

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

In the New Normal Era situation with new habits like today, Distance Learning (PJJ) is an option in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic. PJJ is an education system that is most suitable according to the applicable Covid-19 Health Protocol, namely the existence of physical restrictions to prevent transmission of Covid-19. Through PJJ, the teaching and learning process continues without the need for face-to-face meetings. The pattern of implementation of face-to-face learning cannot be carried out temporarily due to social restrictions imposed by the government. Then how the Covid-19 outbreak has brought positive blessings to the role of parents in building children's character through the learning process at home. Aziz (2012) states that the teacher's role is "a combination of the roles of parents, educators, teachers, coaches, caregivers, and assessors". The teacher makes every effort so that class life can run conductively.

On the other hand, teachers are required to continue to practice skills in utilizing technology as a learning medium. This is in line with Pelangi (2020) in his research stating that learning media is a unit in the learning system that cannot be separated. Without learning media, the learning process is impossible, at least there needs to be a medium to convey the teaching material. Learning media is one of the factors that determine the success of the teaching and learning process. This is

supported by Sudjana and Rivai (1992) who argued that one of the benefits of media in the student learning process is that it can foster student learning motivation because teaching will attract their attention more.

Kurikulum Merdeka is the answer to a need for the education system in the era of the industrial revolution 4.0. Nadiem Makarim calls for *merdeka belajar* is freedom of thought without any restrictions on scientific thinking. Dahlia (2021) explains that learning based on independent learning can be the answer for applying technology in Indonesian education. Freedom of thought must start from the teacher. This opinion is supported by the citation of Bell Hooks from Specia and Osmam (2015) which means that educating is a practice of teaching and learning in which a pleasant atmosphere is created for teachers and students. This opinion suggests that in the practice of freedom, both teachers and students are players, and they complement each other and share learning experiences. So that in practice, the teacher as a facilitator is no longer just transferring knowledge but helping students to grow their intellectual and spiritual abilities. In addition, students are not only objects of receiving material, but they are also able to think critically, analyze, think sharply in solving problems and feel unfettered when learning.

Kurikulum Merdeka is a curriculum focuses more on the freedom and accessibility given to schools to carry out educational processes based on the resources they have and refers to the goals and ideals of Education Istaryatiningtias et.al (2021). The final estuary of implementing this

curriculum is for teachers to get maximum results in learning. Bilda and Fadilla (2020) said that the demands that arise along with the implementation of the independent learning curriculum are that teachers must be able to adapt. Teachers as professionals are required to be able to create quality learning, in order to produce output of students who have good morals and have good competitiveness. Teachers must always improve their pedagogic abilities, which the aim that they are able to guide students to have good reasoning. Achieving good reasoning abilities and creative abilities if the teacher be able to provide stimulation that can stimulate students. This illustrates that the teacher has independence in thinking.

In simple terms, project-based learning can be applied to learning that links technology with everyday life problems. The learning model is project-based learning (Project Based Learning Model) Kristanti (2016). The project-based learning model has advantages in increasing learning outcomes and motivation, thereby providing experience to be able to build their own knowledge Baidowi (2015). The advantages of Project Based Learning are as follows: 1) Increases learning motivation. Learning in projects is more fun 2) Improving students' ability to solve problems, the project-based learning environment becomes more active and successful in solving problems. 3) Increase collaboration, because the project can develop and practice communication skills, 4) Improve resource

management skills, because it provides learning and practice in organizing the projects being worked on Titu (2015).

Education is closely related to the learning process, in learning there are components that are closely related to the learning process, namely teachers, students, objectives, methods, materials, learning tools (media), and evaluation. Learning media is anything that can be used to convey messages or information in the teaching and learning process so that it can stimulate students' attention and interest in learning. Candra (2011) Media is the delivery of messages from one person to another, the media is a tool used in learning. However, it is not uncommon to forget the following reasons why the media is often forgotten. The first is that the teacher does not prepare the media, it is difficult to determine which media to use, inadequate costs, and so on. Things like this should no longer exist if the teacher has extensive knowledge about media. Nowadays there are lots of media that can be used and can be adapted to the circumstances that the teacher has.

The rapid development of technology in this globalization era has a good impact on education, especially in the use of learning media. If in the past teachers only used printed books in the learning process, now there are many applications that offer convenience to support the material to be delivered in the learning process, meanwhile the use of Canva application-based media is still a new thing for some teachers. The use of learning media is very influential on student learning outcomes. The use of

appropriate learning media will improve student learning outcomes and vice versa.

Based on the results of the researcher's observations at MTs Baran that in the English subject material "Descriptive Text" the use of Canva as learning media during the learning process has not been optimally applied. In this *Kurikulum Merdeka*, teachers are required to be able to adapt to the digital era, where teachers must be able to use learning media well. However, in reality, not all teachers are able to create or use learning media well. This case occurred at MTs Baran where teachers at the school tend to rarely use learning media, so there are some students who are bored, sleepy, and not enthusiastic about learning and this has a big impact on student learning outcomes. Especially in terms of students' writing skills, students at Mts Badan really lack of motivation and interest in participating in writing sessions, so that often the results of their writing are monotonous and simple. In this case there are several problems encountered including the teacher has not used the right learning media, the student response is low during learning because the teacher is used to teaching with the lecture method without learning media, there are some students who have not reached the national standard score.

