**CHAPTER I**

**INTRODUCTION**

This chapter deals with background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, hypothesis, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study and definition of key terms.

* 1. **Background of the Study**

English is one of the foreign languages taught in Indonesia schools, from kindergarten until university or college level. In the academic year 2008/2009, all Indonesian schools are expected to apply the curriculum-based competence by developing Kurikulum Tingkat Satuan Pendidikan (KTSP). Based on the KTSP, every school has its authority and responsibility for determining the subject matter and learning instruction in line with the view mission and goal of every education unit. But, it should refer to the Standard of Competence published by BSNP.

Therefore, English is learned to develop those skills, especially in writing. Writing is not just constructing words to be a good sentence, but the writer should know well the message that will be delivered to the reader. In principle, to write means to try to produce or reproduce written message (Barli Bram: 1995). Writing is difficult skill for the students to master because it requires the students’ competence to control content, format, sentence structure, vocabulary, punctuation spelling, etc. Nunan (1989: 35) points out, “It has been argued that that learning to write fluently and expressively is the most difficult of the macro skills for all language users regardless of whether the language in question is first, second, or foreign language.” Another opinion comes from Heaton (1989: 138). He explains that the writing skills are complex and sometimes difficult to teach, requiring mastery not only of grammatical and rhetorical devices but also of conceptual and judgment elements. It means that ability to write needs a special skill and process in organizing language material by using learners’ own words and ideas and to be a good composition.

By interviewing of the English teacher on Monday, March 12th, 2012, there were some problems faced by the fifth students of SDI DARUT TAQWA BEJI BOYOLANGU. Firstly, the researcher found the students’ writing achievement was poor. It can be seen from the students’ score before conducting this research. They still get confused on the teacher’s technique, their motivations decrease so they are reluctant to get the writing subject in the class, they feel bored and they think that the teacher’s technique to teach cannot help them write well.

These problems were also occured because the English teacher did not use a media in teaching writing. The English teacher directly asked the students to write a text. Obviously, the students still got confused how to make a text. Beside that, the English teacher also did not manage the class well, so the students did not involve actively in teaching and learning process. Obviously, these problems give bad effects in students’ writing. It can be figured out from the result of the writing pretest of the students which show that most of the students’ score are under the criteria of success.

Referring to the obtained data, it is assumptive that the teacher should be able to choose a suitable media to improve the students’ achievement in writing. A good and suitable media are supported to be tools that can make the students get joyful learning in writing.

According to Masdiono (1998: 9) comic is a kind of arts used statist pictures in order to make a story. Pictures here, is drawing a cartoon character (character can be a human, animal, plant or a dead object). Comic usually is printed on paper and completed by text. Comic can be published in any forms, from newspaper, magazine, up to book. Remembering the students like to read comic, so the advantages got from using comic as a teaching media in teaching writing such as, to make easier understanding the content of pictures, help the students develop an idea, help the students develop their ideas based on time arrangement in comic and add pleasure and also improve the students’ motivation.

Considering theoretical and principal data mentioned in the previous paragraph, the researcher is interested in conducting an action research entitled “Improving the Fifth Year Students’ Writing Ability through Comic at SDI DARUT TAQWA BEJI BOYOLANGU in Academic Year 2011/2012”.

1. **Statement of the Problem**

Based on the background of the study as described above, the problem of the study could be formulated as follows: “How can comic improve the fifth year students’ writing ability at SDI DARUT TAQWA BEJI BOYOLANGU in academic year 2011/2012?”

**1.3 Objectives of the Study**

Based on the formulation of the problem above, the objective in the study is to find out whether comic can improve the fifth year students’ writing ability at SDI DARUT TAQWA in academic year 2011/2012

**1.4 Hypothesis**

The researcher proposes action research hypothesis as follows: if comic is used in teaching writing, it will improve the fifth year students’ writing ability at SDI DARUT TAQWA BEJI BOYOLANGU in academic year 2011/2012.

**1.5 Significance of the Study**

This study is expected to give contribution for:

1. The students

The study is aimed to be useful to improve students’ writing ability through comic. It hopefully can make students more interested and easier to write a text. And in the end, it can improve students’ English score in writing course.

1. The English Teacher

It can be expected to be useful to the teacher as information to find out how to improve the students’ writing ability and increase the quality of teaching writing.

1. The Researcher

By doing this study, the researcher hopes that it can be as a reflection for himself in teaching and learning process.

1. The Next Researchers

Hopefully, the finding of this study can be used for the next study as a reference.

**1.6 Scope and Limitation of the Study**

The study is focused on the effort to develop an appropriate technique in English class especially in teaching writing. The researcher uses comic to improve the fifth year students’ writing ability at SDI DARUT TAQWA BEJI BOYOLANGU in academic year 2011/2012.

The study is limited to the subject of the students joining English writing class in the second semester of fifth year students at SDI DARUT TAQWA BEJI BOYOLANGU in academic year 2011/2012.

**1.7 Definition of Key Terms**

In order to avoid misunderstanding of the concept used in this study, some definitions are provided.

1. Writing is the act or art of forming letters and characters on paper, wood, stone, or other material, for the purpose of recording the ideas which characters and words express, or of communicating them to others by visible signs. ([www.brainyquote.com](http://www.brainyquote.com))
2. Comic is a kind of arts used statist pictures in order to make a story. (Masdiono, 1998: 9)