

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

Education is the process of increasing a person's knowledge, skills, and expertise through teaching or training. In other words, education is a teaching and learning process that aims to acquire or increase knowledge and skills. Education is an extremely crucial aspect of everyday life for individuals. Its main aim is to educate, develop one's personal potential or skills, and provide knowledge.

In this era of globalization, education doesn't only focus on teaching how to read, write and count. It also emphasizes mastering a foreign language, particularly English. English is recognized as the international language for communicating in all corners of the world in this fast-developing era. In Indonesia, English has been a part of the education curriculum since 1945 and is the first foreign language taught in schools. Students learn English from elementary school to college.

The objective of this research is to assess the writing capabilities of students, specifically in writing descriptive texts. Writing is a crucial aspect of expressing one's ideas in written form while learning English. However, many students struggle with writing proper sentences, and some cannot even write simple ones.

In teaching writing, the main goal is to assist students in expressing their thoughts and ideas creatively. One crucial aspect of academic writing that students must comprehend is descriptive text. This writing form helps students develop their understanding of the generic structure, language features, vocabulary, and mechanisms required for effective writing. By mastering descriptive text, students can grasp the purpose and function of writing descriptive text.

Writing is one of English language skills to express or to transfer thoughts and feelings. According to Ade Dwi Jayanti (2019), writing is one of the English skills that students must learn. Writing can be said to be a language skill that is used to communicate indirectly, both with humans cannot meet each other face to face, or in other words communicate through writing. It is important for language students

to learn writing to effectively communicate in written form. In junior high school, students learn different text types, including descriptive text.

A paragraph achieves coherence when the sentences proceed in a sequence that supports one point at a time. For example, when a student wants to describe about her friends, then she should have background knowledge about the characteristics of her friend, such as what color is her friend's hair like? Is her friend's hair long or short hair?, what is the color of her friend's skin?, etc.

One way that can be used to find out students knowledge about English is by analyzing the students' text or writing. Analyzing students text is very important to do because it can help English teacher to find out the students' ability and difficulties in writing. Further, Emilia (2005) stated that research about analyzing students text is very important to do because by knowing the students difficulties, it can lead the teacher to help solve the students problems.

Research about students' ability and difficulties is important to do to help both teachers and students. However, in Indonesia, there are few studies on students' proficiency and challenges in writing different types of text, especially descriptive writing. Therefore, this research aims to investigate students' writing abilities and difficulties, with a specific focus on descriptive writing.

Based on the information provided above, the purpose of this research is to analyze the ability and difficulties of eighth-grade students in writing descriptive texts. The study aims to provide contributions to language learning both theoretically and practically. The theoretical contribution of this research is to provide an accurate representation of the ability and difficulties of Indonesian students in writing descriptive texts. On the other hand, the practical contribution is to provide essential information about the students' difficulties so that they can improve their writing skills. Moreover, English teachers can use the information from this research to address the challenges faced by their students.

1.2 Identification of Problem

Based on the background of study above, the research problem are formulated a research question. The research question is:

1. How are the students' ability in writing descriptive text?
2. What are the difficulties faced by the students in writing descriptive text?

1.3 The Objective of The Study

The objective of the study is that the researcher wants to analyze students ability and what is the difficulties faced by the students in writing especially in writing Descriptive Text.

1.4 The Significance of The Study

After the researcher finished this study, the researcher hopes that the result can be useful to the teaching and learning process at school, especially in writing.

1.5 Benefits of Research

The benefits of research are:

1. For the students : By knowing their problem, the students can improve their writing and they can make an effective and good text.
2. As input for teacher to find out what causes students lack of ability in writing texts, especially writing descriptive text and the English teacher can help the students to solve the difficulties the students face.
3. To researcher : To investigate the reasons behind students' difficulties in writing descriptive text.

1.6 Scope of The Research

The scopes of this research is analyzing writing descriptive text. This study has limited on the analysis of students skill writing. This study has a purpose to find how is the students ability in writing descriptive text at grade VIII.