

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with background of the study, formulation of research question, purpose of the study, formulation of hypothesis, significance of the study, and definition of key terms.

A. Background of The Study

Language is very important thing to communicate with others in the world. Life cannot be separated from language and communication. As a human being, everybody talks with others even just use body language. So, language can be defined as human property in their life. Language is a purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions, and desires by means of a system of voluntarily produced symbols.

There are many languages that are used in communication all over the world, such as: English, Chinese, Spanish, French, etc. those languages have the same function, that is to be a vehicle of communication. However, English is widely known as international language. English is used anywhere, anytime whenever people want. Therefore, English is learned by people all over the world, includes Indonesia.

In Indonesia, students from elementary school to college students have an opportunity to learn English. Although students of Indonesian school get English lesson, many of them still get difficulties to master English language itself. Because English in Indonesia is just as foreign language, which means English is not be used every day.

There are four skills that must be mastered when learning English. Those are reading, listening, writing, and speaking. Reading and listening belong to responsive skill differ to writing and speaking which belong to productive skill. Productive skill means in learning learners have to produce a product in written or spoken form. To produce a product, learners must have an ability of both skills.

Writing is one of the skills of communication in English which can help people to express ideas, feeling, and opinion in written form. Therefore writing is very important in our daily life. Nowadays, most of people in worldwide use a text to communicate to others. For example, people must be having social media account, by writing they can express what they are feeling in a personal message, direct message, or status. And then if people see their writing in a social media it can build a relation among people, because they understand it.

According to Harmer (2001) writing is a form of communication to deliver thought or express feeling through written form. For students, writing can be a tool to train their creativity. Not only that, but also students will be able to create a good sentence by doing writing exercise frequently. By writing, students also train their productive skill and they will get others benefit of doing it.

According to Hughey et al (1983), writing is the often the most difficult of all language skills in both first and second language development. It is proved by the process of writing that has several parts to make a good text. The writing process includes deciding the topic, developing the topic by using some strategies or methods, doing prewriting for the first and second draft, revising the draft, and writing the final draft.

In English, there are some genres of text, such as descriptive, narrative, exposition, procedure, recount, etc. Narrative is one of text that has to be mastered by students. Narrative text is a text which presents a story by showing sequence of events. Narrative text needs details information such as process of the story, moving from beginning to the end, moving from one event to another event, etc. In general, narrative text tells about a story which can entertain readers because it based on writers' imagination.

However, in teaching learning process, both students and teacher may get some difficulties. Many of students will get stuck and cannot write if they get writing task. That maybe caused by lack of vocabulary, less understanding of grammar, etc. For teachers, teaching English is not easy as

thought because it is foreign language that is not used as first language in Indonesia. In teaching English, teachers should make a condition where students can enjoy the teaching learning process. Teachers play an important role in the class in order to make students understand.

To overcome the problems in teaching learning process, teachers should find or create an attractive way to build students' motivation. It is important for teachers to provide various kinds of media in teaching, especially teaching writing. If students' get bored and cannot do the given task from teacher, they will just be silent and be passive. At the end of the study they will get nothing. A variation in teaching writing is the most important thing to encourage the students.

There are many media could be applied in the teaching learning process, especially in teaching writing. Nowadays, teachers could integrate technology in their teaching process. Not only easy, but also most of students in modern era could use technology. The teaching learning process will be enjoying by using technology. Moreover, students only need an internet connection and all tasks will be finished on their hands.

One of media that could be use by teachers is *Storybird* web tool. *Storybird* is one of free writing related tools and resources available on the web. *Storybird*, which is a storytelling website, is media that would help students to improve their writing and boost creativity and imagination through various pictures. It is available on www.storybird.com.

Storybird embodies three ideas; those are creating, reading, and sharing. *Storybird* platform supports collaborative story telling with the use of pictures on the web. It means it facilitate students to focus on their content instead of drawing pictures. *Storybird* also helps the reluctant and shy students to write on their own. The use of galleries and pictures allows students to develop deep reflection and higher-order thinking. Therefore, *Storybird* promotes imagination, literacy, and self-confidence.

