

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of Study

English is an international language that is mostly used in all countries around the world. It is used in almost every aspect of life, such as in science, technology, business, politic, education, tourism, entertainment and international relationship. In Indonesia, English itself has been taught from the elementary school level up to the university level. And even now, it has been taught in kindergarten school level as well.

In teaching and learning process of English subject, students are taught the four skills, namely; listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Writing is one of the important skills in English because it takes a part as an important communication tools. Through writing, everyone is not only able to express feeling and ideas but also to communicate with others and have remembering fact and ideas into writing form.

According to Ariyanti (2010:91), writing is an important skill in taking, retaining, and expressing information. In addition, “writing is an important part of language teaching as it also functions as an essential tool for learning in which students improve their knowledge of the language elements in real use” (Taselin, 2010:104). From the explanation, writing is an important skill to be learned by the students because it has important roles in the learning activities.

Based on the syllabus of curriculum in Junior High School, student are required to be able to write various types of genres. They are narrative, recount,

descriptive, report, explanation, hortatory exposition, procedure, discussion, review, anecdote, spoof, news item.

Descriptive text is a type of writing which has the meaningful linguistic unit to describe a person, thing, and places by using vivid details. Descriptive text is concerned with creating a verbal of what we experience.

Although, most students have learned Writing English from primary school up to Senior High school, most of them cannot write well. Based on the data during the Teaching Practice program (PPL) and based on the data from interviewing the English teacher of SMP Negeri 1 Salapian, it is found that the students have a problem in writing. The students cannot write descriptive text. In order to solve this problem, we needed some creative strategy to make the teaching writing more effective and interesting.

There are many ways to make teaching writing more effective and interesting and help students write descriptive text well. One of the ways that can be used is media. Media is a tool of teaching in the learning process. It can support the teaching learning process because it is an instrument that can affect the condition of the teaching learning process. In a writing activity, the students must be able to write some text. It is descriptive text.

According to Leksono (2009:80), descriptive text is fun and it makes students' writing more interesting to readers because the students use their words to help readers "see" or to visualize people, places, or things. It means that by using descriptive text, the readers can create their own pictures of what those are written. Writing a descriptive text needs more attention because the students have to know the things that will be described in detail. Because of that reason, the teachers must use the variety and useful strategies to make students write well in

descriptive text. One of ways which can be considered in writing descriptive text is by using realia as media in learning activities.

Using media in learning activities is very important for teachers. The benefit of using media is media helps to enhance the quality in learning. Using media can support the teachers' materials. Well-designed material takes the wisdom of different accepted learning theorist into account which results in active and effective learning (Kumar, 1998:7). As a result, media is an integral part of the learning activities in order to achieve educational goals.

In teaching and learning process, realia has meaningful because realia brings authentic piece of the target culture into the language classroom. By presenting material through diverse media , realia helps to make English language input comprehensible as possible and to build an assosiative bridge between the classroom and the world. Realia is not only series of artifacts that discribe the costumes traditions of a culture, but they are also a set of teaching aids facilitate the simulation of experience in target culture. It is mean that, realia can be used to meet the student's interest and their level of capability. The word realia means using real items found in the world around us as an aid to teaching English. Using realia, helps to make English lessons memorable, it creates a link between the objects, and the word or phrase they show.

Thus 'Realia' in EFL terms refers to any real objects we use in the classroom to bring the class to life. In this tip the researcher would like to offer a few suggestions for activities using realia and to consider why we may want to bring things into the class. Students understand and retain the meaning of a word better when they have seen or have touched some object associated with an activity using real objects.

B. The Problem of the Study

Based on the background of the study, the problem of the study is formulated as follows :

“Does the use realia significantly improve the students’ achievement in writing descriptive text ?”

C. The Object of the Study

The objective of this study is to investigate whether is a significant improvement in their achievement if the students were taught descriptive text by using realia?

D. The Scope of the Study

The scope of the study is limited on describing object and realia about fruit in descriptive text.

E. The Significances of the study

The findings of this research are expected to be useful for

1. English teachers to use realia in their writing class to improve the students’ writing achievement,
2. English learners to enlarge their knowledge to write descriptive text by using realia, and
3. the readers who want to conduct the same researcher.