CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

Writing is a basic language skill that becomes the complex skill to master for the learners. As we know that writing is a productive skill that involves the way to generate and organize the ideas in written form. People need to learn English writing because it is a process of transforming thought and ideas into written language. Harmenita and Yuli (2013) also stated that writing is one of the language skills that must be mastered by English learners. They have to able to express their thoughts in writing to develop their ideas, and make readers interest when their writing read. Through writing, they can also transfer information and knowledge to others. In other words, writing can be said as a mean of communication between the writer and the reader.

In fact, in Indonesia students' writing skill in English language is very low. It is found that most of Indonesian students are still difficult in comprehending the text. The results of research Program for International Student Assessment (2010) shows that Indonesian students just got the 39th rank from 42 surveyed countries in Asia, slightly above Albania and Peru. It shows us that writing skill is still a problem for Indonesian students.

SMA An-Nizam Medan has Minimum Mastery Criteria (MMC) of English subject is 70. From the KKM above, the score is very high for many schools.

Because we found that student has difficult to write a text well based on the genre.

It can be shown from the mean of student's writing ability in the table below.

Table 1.1 The mean of students' ability in writing taken from second grade of SMA An-Nizam Medan

Semester	Means of students' ability in language skill			
	Reading	Speaking	Listening	Writing
I	65	64	63	65
II	68	68	65	69

From the fact above, it supported the researcher to do an interview and observation at SMA An-Nizam Medan.

According to Salam (2011), many problems faced by the teachers and the students in learning writing. The problem is limited vocabularies, diffilculty in organizing ideas, no ideas to write about, no motivation to write and lack of confidence in grammar. Students might take much time to write down their ideas. Teachers also need to give full attention to their students to show them how to plan a piece of writing through prewriting, drafting, and revising activities. Then, some teachers still use thetraditional method or technique and just give explanation and exercises to their students. So it makes students less comprehended, less interest in writing, and makes students bored. The effect can be seen in English writing score, it is regarded as a main problem in many school.

During teaching practice (PPL),the researcher also found that the students face the same problem in writing proficiency as the factors mentioned above. In this study the researcher choose hortatory exposition text as the students' genre problem in writing activity. This argumentative essay requires the students to have

a critical thinking, scientific ideas, and argumentative expression. By interviewing some English teachers during teaching practice (PPL), a lot of students think that it is a difficult writing assignment they have. They spend a lot of time focusing only on how to start writing. This factor may come from the students' experience about hortatory exposition text is still low and it is a new thing for them. From that case, both the teachers and the students need a significant way of teaching and learning in order to improve student achievement in writing.

In the teaching-learning process, there are many ways that can help the teacher to solve the students' difficulties in writing by using technique and strategy. Considering the facts above, the researcher chooses to conduct this study by using clustering. Dietsch (2003:26) state that clustering is kind of prewriting activity that enrich idea before students startwriting. Clustering produces an overview of a subject, suggests specific topics, and yields related details. At the beginning of writing activity, students have to find out the idea what they want to write about. According to Rico (2000: 38) Clustering, the basic technique of natural writing, can be used to generate ideas for writing of any form : essays, poems, short stories, business reports, song lyrics, even novels.

Based on definition above, the researcher summarizes that clustering is making visual map to produce a topic related to each other. Clustering technique will stimulus students' ideas and also they can make a good paragraph in every types of writing. In addition, the use of appropriate technique can solve the problems occurring in writing class and clustering technique gives a contribution for both teachers and students in improving the ability.

In line with the explanation above, the researcher isinterested in conducting a research on "Improving Students' Achievement in Writing Hortatory Exposition Text by Applying Clustering Technique".

B. The Problem of the Study

In the relation to the background of the study, the research addresses the following problem:

"Is there any improvement of student's achievement in writing a hortatory text by applying clustering technique?"

C. The Objective of the Study

Clustering is kind of prewriting activity that enrich idea before students start writing. Its helps the students to produce an overview of a subject, suggests specific topics, and yields related details. Based on the question formulated in the problem of this study, the objective of the study is aimed to find out the improvement of student's achievement in writing hortatory exposition text by applying clustering technique.

D. The Scope of the Study

The scope of this study is limited to investigate the student's writing ability of IX IPA students of SMA An-Nizam Medan in writing hortatory exposition text by applying clustering technique.

E. Significance of the Study

The result of the study is expected to give some benefits theoretically and practically:

1. Theoretically, the result of this study is expected to enrich the literature of the teaching learning process and to give a better understanding. In addition, the result can be used as a references for further study.

2. Practically, the result of this study are expected to give benefit for the teachers, researchers, students, and institution.

   a) For teachers, the result of this study will be directly intended to provide them with more understanding of the effectiveness of teaching writing by applying clustering.

   b) For researchers, the result of this study is used as a reference in conducting further research/study for obtaining better result.

   c) For students, the result of this study can be used to encourage and stimulate them in improving their writing ability.

   d) For institution, it can be used to develop the teaching learning technique for increasing motivation in further.