CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides the discussion on the background of the research, research problems, purposes of the research, research hypothesis, scope and limitation of the research, significance of the research, and definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Study

English is a universal language used by many countries in the world, so English is designated as an international language. Knowing that English is an international language, English is a compulsory subject in Indonesia even though it is a foreign language. In general, students learn English in class for twelve years, starting from Elementary School to High School. However, there are many cases where they have not been able to communicate using English. Therefore, English is important to learn and master. Less effective English teaching methods in public schools can have an impact on students' achievement of academic scores in English subjects. This can also be influenced because teachers have not been able to understand students' learning styles so that they can absorb and learn or even communicate using English well and fluently.

Realizing the essential of the role of as a compulsory subject in schools, increasing the academic achievement of English needs serious

attention in order to produce good and satisfying learning achievement for English subjects. Moreover, in this era of globalization, English is not a new or strange thing for all humans. Through English, people can communicate with foreigners in various worlds without any difficulty. Therefore, it is important to learn English especially at school. Not only at school, but also during teaching and learning activities. One of the learning materials in English is "Descriptive Text". By studying Descriptive Text, students can find out a picture or description of something such as humans, animals, plants, objects, places, circumstances around so that readers can feel, see, and experience what is described by the author. Also, allows the reader to imagine. Nowadays, not a few students think that English subjects are boring or even scary. As a result, interest in learning English affects students' English achievement.

Knowing that every human being born into this world is always different from one another such as physical form, traits, lineage, behavior, and other habits. No human being has anything in common with other humans even though they are twins. Likewise, how every human being, in the context of this research is a student in absorbing and understanding learning material. Not only that, every human being must have different abilities. Therefore, they have a different learning styles. With the differences in student learning styles from one student to another, it will also affect their learning achievement. If they are comfortable with their learning style, they will get good and satisfying learning achievements.

Learning style is the way a person feels easy, comfortable, and secure when learning, both in terms of time and senses. The way they process information in learning is also different (Subini: 2011). The factors that influence human learning styles are internal factors and external factors. Internal factors come from humans themselves include talents, interests, study habits, intelligence, learning motivation, physical condition. While external factors are factors that come from outside the individual, for example parental education, relationships between family members, family environment, family economic conditions, learning facilities at home, learning facilities in schools, mass media, and so on.

Learning achievement is known from the results of the mastery of knowledge or skills developed after receiving learning material. It is usually shown by test scores given by teachers to students. Assesment of students' achievement is assessed based on cognitive aspects by showing students' abilities in knowledge, understanding, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Students achievement are evidence of whether or not student learning achievement has improved (Tulus Tu'u, 2004:28).

Writing is one aspect of English skills that students need to master. The reason why the researcher chose writing as the skill being tested is because the characteristics of students who tend to have a visual learning style are that they like to write, like to make storied, good are writing. The results of writing activities are usually presented in the form of texts or readings. There are several types of text: descriptive text, narrative text,

explanation text, exposition text, argument text. In this study, researcher wanted to test students writing skills on descrioptive text. Descriptive text is a reading text that presents a description or depiction of the characteristics of an object whose purpose is to entertain.

SMPN 1 Kalidawir is one of the educational institutions that is committed to advancing education so that it can produce students and alumni who have achievement both academically and non-academicaly. To achieve targeted educational goals, educators and all schools parties need to pay attention and create teaching and learning activities that are conducive and in accordance with the needs of students. Some students have various English achievement scores from mid to final semester exam scores and exercise scores. The diversity of scores is in the form of good, average, or bad. This can be influenced by the different learning styles of students. Poor way of learning is the cause of low student learning results. Many students are actually intelligent but their achievements are not good, on the contrary, less intelligent students are able to achieve achievements, this is simply because their way of learning is not in accordance with their learning style (Slameto: 2010).

Good learning achievement reflect a good and appropriate learning style. The context of this research has actually been studied by previous researchers. However, the researcher here provide a novelty. Previous researchers mostly used research instruments in the form of questionnaires, observations, documentation. However, the researcher here

will use research instruments in the form of questionnaire and test (achievement test). As far as the researcher knows, there has been no previous similar study using the achievement test instrument to determine student learning results. Previous researchers know student learning results through documentation of student report. The researcher here wants to provide a novelty that will provide a questionnaire and will carry out a test (a more complete discussion is in Chapter 3). Also, researcher here are more specific about the learning style that are correlated with students achievement namely visual learning style. Based on theory above, the researcher will conduct the research entitled "The Correlation between Visual Learning Style and English Achievement in Writing Descriptive Text of the Eight Grade Students at SMPN 1 Kalidawir Tulungagung in the Academic Year 2022/2023".

