

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer discusses the background of study, formulation of research question, purpose of the study, formulation of hypothesis, significance of study, and definition of key term.

A. Background of Study

It is widely known that English is the one of language, which is used to communicate by people all over the world. People use language to convey the message each other, also they believe that language is the way to introduce their social identity to the other. Without language people will difficult to communicate with others.

English has become an important role in the development of the world. The development of science, technology, and cultures are the examples of any development which cannot be separated from the use of English. People around the world, as the agents of the development, use English as the international language to communicate, share, take and give information and knowledge to others. Therefore, to be able to follow those developments, every nation should equip their citizens with the ability of using English.

In Indonesian government, English is consider as a first foreign language and compulsory subject to be taught in secondary school, such as in junior and senior high school. By using English, a student can know the other countries. For the senior high school level, based on the School-Based Curriculum, the goal of teaching English is to provide students with knowledge and skills to make them able to communicate in English either in spoken or written language at the informational level which means that students should be able to use the language to access and share information as a part of their learning either in the spoken or written form.

In language learning, especially English, we recognize four skills namely speaking, listening, reading, and writing. From those skills, the important one is writing. It means that students should be able to use English either receptively or productively. Furthermore, in the real life communication, being able to speak in English is not enough. It is because not all communication activities can be held in the form of spoken language, but they sometimes need written form, as stated by Langan, 2005 that writing can be used as a means of communication. Dewi (2013:2) states that writing is the expression of language in the forms of letter, symbols, or words. In writing, the people can express their ideas and opinion in the written form. Also, writing functions to share the information in the form of

written text. Hence, it can be concluded that writing is the other form of communication beside speaking.

In the global era, people need writing as a part of the requirements. For example writing summaries of report. Writing is very important activity for everybody. Sometimes, people write for many different reasons, such as to pass on information and opinions, to ask question, request or offer something, to entertain, to organize our thought, and so on. Also people write to communicate and this can be quite interactively immediate, for example, when people are texting or emailing someone. These texts are often quite short and simple. For work, people may be required to write reports or formal letters, or fill in application form. It also very important for students. Writing is both an essential part of the learning process and of the most important ways that historians communicate their ideas and conclusions to one another.

According to Harmer (2006:79-80), writing is the basic skill of English that is emphasized and become the important skill which be taught to the students of foreign language. Moreover, writing requires the complex thinking. In writing process, the writer has to involve their thinking and creative skill. Not only that, but also it is supported by the right rules.

According to Rivers (1981: 294), writing is conveying information or expression of original ideas in a consecutive way in the new language. Brown, (2001: 336) also claims that writing is a thinking process. Furthermore, he states that writing can be planned and given with an unlimited number of revisions before its release. So, writing is considered as the most difficult skill compared with other skills such as listening, reading, and speaking.

Based on curriculum 2006, in Senior High School there are six genres that should be taught, namely narrative, recount, procedure, descriptive, report and spoof. In learning genre, the students will learn the particular style of text which different purposes. All genres have different definition and different social functions, general structure and grammatical features. For Senior High School students, one of the text that they learn is recount which belongs to story genres in which its function is to enable people to retell a series of events or experiences in the past for purpose of informing or entertaining. Learning a genre can be very useful for all language learners as argued by Harmer (1998). He stated that a genre approach is especially appropriate for students of English for specific purposes. However, it is also highly useful for general English students, even at low levels (Harmer, 1998:31-32).

It is widely known that there are many ways and media to teach the writing skill, such as jumble picture, computer, video games, series picture, etc. In this case, the writer try to make different media, that is using diary book especially to improve writing skill in recount text. Diary is one of mediums that can be used to help the students more interested and enjoy in learning writing. By writing diary, they can write and express their feeling, idea, and experience into written form without any pressure. Diary can be described as a manuscript or typescript kept on a more or less regular basis by individual recording daily events, thoughts and opinions, the weather or almost anything else (Zahiroh,2010:18).

Diary is a note which is written by a person to tell his life experience, felling, or something important happening in his life. Diary could be one's best friend that he could believe in will never complain to him for everything that he has written on it. He could notice that diary is a private book which saves his private story (Wisdhawan,2014:3). One benefit of diary is being able to look on specific days or time periods in an attempt to sort out personal feelings. It means that this media appropriate to teach recount text in Senior High School because recount texts also retell the past experience and the benefit of diary is to show the personal feeling.