In using *Storybird* as a media to write narrative text, it offers a lot of opportunities to start a narrative writing process in delightful way. Unlike other web tools, *Storybird* offers the access to the students even for those

who are less creative and imaginative. To make a text both students and teachers only need to sign up to the web. It is very easy to use.

In some previous study conducted by others researcher, *Storybird* platform is effective to teach writing. Like in the study of Tri Hapsari et al entitled “*The Effectiveness of Storybird Platform for Improving Students’ Writing Skill in Recount*”, they stated that there is a significant difference between the performances of the two groups. The use of *Storybird* Platform was effective to improve students writing skill in recount text. Another study conducted by Hidayat, entitled “*The Use Of Story Bird Application In Teaching Narrative Text For Eight Grade Students Of Smp Muhammadiyah 1 Kartasura*” he stated that by using *Storybird* platform students can increase their vocabulary by seeing the pictures that is provided by the story board.

As on the explanation above, the previous studies stated that *Storybird* platform can help students in doing their writing. However, more research is needed to test the media. *Storybird* platform provides many pictures inside its platform. The pictures should have a function that can be used by students or writer to stimulate their imagination. Especially in writing a story, the existence of the pictures must be an attractive tool to catch students’ or writing interest.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher wants to conduct a study with the title “**The Effectiveness Of Using Storybird Platform To Teach Narrative Text Towards Students’ Writing Ability At Tenth Grade Of SMK Sore Tulungagung**”, to prove whether or not there is a significant difference of students’ writing ability of narrative text who is taught by using *Storybird* platform and those who is not taught by using *Storybird* platform. The limitation of this study is only about the effectiveness of *Storybird* platform to teach narrative text towards students’ writing ability.

B. Formulation of Research Question

Based on discussion background above, the research question of this study can be formulated as the following:

Is there any significant difference of students' writing ability of narrative text between students who are taught by using *Storybird* platform and those who are not taught by using *Storybird* platform?

C. Purpose of The Study

According to the formulation of research question, this study is purposed to know whether there is significant difference of students' writing ability of narrative text who are taught by using *Storybird* platform and those who are not taught by using *Storybird* platform.

D. Formulation of Hypothesis

Hypothesis is the composition of some variables which have some specific position or role of the variables to be verified empirically. It is a proposition about the factual and conceptual elements. Hypothesis is need because it gives the researcher clue in seeking answer of something. The research hypothesis of this study is as following:

1. Null Hypothesis (Ho): There is no significant difference score of students' writing ability of narrative text between students who are taught by using *Storybird* platform and those who are not taught by using *Storybird* platform.
2. Alternative Hypothesis (Ha): There is significant difference score of students' writing ability of narrative text between students who are taught by using *Storybird* platform and those who are not taught by using *Storybird* platform.

E. Significant of The Study

The researcher expects that this study can give contribution to the teachers, students, and future researcher. As follows:

a. Teacher

The result of this research hopefully can be used for English teacher as a reference to apply *Storybird* platform as one of media to improve the students' writing ability of a genre of text.

b. Students

The result of this research hopefully can increase the students' creativity in writing a text. Because by using *Storybird* platform students are provided by many pictures and it will attract them.

c. Future Researcher

The researcher hopes this study can be useful for future researcher as a reference for further research.

F. Definition of Key Terms

a. *Storybird* platform

Storybird platform is a web 2.0 which is free, easy to use, and extremely engaging collaborative story-writing website. In which engage and motivate students to develop skills for creating creative writing, designing, collaborating, communicating, and reflecting.

b. Narrative Text

Narrative text is a written story which is produced by someone's imagination through a process of writing and aimed to amuse or entertain reader or listener.

c. Writing, Writing Ability, and Writing Aspects

Writing is one of the ways to express things in our mind, feeling, ideas or thought in form of a written product. Writing ability is ability which is owned by someone to express things in our mind, feeling, ideas or thought in form of a written product. In this research, the researcher used writing test as an instrument to know students' writing ability. A good writing product must fulfill the writing aspects, those are: (1) content; (2) form; (3) grammar; (4) style; and (5) mechanic.

d. Effectiveness

Effectiveness is the degree to which students' scores have significant difference. The effectiveness can be seen from students' scores which are taught by giving treatment and students' score which are taught by giving no treatment.