

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

Writing is one of important skill in English. People can build a good communication by sharing information, feelings, stories and opinions through writing. Brown (2001:337) states writing is a thinking process. Furthermore, he states that writing can be planned and given with an unlimited number of revisions before its release. Nunan (2003:38) defines that the main purpose of writing is to make the writer creates or expresses ideas into a written form to give information to the reader and it is the same as the purpose of communication. Thus, it is stated that writing is a thinking process of discovering ideas then written on the paper. Through writing, the students will be able to convey feelings, ideas, minds to others and improve the critical thinking.

In junior high school, the students should master in writing skill because many activities in writing some genres of text, such as descriptive , recount, procedures,narrative text, etc. One of the genres that grade eight students learned is descriptive text. Descriptive text is a text that describe or illustrate, or to picture object, person or idea so that the reader can see the object, or person, or idea by his/her eyes physically (Dirgeyasa,2016:56). The purpose of descriptive text is to describe and reveal a particular person, place, animal, or thing.

Based on the researcher's primary observation in MTsN 3 Medan, the students had difficulties in learning English especially writing. English teacher in MTsN 3 Medan said that many students faced some problems in writing descriptive text. It can be proved from the transcript of interview with the English teacher in MTsN 3 Medan:

- “Some students faced the difficulty in choosing the best words and arranging it to make a good sentence. The limited vocabularies make students are not able to make a sentence like *“I go to school”* which that simple”.

The students' problem was limited vocabularies. The students found it was hard to express their ideas and thought using the best words. They felt confused to start writing a text because they did not have enough vocabulary to writing a text. Some students was too lazy to open the dictionary and did not bring a dictionary so it was hard for them to write a text.

- “Students also faced the difficulty in understanding grammar like using the tenses incorrectly, for example *“I plays...: & “She go...”* even it is the must basic one.

In addition the students' problem was the lack understanding of tenses and sentence structure. The students were not able to make a text in correct sentences. Sometimes, they even could not make a simple sentences correctly. They had some mistakes in using grammar. They had difficulties in arranging the words into a good sentences, they were

confused in making the sentence into the form of present tense. Some of students felt worried in writing a text because they did not master the grammar.

- “Students are not interested and familiar with the given topic so they are too lazy to write the text. For example the topic is about “Eiffel Tower”, they are difficult to describe because they never see it directly so they even can not imagine to write anything”

Furthermore, the students’ problem was the topic of materials, some students were not interested and familiar with the existing materials. Students had difficulty in writing descriptive text because the topics were not familiar with their daily life. Students would be easier to write the text if they had experience and had seen about the topics directly. They were less motivated in writing because of the topics. So, the students needed the additional materials to stimulate their interest in writing a text.

Therefore, the teachers must find ways to overcome the problems.

One of the ways to solve the problem was develop the appropriate materials in teaching writing. Materials was very important to improve students’ writing ability. The English teachers needed to facilitate the students by providing appropriate writing materials, so that the learning goals could be achieved. The use of inappropriate writing materials caused bad effects toward the teaching learning process. Some of students were less motivated to learn English. Good writing materials should provide students’ needs and

interest. The good quality of writing materials would give a positive impact to the success of the teaching learning process.

In this study, the researcher purpose to develop writing materials based on local cultural content. Mesthrie (2009:28) said that culture as ‘the way of life of its members; the collection of ideas and habits which they learn, share and transmit from generation to generation’. Culture in this sense is a ‘design for living’, which defines appropriate or acceptable ways and forms of behavior within particular societies. The appreciation of culture is already being part of the expectation along with other competencies. The considerations of involving culture in the educational process are because it contains moral value and close to students life in the society (Utami,2014). So, inserting local cultural content in teaching materials is expected to encourage and stimulate the students in learning English.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher will develop writing materials based on students’ needs by inserting local cultural content of North Sumatra especially Bataknese culture that the students familiar with. The writing materials focus on descriptive text. The researcher will develop writing materials related to Bataknese Culture, which is Bataknese traditional clothes, Bataknese traditional foods and famous local tourism objects. The writing materials based on local cultural content is expected to be a good materials in improving the students’ writing ability.

B. The Problem of the Study

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

“How is the writing materials based on local cultural content on descriptive text for grade VIII in MTsN 3 Medan developed?”

C. The Objective Study of the Study

Based on the formulation related to the problems above, the objectives of the study is:

“To develop students’ materials in writing skill for grade VIII based on local cultural content on descriptive text that suitable for students’ need in MTsN 3 Medan .

D. The Scope of the Study

In this study, the researcher focuses on developing writing materials based on local cultural content on descriptive text for students of grade VIII at MTsN 3 Medan. This material will develop based on the need analysis of the learners which will motivate them to study.

E. The Significances of the Study

This study is expected to give significant contribution theoretically and practically, as follows:

1. Theoretically

- a. This research increases knowledge about how to develop the appropriate writing materials for grade VIII students of MTsN 3 Medan based on local cultural content.

2. Practically:

- a. The English teacher can select the appropriate writing materials which is most suitable in teaching learning process, so that the students are better in writing skill.
- b. The students can improve their writing skills to increase information and knowledge.
- c. This research will give the other researchers the additional information that can be useful for a references.

