

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher discussed about background of the research, formulation of research problem, purpose of the research, formulation of hypothesis, significant of the research, scope of the research and definition of key terms.

A. Background of The Research

English is international language around the world. In Indonesia, English language taught during elementary up to university. It means that English is important in all levels of school. Besides, many students think that English is very difficult to be studied because they have to learn about many skills such as, reading, writing, speaking and listening. Writing is one of the important skills in learning English. It is important to be studied because written communication is a basic life skill. Writing known as productive skill. It means that writing is a process in which the writer produces something containing writers' thoughts, feelings or ideas. Students may need to write letters, take notes, fill in forms, report etc. Graham et al stated that writing is critical communication tools for students to convey thoughts and opinions, describe ideas and events, and analyze information (2016:1). Writing involves some language features (spelling, vocabulary, grammar, and punctuation). Actually, writing process was intended to create a text from someone's ideas, it started from drafting, revising and editing.

English language can be expressed in oral and written form. However, both of oral and written are not the same. Oral communication can be understood while doing the communication, but written communication has some components that should be paid attention in order to understand the content with no ambiguous. Writing called as difficult skill that requires the ability to express ideas, thought, feeling into written form. According to Richard and Renandya (2002:303) stated that writing is the most difficult skill to be learned by foreign language learners. The difficulties not only in generating and organizing but also in translating these ideas into understandable and readable text. From those statements above the researcher takes a sum up that writing are one of language skills that known as a complex and complicated activity that need good and deep understanding to the material and other sources to support the written topic. Writing is important for the students to learn how to think critically and creatively, the students can express their ideas into written text. Based on the 2013 curriculum of English for Junior High School at 7th grade, the students should be able to express their feelings and ideas into spoken and written forms. They also must be able to use their imaginative and analytic ability in learning English as a foreign language. In creating a correct and meaningful writing, the students should understand about several important aspects in writing, those are grammatical rules such as structure, punctuation, and grammar.

The scope of learning English in Junior High School at 7th grade as mentioned on the 2013 curriculum is the students are able to understand produce any kinds of functional text, one of the text is descriptive text. It is stated in the basic competence that 7th grade students are expected to be able to express the meaning of functional text and simply short essay in the form of descriptive text about animal, place, people and things. In generally descriptive text means a text used to describe person, place, animals, things etc. by mentioned the common or specific characteristics of the object described. It is similar to the statements by Oshima and Hague (2007) that descriptive text is kinds of writing which tells how person, things, animal looks, feels, smells, taste, and/or sounds. The descriptive text is not only a text learned at school but also the students can apply in their daily life directly in a long or simple short description.

Because of the importance of writing the learning must be interesting and joyful. Moreover, since the difficulties of writing is developing and organizing idea into written form which can understood and readable, the researcher expects to apply the appropriate method in teaching writing which is to facilitate students' need and goals in writing. Besides, using an appropriate method can affect the students' competency in learning writing it can also increase students' interest in English language.

Many strategies can be use in teaching writing, one of the strategies is Four Squares Writing Method. Four Squares Writing Method introduced and developed by Gould and Gould (1999) in his teaching method. Gould

(2010:5) stated that Four Squares Writing Method is a tool for organizing. In other word, Four Squares Writing Method is Functioning to organize the students' ideas and supporting details in order that the results of their writing can be unity and coherence. By using this method, the students can develop their idea freely but organized and relate to the topic. It is expected to be useful to facilitate students in developing their writing achievement.

This research conducted in Fathul Hidayah Junior High School Pangean Lamongan. The researcher chose this school because this Four Squares Writing Method (FSWM) not applied yet and in this pandemic era, this school has held offline-learning process, whereas most of schools still hold online learning process. Moreover, the school has a class in English majors, this helps the researcher to conduct the research and easier to collect data needed. There were some researchers conducted research about Four Squares Writing Method in teaching writing. From the previous studies, the researcher takes lessons and the discrepancies based on the found gaps. The first previous research conducted by Rahman (2016) from UIN Ar-Raniry Darussalam entitled "*The Four Squares Writing Method Implementation in Students' Writing Achievements*" The result is Four Squares Writing Method was improved students writing achievement. The second research was conducted by Saniyah (2018) from IAIN Salatiga with the title "*The Use of Four Squares Method to Improve Students' Writing Skill in Recount Text*" The result of the research could significantly improve students' writing ability in recount text.

Based on the previous study above, most of researchers conducted the research focused on writing ability but there were only few researchers discussed about writing ability specifically in descriptive text. Whereas descriptive is a text which often used by students in daily even in spoken or written. Dealing with this the researcher wants to make the students enjoy in learning writing descriptive text by applying an appropriate method, in this case is Four Squares Writing Method. The researcher wants to know the effectiveness of Four Squares Writing Method toward students writing ability and the researcher focused in descriptive text. So, the title of this research is **“The Effectiveness of Using Four Squares Writing Method Toward Students’ Writing Descriptive Text at Seventh Grade of Fathul Hidayah Junior High School Pangean Lamongan”**.

B. Research Problem

Based on the background of the research above the researcher formulated the research problem as follows:

1. Is there any significant difference between students’ writing descriptive text taught by using and without using Four Squares Writing Method at 7th grade of Junior High School?

C. Purpose of The Research

According to the research problem above, the researcher has some purposes as follows:

1. To find out the significant difference on the students' writing descriptive text taught by using and without using Four Squares Writing Method at 7th grade of Junior High School.

D. Research Hypothesis

In this research, the researcher formulated two kinds of Hypothesis those are:

a. Null Hypothesis (H₀)

There is no significant difference on the students' writing descriptive text taught by using and without using Four Squares Writing Method.

b. Alternative Hypothesis (H_a)

There is significant difference on the students' writing descriptive text taught by using and without using Four Squares Writing Method.

E. Significance of The Study

The research activity conducted for the following needs and researcher hope that the result of the study will give contribution for the reader. Especially:

1. The English Teachers

The researcher hopes that the teachers will use Four Squares Writing Method to teaching writing. Because this method can stimulate and help students to create and arrange the ideas more manageable and better.

2. The researcher

The future researcher can use this research as the supporting source to get an idea or reference to conduct the next research with the related topics. Besides, they also can develop this method to implement in other

language skill or other kinds of text, which can increase the students' competence and attention in learning English.

F. Scope of The Research

In avoiding misunderstanding toward what the researcher has explained, the researcher limits the scope of this research in order to make it detail and focus. The scope and limitation of this research explained below:

1. The research focus on the using of Four Squares Writing Method toward students writing ability in descriptive text.
2. The researcher focused on the 7th grade of Fathul Hidayah Junior High School Pangean.
3. The components of writing that will measured in this research are content, organization, vocabulary, grammar and mechanics.

G. Definition of Key Terms

There are some terms in this research that should explained, as follows:

1. Writing

Writing can be defined as thinking process of expressing ideas into written form. According to Clark (2014) stated that writing is an instrument of thinking that allows students to express their thought and help them to understand and share their ideas or perceptions of the things around them.

2. Descriptive Text

Descriptive text is kind of writing that learned in English language. it used to describe things, people, animal, or etc. based on their smells,

looks, sounds, tastes and other aspects. Nunan (2003) stated descriptive text is a text that describe a particular person, place or thing. Descriptive text differs from other text in terms of its generic structure and language features. It used to describe something using a fact.

3. Four Squares Writing Method

Four Squares Writing Method is a learning method to make teaching and learning process easier and joyful. Robinson et al (2010) stated Four Squares Writing Method offered in teaching writing that leads students organize, compose information and concepts, as well as promote thinking about relationship among concepts before they start to write.