

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Learning English means learning language components skills. Grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and spelling are examples of language components. Meanwhile, language skill covers listening, writing, reading, and speaking. Among the four skills, writing is often considered as the most difficult skill to be learned by the students. Writing is as a means of communication. Writing involves transferring a message from our thoughts using language in the written form and it is a communicative competence. According to Schulman (1991:30) writing is an individualized process. No two writers do, or should be asked to do, no one writing process could be said more effective than any other.

Writing is a productive skill. It is very useful for students because it can convey their message through their minds in the written form. It is placed on the last stage among the four skills. Writing is the production of the written word in the form of text and it must be read and comprehended in order to communicate to take place. In other words, in writing, a writer communicates his/her ideas by considering a known or unknown reader who will get their ideas and their meanings in the form of correct written text. To write well, people should have good writing capabilities too. Moreover, someone who wants to write essay or story must know in writing process and the aspects of writing skills.

According to Trimmer (1995: 05) writing is also opportunity, it allows you to express something about yourself, to explore and explain ideas, and to assess the claims of other people. By formulating and organizing ideas, and finding the right words to present them, you gain power. Writing is not a natural skill because can't acquire this ability automatically and easily. Writing skill differs from others skill like speaking and listening. The two other skills can be gained through natural processes.

Considering the writer's observation at the eighth grade students of SMPN 3 Ngebel Ponorogo as the subject of research, the writer found some problems in teaching English lesson especially in writing process. The teacher still teaches by using old method to her/his students in teaching writing. Besides, students of SMPN 3 Ngebel have no more interest in English lesson because in there has a low facility to make students more creative in learning.

Here teacher of SMPN 3 Satu Atap Ngebel needs more treatment in teaching writing. The problem of the teacher seems to be how to approach it and what is the best way to teach it. Usually for writing process, teacher gives an explanation before students do the assignment. Teacher does not correct and explain to all students in front of class, so they do not understand about their mistakes during writing. Students' understanding about vocabulary is less, so they sometimes get difficulties to write. They just write the word from dictionary without understand about concept of writing. This condition makes students bored because teacher just talking in front of class and teacher does not know what the students need and interest in.

According to Liu (2004: 226) Comic is an art form using a series of static image in fixed sequence. There are two kinds of comics, comic strips and comic books. A comic strip is defined in this study as series of pictures inside boxes that tell a story. While comic books are collection of stories that have picture consist of one or more titles as themes. The researcher in this research uses comic strips toward. A comic strip usually contributes to understanding by being a part of a context. Comic as sufficient essential visual aids can be used as a tool of communication between teacher and pupils in teaching learning process. The researcher tries to investigate whether picture media could also be used in teaching writing and whether there was significant writing skill. Vocabulary and grammar is very important thing in writing. The students cannot write if they do not know the vocabulary.

Based on the background above, the researcher that is necessary conduct classroom action research at this school to make the students interested in English and improve their skill especially in writing. So the possible way is by creating a different method which is easy, fun, effective and interesting for students. Therefore teacher may use comic strips toward to teach writing in her/his English class.

This thesis discusses about the improving writing ability in narrative text by using comic strips toward on the eighth grade at SMPN 3 Satu Atap Ngebel Ponorogo in academic years 2014/2015.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The statement problem that can be identified dealing with the students writing skill as follow:

“How can Comic Strips improve students’ writing skill of narrative text at the eighth grade of SMPN 3 Ngebel academic year 2014/2015?”

1.3 Purpose of the Study

Based on the statement of problem above, the purpose of the research is: to know the improvement students’ of writing ability in narrative text by using comic strips at the eighth grade of SMPN 3 Satu Atap Ngebel academic year 2014/2015.

1.4 The Importance of Study

The researcher hopes the study can give some contributions to:

1. Students

The result of this study will help students to write better. By implementing comic strip, students are able to write narrative texts well. As a result, their writing narrative text will much be better because using comic strip toward will improve students’ writing ability.

2. English teacher

This study can provide contribution for the teachers to apply another techniques and media dealing with the teaching learning process especially in teaching writing.

3. School

The writer hopes that the school can use this thesis as the reference in teaching English especially in teaching writing skill and it can be useful and give some additional information.

4. Writer

This study gives the writer understanding toward the implementation of comic strip in teaching writing narrative texts directly. By improving comic strips to students' writing ability, especially in writing narrative text, it will provide useful practical experience for the writer himself.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is for the eighth grade of SMPN 3 Satu Atap Ngebel Ponorogo.

This research is limited on the students writing skill by using comic strips method. There are methods which may be used in teaching writing, but the researcher choose this strategy because of on the researcher's opinion it has positive advantages to motivate students to master the writing skill.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

To around understanding in this research, the researcher defines the key terms as follows:

Writing : Writing is one of the crucial ways to deliver information through a language mastered by both the writer and the reader (Brown, 2007: 363).

Comic Strips : A comic strip is some series of drawing that tell a story and are often printed in news papers. (Oxford Learner's, p: 80)

Narrative text : Is a text focusing specific participant. Its social function is to amuse entertain and to deals with problematic events which lend to a crisis or turning point of some kind, which in turn a resolution. (Rachmat, 2009: 16)

