

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents an overview of this study. This chapter consists of seven sections, which are, background of the study, research question, research objective, significance of the study, scope and limitation, hypothesis and definitions of the key terms.

A. Background of the Study

English is an international language which has been used by countries all over the world. It is used in trade, science, business, politics, education and more. In Indonesia, English as foreign language and one of the compulsory subjects at school, for levels Elementary School, Junior High School, Senior High School, and college. In this era of globalization, writing becomes a means and crucial part of communication that is most used to interact and share information in English language with many people around the world for any purposes, besides speaking.

In Indonesia, English is a foreign language learnt in formal and non formal institution by students and people. There are four skills that should be mastered namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing. As Gunn and Terasaki (1982:01) claim that writing is a useful, effective, enjoyable, and above all necessary component of the modern world. It provides the pleasure of sending a personal message to a friend. It assumes career and financial importance in the composition of a resume or a business letter.

The main purpose of writing itself is to make the writer creates or expresses ideas into a written form on paper to give information to the reader. It is similar with the purpose of communication. That is, to deliver information from sender to receiver, like speaker to listener and writer to reader. In writing, when the reader can understand the meaning that consists of the words and sentences, it means that communication has occurred and got success. Therefore, writing is also called as a written communication. Meanwhile, for junior high school students, writing is not only an important written communication, but also an important language skill that must be learnt in the school. They have to be able to write English well and master it in order to help them in their junior high school grades, academic, applying scholarship, job applications, and career futures. Therefore, writing is very necessary for their educational, social, and professional field.

Moreover, it can also show someone's ability in critical thinking by developing and performing ideas, so people can measure him/her intelligence through the variety ways of both creative and analytical in writing. But for children, especially for junior high school students, most of them think that it is difficult to develop and perform their ideas through writing. For this reason, it often becomes the cause why they cannot write anything on paper.

However, writing is not an easy matter for young learners, including junior high school students. They are usually nervous and panic when they are asked by the teacher to write some paragraphs in English. Most of them have limited vocabularies, especially new vocabularies, diction, and idiom. Then, they fear to

write it, because doubtful with the punctuation. In addition, they also have difficulties in grammar. They are still confused how to write sentences grammatically. Nonetheless, it does not mean that writing emphasizes the use of correct grammar and vocabulary, but it concerns to how the students can write freely based on their ability and knowledge. It means that students' writing problems can be caused by other factors. That is, lack of self confidence and lazy to write because of having low motivation.

By adjusting the learning competencies in writing subject, one of the methods that can be used is by teaching narrative text. Narrative is chosen because based on Hedge's assumption that narratives are often recommended for writing because the organization of ideas is easier than in other types of discourse. The narrative follows a chronological sequence. It is therefore a useful way of encouraging students, especially at school, who need to practice writing. Nevertheless, practicing students' writing ability by teaching narrative text is not a simple thing to do. In fact, most of students are difficult to compose the story into some paragraphs with the chronological sequences. They always get confused and stuck for the next story idea after writing the first paragraph as the opening of story. To solve the students' writing problem and make them become good writers, the teacher should have varying ideas about the role of writing and how to develop narrative writing becomes an interesting activity in the classroom.

Narrative writing can be fun, if the teacher can make it turn into a creative writing assignment for the students by using appropriate media. Regarding to this, the media that can be used is a comic strip. Most students like comic strip,

because it consists of interesting pictures and stories. They can easy to understand it. Pictures in the comic strips can help the students to visualize and construct story ideas to be written, so narrative writing activity will be easy. Furthermore, it can be combined to this narrative writing activity.

In this case, however in the school, the students are demanded to be able to write effectively and pay attention to the significant parts of it, as Hedge (1988:05) mentions that, an effective writing is requiring a number of things: a high degree of organization in the development of ideas and information; a high degree of accuracy so that there is no ambiguity of meaning; the use of complex grammatical devices for focus and emphasis; and a careful choice of vocabulary, grammatical patterns, and sentence structures to create a style which is appropriate to the subject matter and the eventual readers.

As a facilitator, a teacher has an important role in developing students written language in a classroom. The teacher should give a chance and encouragement to the students to explore their own think. The teacher should encourage students to bring their ideas and background of knowledge into the class learning activities where they will be free to express their own idea without fear. The problems above need to cope with in order to students master in writing. By creating fun and attractive classroom students will be more active in practicing English in written and wake the students' spirit in studying English.