Based on the problems above, the use of learning media is still not implemented properly and there are some teachers who only use existing media such as printed books without being replaced by using other learning media. So, this can have an impact on student learning outcomes.

Such conditions are of particular concern to teachers to improve the quality of learning. Thus, the researcher is interested in conducting research on " **USING CANVA AS A STUDENTS' WORKSHEET TO IMPROVE THEIR WRITING SKILL IN DESCRIPTIVE TEXT AT MTs BARAN**".

B. Statement of The Research Problem

Based on the background of the study above, the researcher formulates the question:

1. How can students' writing skill in descriptive text be improved by using Canva?

C. Purpose of The Study

1. To know how can students' writing skill in descriptive text be improved by using Canva?

D. Significance of The Study

- a. For Students

This research is expected to increase students' understanding of English learning material "Descriptive Text".

- b. For Teachers

This research is expected to provide input as a reference in developing the use of instructional media.

- c. For Schools

This research is expected to provide benefits and encourage teachers to use instructional media based on application technology.

d. For Writers

Gain hands-on experience in implementing one of the Canva application learning media.

E. Scope and limitation

This research focuses solely on assessing the impact of implementing Canva on improving writing skills in descriptive texts. The scope is limited to class 8A, utilizing pre-cycle scores provided by the teacher, pre-test and post-test results after using the media. The findings are presented as the average scores of all students.

F. Definition of Keyterm

1. Canva

Canva is a web-based graphic design platform that allows users to create various types of visual content easily and quickly, without requiring professional design skills. Launched in 2013, Canva offers a wide range of ready-to-use templates for purposes such as posters, presentations, infographics, social media, invitations, and more. Users can customize these templates by adding text, images, icons, and other design elements through an intuitive and user-friendly interface. Canva also provides additional features such as team collaboration, cloud-based storage, and access to a rich library of design elements, both free and paid, making it easy for anyone to produce high-quality designs quickly.

2. Classroom Action Research

Classroom Action Research (CAR) is an approach to research conducted by educators in their own classrooms to improve the teaching and learning process. Through CAR, teachers or educational researchers identify specific problems or challenges, design and implement actions to address them, and evaluate the outcomes of these actions. The goal is to continuously enhance the quality of learning and develop more effective teaching practices.

Based on Latif, I., Sari, D., & Riyadi, M. (2017) teachers can identify weaknesses in learning activities through reflective practices. These weaknesses can be addressed by implementing Classroom Action Research (CAR). For effective implementation of learning activities, it is essential that the government, through relevant educational institutions, equips teachers with CAR training to enhance the quality of education.

Action research is an inquiry-based approach that enables practitioners worldwide to investigate and assess their work . CAR, specifically, is a practical research method conducted by teachers to improve the quality of learning and address educational problems in schools. Furthermore, CAR is often required for obtaining professional educator certification and for teacher promotion.

Despite its benefits, teachers frequently experience difficulties in conducting CAR. Many express frustration over the obligation to perform CAR due to a lack of understanding and knowledge about its theoretical

underpinnings. Common issues that contribute to the low level of competence among teachers in preparing CAR proposals include: 1) insufficient competence in CAR methodologies, 2) poor understanding of CAR benefits, 3) inadequate competence in conducting CAR, 4) a limited number of CAR projects completed by teachers, and 5) only a small number of teachers having been promoted in the past three years .

3. Worksheet

A worksheet is a work sheet used as an aid in the processes of learning, planning, or administrative work. In an educational context, a worksheet is typically a sheet of paper or digital file containing tasks, exercises, or questions designed to help students understand and master specific subject matter. Worksheets can include various types of questions such as multiple choice, short answer, essays, and practical activities that stimulate critical thinking and problem-solving skills. In the professional world, worksheets are often used in spreadsheet programs like Microsoft Excel or Google Sheets to organize, analyze, and display data systematically, aiding in decision-making and completing administrative tasks.

4. Writing skill

Writing skills refer to a person's ability to organize and convey ideas, thoughts, or information in writing in a clear, structured, and effective manner. This ability encompasses several important aspects, such as grammar, vocabulary, spelling, punctuation, as well as cohesion and

coherence in composing paragraphs and longer texts. Additionally, writing skills include the ability to adapt writing style and format according to the communication goals and the intended audience. Mastery of writing skills is crucial in various contexts, whether academic, professional, or personal, as it is one of the primary means of communicating and conveying messages in writing.

5. Descriptive Text

A descriptive text is a type of writing that aims to depict or explain an object, place, person, or event in detail so that the reader can visualize or feel what is being described. This type of text uses vivid and concrete language to provide a clear and detailed picture of the subject, including its physical characteristics, properties, functions, and qualities. Writers of descriptive texts often employ the five senses—such as sight, hearing, smell, touch, and taste—to enhance descriptions and make them more vivid and engaging for readers. Consequently, descriptive texts help readers gain a deeper and more imaginative understanding of the subject being explained.