Diary writing is recommended as a medium in teaching writing recount text because it is assumed that students will be easier to understand how to write a recount text. Writing diary becomes a part of people's life. It is usually done every day that makes students more familiar in writing a story. Students usually write down on a paper when they experienced an unusual event, such as a funny, happy, or sad story. By using media diary, the researcher do hope that student can improve their ability in writing, for example what they do at home or their activity in a day, even their activity in the past, they can write in their book, namely diary book. Diary is book used for a daily record of events, future appointment (Martin, 2000:119).

In write a diary, people must have the story, time and date or day, and place. Diary is a part of teaching writing in recount text, it means the process for transferring knowledge of writing to the students and improve them to be confidence to write anything in English, they would be able to know how to make and write about the words, text, sentences, and their experiences grammatically. Diary is private book, the students could practice their writing in the diary.

This study investigates how the use of diary can improve the students' writing skill in recount text. It is to know the students' response toward the use of diary. In details, this study entitled "THE EFFECTIVENESS OF

USING DIARY TOWARD STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENT IN WRITING
RECOUNT TEXT AT THE TENTH GRADE OF SMAN 1 PAKEL
TULUNGAGUNG”.

Furthermore, the teacher also has the important role in teaching and learning process. However, the teacher should have an effective method to teach writing to students. In brief, the teacher must have some method and media for teaching the student and train them well. Beside of that, teacher must be a smart and creative person who has much knowledge about the material and ready to catch the student for transfer the material. Environment and facilities also must support the students to apply the knowledge who had acquired in school.

Based on this problem, the writer interested in conduct the research about the media (diary) toward students' achievement in writing. The limitation of the study is to prove whether diary toward students' achievement in writing recount text of 10th grade. Then, in deciding the topic, the writer gets inspiration from the previous study. The first previous study was conducted by Yulianti (2014) entitled “*Improving the Writing Skills Through Diary Writing of The Tenth Grade Students of SMAN 1 Ngemplak*”. This study is aimed at implementing diary writing as a medium to improve the writing skills of the tenth grade students of SMAN 1

Ngemplak. This research used two types of data, namely qualitative data and quantitative data. The qualitative data were obtained through an interview with the English teacher and the students and observations during the teaching and learning process. Meanwhile, the quantitative data were in the form of the results of the students' writing before the implementation of the actions (pre-test) and after the implementation of the actions (post-test).

The second previous study was conducted by Icha Chairunnisa (2017) entitled "*The Effectiveness of Writing Diary Activities in Improving the Student's Ability in Teaching Recount Text At Eight Grade MTs Al-Jam'iyatul Wasliyah Medan*". This study was aimed to find out the effectiveness of writing diary activities in improving the student's ability in teaching recount text. This research used a classroom action research. The research involved the students of Junior High School as the sample. So, this study is also conducted to investigate whether diary is effective to teach students' writing on recount text or not.

B. Formulation of Research Question

This study is expected to answer the research question as follow:

Is there any significant effect of using Diary toward the students' achievement in writing recount text?

C. Purpose of The Study

According to the formulation of research question, this study is conducted to find out whether diary is effective to teach students' writing on recount text or not.

D. Formulation of Hypothesis

Hypothesis is a writer's prediction of the research findings, statement of the research expectations about the relation among the variables in the research topic. In the term of research, it means that if the hypothesis does not indicate the correlation among variables, the hypothesis cannot be tested. In addition, according to the problems in this study, the hypothesis that will be tested can be formulated as:

- a. Null Hypothesis (H_0): diary is not effective toward students' achievement in writing recount text.
- b. Alternative Hypothesis (H_a): diary is effective toward students' achievement in writing recount text.

E. Significance of The Study

By this study, the writer hopes that it will give significance for:

a) The teachers

This study is expected to be a useful input for the English teachers to improve the students' achievement in writing recount text.

b) Students

The result of this study is expected to be a useful input for the students to encourage them to improve their skills in writing recount text.

c) Future Researchers

For the future researchers, they can learn the study and get the inspiration to find the similarity topic and how to get the problem solving.

F. Definition of Key Terms

The following terms are the core key words dealing with the research:

1. Students writing ability is a complex process for conveying or delivering ideas, thoughts, opinions and feelings using combination of letters in written language that other people can understand.

2. Recount text is speaking or writing about past events or a piece of text that retells past events, usually in the order which they happened.
3. Diary is book used for daily record of events or experiences.