N 2 Ponorogo have problem in writing skill. Second, the students have less knowledge of vocabulary and grammar, so that it makes them difficult to make a text.

Based on the problem above, in order to make comprehension easier in writing skill, the teacher should use the appropriate techniques in teaching writing skill. One of them is by using crossword puzzle game. In writing classes, crossword puzzle game will help the students to focus on key ideas written down in their own words. They will also easily understand and remember new information presented and vocabulary in teaching writing.

In crossword puzzle game, the students can recognize the most important ideas and information from writing and converting it in crossword puzzle with their own words to help them understand and remembered what they write. Using this game will help students focus on key ideas written down in their own words. Reflecting that fact, the researcher would like to facilitate students' understanding on make sentences through crossword puzzle game. The researcher uses this game in teaching of writing skill as a problem solving to improve students' achievement in writing class and to make sentences after taught using crossword puzzle game.

All of above explanation create inspiration to the writer to make an action research, because the writer wants to know how far crossword puzzle can improve students' writing skill and does meet the students in SMPN 2 Ponorogo?

B. Statement of Problem

The statement problems that can be identified dealing with the problem are:

“How can crossword puzzle game improve students’ writing skill at the eighth grade of SMPN 2 Ponorogo academic year 2016/2017?”

C. Purpose of Study

Based on the statement of problem above, the purpose of the research is:

To implement crossword puzzle game to improve students’ writing skill at the eighth grade of SMPN 2 Ponorogo academic year 2016/2017.

D. The Importance of Study

The researcher hopes that this research will be useful for :

1. For Students

Crossword Puzzle game will help the students to improve their writing skill Student can use crossword puzzle game to improve vocabulary in writing skill. Moreover, it gives inspiration to write and study English.

2. For the Teacher

Crossword Puzzle game can use the result of this study as a reference and provide the method to teach writing skill.

3. For the School

The result of this study can be used to improve English teaching and learning process.

4. For Readers

The writer hopes that this research gives more information and contribution to the knowledge.

E. Scope and Limitation of the Study

Based on explanation above, the researcher focused on the effectiveness of using crossword puzzle game to improve the students' writing skill due to the fact that their writing was still low. In addition, the researcher used crossword puzzle game to increase the students' motivation, as the series crossword puzzle game are good teaching aids. The use of crossword puzzle game is intended to make the writing process easier. The subjects of this study are the eight grade students in SMPN 2 Ponorogo in the academic year of 2016/2017.

F. Definition of Key Terms

The writer wants to clarify and explain the terms of the title to make understandable meaning, they are following:

Writing Skill : Writing is a communicative act; it is a way of sharing information, thoughts, experiences, or ideas, between ourselves and others (Cahyono, 2009: 16).

Crossword Puzzle : A puzzle is a type of game. To better under the purpose of this book, think about some popular puzzles such as crossword puzzles, jigsaw puzzles, and logic puzzles (often called brain teasers). In every case, the puzzle-solver's goal is to solve a particular mentally challenging problem or accomplish a particular mentally challenging task. (Moursund, 2007:8)