Teaching English by using comic strip is one of the interesting which can help students to stimulate their ability in English. According to Valdez (2016:

579) Comic strips are great for contextualizing a grammar topic. Any teacher can make the students' academic learning an experience of wonderful encounters. Introducing vocabulary, language focus forms and other concepts could be more encouraging to students using materials that are not common to them. Moreover, the comic strips can trigger anyone's mind to provoking thoughts, to provide patterns of correct sentences, to offer vocabulary to current trends and fads and to show the differences of the actuations between men and women in conversation.

Comic strip conversations in identifying what people say and do emphasize what people might be thinking, allow basic conversational skills to be represented through comic. It enables the speaker to be on perspective of a situation. Comic strip conversations are a tool designed to improve understanding and social skills.

Just as teaching and learning process in the classroom, according to my observation, usually students are asked to tell about something or to give idea without any tool like picture or real thing that can help the students to do that, so that students are confused what they have to write. Under the circumstances in teaching English subject, teachers have to make concepts or techniques, and choose which one of the techniques is suitable with the students along with creativity in using it.

Some teachers teach English with many techniques but without media it will be less interesting because of media are endorser of the teaching and learning process in the classroom. Teaching learning process especially English has the

purpose to make the students able to write a good narrative text. One of the interesting methods in writing is comic strip. Comic strip can increase the students senses and make them imagine what they see, analyzed them in thought then explained and expressed the picture in written.

By using comic strip in learning writing, it could be the interesting instrument for the students because they would not get bored, they would enjoy studying English well, they could be easier to improve their writing. Comics are often neglected, whereas they are enjoyable. It is necessary for the teacher in Junior High School to use comic strip as the media in teaching learning process to improve the students' ability. Based on reasons above, the researcher is interested to conduct a research entitled "*THE EFFECTIVENESS OF TEACHING USING COMIC STRIP ON WRITING ACHIEVEMENT OF GRADE VII OF AL AZHAAR ISLAMIC JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL*".

B. Research Problems

Is there any significant difference between students who are taught writing before using comic strips and students who are taught writing after using comic strips?

C. Objective of the Research

Based on the problem above, the objective of the research is to know the effectiveness of using comic strip in teaching writing the first grade students of Al Azhaar Islamic Junior High School. The objectives of research can be stated to know the effectiveness of using comic strip on the students' writing achievement.

D. Significance of the Research

- English teacher

The result of this study can be used by the teachers as a reference and a feedback for the effectiveness in teaching writing. This research could give new information to the teacher that teaching writing needs special treatment. The teacher can be more creative by giving different media to their students for teaching writing.

- Students

The result of this study can give more motivation in learning and consequently they are interested in the activity in writing. This research could give students new spirit to learn English with fun. By doing this research, students can be more confident to deliver their idea about the material they learn.

- Other researcher

The research of the study can be used as a reference for other researcher conduct a further research dealing with teaching media used in the classroom through a comic strip in teaching writing. The following researcher is also able to complete their research. Because, this research is still need improvement in some part of the research.

E. Research Hypothesis

The hypothesis of this research are:

- a. Alternative hypothesis (H_a): there is significant difference between students who teach writing before using comic strip and students who teach writing after using comic strip
- b. Null hypothesis (H_o): there is no significant difference between students who teach writing before using comic strip and students who teach writing after using comic strip

F. Scope and Limitation of the Research

Based on the identification of the problems above, there were some problems found during the practice of teaching and learning process. In this research study, the researcher employed the approach of Quantitative Research. The researcher focused on the effectiveness of comic strip in VII grader in Al Azhaar Islamic Junior High School Tulungagung . I choose this school, because this school has many achievements in English. Teaching writing process which was conducted in the field collaboratively. Comic strips were expected to be able to overcome the problems and to help the students to improve their writing achievement. They are valuable resources as they provide a shared experience in the classroom, a need for common language forms to use in the classroom, a variety of tasks, and a focus of interest for students. The researcher also expected that the students would like write through comic strips.

G. Definitions of Key Terms

- **Comic**

McCloud (1993:9) defines comic as juxtaposed pictorial and other images in deliberate sequence, intended to convey information and/or to produce an aesthetic response in the viewer. To juxtapose means to place two things side by side, so from the definition just mentioned, comic at least consists of two panels. In this sense, single panel illustration is not considered as comic but cartoon.

- **Comic strip**

A comic strip is a sequence of drawing arranged in interrelated panels to display brief humor or form a narrative, often serialized, with text in balloons and captions.

- **Panel**

Panel is a square which consist of a situation or a picture part of the story of comic strip.