

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher will discuss some general descriptions related to this research. This chapter contains the description about the background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms.

### **1.1 Background of The Study**

Language is the most important arrangement in a social structure. According to Bernstein in Halliday, language has a semantic function, that is the social structure (2007, p. 91). In a social structure, the function of language refers to how people connect a language to their relationship with other people. It means how we use language and how we communicate with other people in a social setting. People all over the world use a language to communicate each other. They need to communicate each other to express what they need and want. By the language, they express their opinions, feelings, ideas and thoughts to each other. One of the language used by people in the world for communication is English. Therefore, English is called as an International language. English as an International language takes an important role in communication. It means that knowing English well, people are able to communicate with the most people of the world with different language and culture.

Besides having the main function as International language, English is also referred to as a lingua franca. A lingua franca as a general language between people who do not share their first language (Kirkpatrick, 2011). According to Firth in Kirkpatrick (2011) states that English is the communication language that is chosen as a lingua franca, and lingua franca itself is the language of vehicles between people who do not have the same mother tongue or the same culture. Therefore, the lingua franca has a position that is almost the same as the International language that is as a language used to communicate when a country with another country does not understand the language of the interlocutor. So that a unifying language is needed to make it easier for countries to communicate, namely English. Because of the importance of language in communication, especially English as an International language and as a lingua franca, then English is very important to be learned by students especially to face the global era.

In learning English, learners need to master four language skills. Those are speaking, reading, writing and listening. In order to communicate, speaking skill seems to be the most appropriate one, but writing skill is important too. Tarigan in Faisal and Suwandita (2013) states that writing is the language skill which is used to communicate indirectly, without having face to face with other people. Writing skill enables us to communicate with people beyond the limits of time and distance.

In addition, writing is one of the essential skills that university learners need to master in order to achieve their academic goals and get better job prospects. Therefore, writing is one of important skills that must be prepared by early age students, so that students become accustomed to write and have a high writing

abilities. To get a high writing abilities, learners need some tactics or strategies in learning.

Many researchers believe that good language learners use a wide variety of strategies and tactics to do their learning tasks effectively. Successful language learners use various types of strategies for different language tasks; they choose suitable strategies for a task based on task details (Chamot & El-Dinary, 1999). Liu (2015) states that both high-level and intermediate-levels students utilize more writing strategies than the low-levels ones, while there was no significant difference in their frequency of employing writing strategies between high-level and the intermediate ones. Students with high writing abilities reported using significantly more metacognitive, affective, cognitive, and effort regulation strategies than those with lower writing proficiency (Raofi, Binandeh, & Rahmani, 2017).

According to the preliminary research that researcher conducted in tenth grade students at SMAN 1 Badegan, most of students got a good score in their writing. Therefore, the researcher interested to investigate the students learning strategies in their writing. Thus, the result of the research can be used as a reference for other students who have less score in their writing.

Based on the statement above in this research, the researcher is interested in conducting a research entitled: A Study on The Students' Learning Strategies in Writing at The Tenth Grade of SMAN 1 Badegan in Academic Year of 2018/2019. This research aims to investigate the English language learning strategies in writing skill used by the students on the tenth grade at SMAN 1 Badegan in academic year of 2018/2019.

## 1.2 Statement of Problem

Based on the background of the study in the previous part, in this research the researcher stated the problem as follows:

1. What are the English language learning strategies in writing skill used by the students on the tenth grade at SMAN 1 Badegan in academic year of 2018/2019?
2. What are the impact of the English language learning strategies to their writing performance in academic year 2018/2019?

## 1.3 Purpose of The Study

Focusing on the statement of problem above, the researcher stated the purpose of the study below:

1. To investigate the English language learning strategies in writing skill used by the students on the tenth grade at SMAN 1 Badegan in academic year 2018/2019.
2. To explain the relationship between students' English language learning strategies and their writing performance in academic year 2018/2019.

## 1.4 Significant of The Study

After this research has been conducted, this research expected will give advantages for:

1. The students

The result of this study can be used to improve the students' ability in writing skill.

2. The teachers

The result of this study can be used as a reference to increase English teachers' writing competence in teaching learning process.

3. The researcher

The study gives benefit for the researcher as new experience and experiment to implement his knowledge in English learning.

4. The institution

Giving contribution and information for readers, especially the students of English Department of Muhammadiyah University of Ponorogo to teach English lesson in the future.

### 1.5 Scope and Limitation

The study is focused on investigate the students' learning strategies to improve students' writing skill. Then, the subject of this study only organized with the students at the tenth grade of SMAN 1 Badegan in academic year of 2018/2019.

### 1.6 Definition of Key Term

The definition of key term is used in this research to avoid misunderstanding. In this research the researcher gives the key term as follows:

Writing skill : Writing skill is one of the language skills which is used to communicate indirectly, without having face to face with other people (Tarigan, 1994, p. 3).

Learning strategies : Learning strategies are particular action taken by the learner to make learning easier, more enjoyable,

faster, more self-directed, more affective and more transferrable to new situations (Oxford, 1990, p. 8).