B.   Formulation of Research Problems

Based on the description of the background above, the researcher will formulate the problem in the study which is presented directly into the following questions:

1. What is the learning style of the eight grade students at SMPN 1 Kalidawir Tulungagung in the Academic Year 2022/2023?

2. How is the English achievement in writing descriptive text of the eight grade students at SMPN 1 Kalidawir Tulungagung in the Academic Year 2022/2023?

3. Is there any correlation between visual learning style and English achievement in writing descriptive text of the eight grade students at SMPN 1 Kalidawir Tulungagung in the Academic Year 2022/2023?

C. Purposes of the Study

The purpose of this study in general is to find answers to the formulation of the problems stated above. So, based on the problems formulation above, the purpose of the research as follows:

1. To know the learning style of the eight grade students at SMPN 1 Kalidawir Tulungagung in the Academic Year 2022/2023.

2. To know the English achievement in writing descriptive text of the eight grade students at SMPN 1 Kalidawir Tulungagung in the Academic Year 2022/2023.

3. To find out the correlation between visual learning style and English achievement in writing descriptive text of the eight grade students at SMPN 1 Kalidawir Tulungagung in the Academic Year 2022/2023.

D. Formulation of Hypothesis

Hypothesis are tentative answers to questions obtained from previous studies or theories. There are two hypotheses used in this study, namely as follows:

1. Null Hypothesis (Ho)

There is no correlation between visual learning style and English achievement in Writing Descriptive Text of the eight grade students at SMPN 1 Kalidawir Tulungagung in the Academic Year 2022/2023.

2. Alternative Hypothesis (Ha)

There is a correlation between visual learning style and English achievement in Writing Descriptive Text of the eight grade students at SMPN 1 Kalidawir Tulungagung in the Academic Year 2022/2023.

E.   Scope and Limitation of the Study

This type of study is quantitative research that asks about the relationship between or among variables. This research is conduct at SMPN 1 Kalidawir Tulungagung. The reason for doing research here is the place of the researcher's internship so that the researcher already knows the condition of education and students especially in English subjects. The purpose of this research is to find out the correlation between visual learning style and English achievement in writing descriptive text of the eight grade students.

The study limited this research to only eighth grade students in five classes in the hope that this research would be more focused and detailed. Researcher here provide research limitation that are specific to visual learning style on english achievement in writing descritptive text. Other researchers in the future can conduct research on auditory or kinesthetic

learning styles and their correlation with students achievement or others. And other English skills such as listening, reading, or speaking. In addition, since the researcher conduct research on the type of correlation, which is only limited to knowing the correlation among variables, future researchers can conduct experimental type research where this research can be used as a reference.

F.   Significance of the Study

The results of this research are expected to contribute theoretically and practically.

1.   Theoritically

a.   To increase knowledge and insight in the field of research that can be used as training and developing better techniques, especially in making scientific works and making a real contribution in the field of education.

b.   As a reference in future research related to the same research topic so that it can be further studied.

2.   Practically

a. For researchers, this research is expected to provide insight and understanding of learning styles and their effects on student learning achievement, increase knowledge and experience in writing and compiling scientific papers, as insights to improve teaching skills as competent teachers in the future.

b. For teachers, this research is expected to be a reference for teachers in knowing students learning styles, increase insight and understanding of teachers regarding student learning styles, and as an effort to improve teacher professionalism in teaching.

c. For students, by carrying out this research, the results of the research can later be used as student motivation in learning according to their learning style.

d. For further researchers, this research is expected to be a reference for future researchers who want to raise the context of research related to student learning styles or education in general.

G. Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding, confusion, and ambiguity regarding the concepts in this research topic, the researcher needs to provide explanations and definitions of the key terms used in this research.

1. Correlation

Correlation is an analytical technique which includes measurement of associations or relationships (Jonathan Suwarno, 2011). Correlation is a statistical term that expresses the degree of linear relationship (undirectional not reciprocal) between two or more variables (Wijayanto, 2008). In correlation research, research involves the act of collecting data to determine whether two or more variables have a relationship.

2. Visual Learning style

    Learning style according to Heinich (2016) is a habit shown by individuals in processing information and knowledge and learning a skill. Then, visual learning style is a learning style that tends to describe information in the form om pictures, graphs, and visual symbols (Liew, et.al)

3. Descriptive Text

    Descriptive text according to Mahsun (2014) is a text that has a social purpose to describe an object individually based on its physical characteristics. This is also a writing that describes something that will be expressed by the author so that the reader or listener seem to see for themselves the object that has been discussed even though the reader or listener has not witnessed it themselves.