

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

Language is a medium of communication. According to Clark and Clark (1997:7), language is fundamental and instrument of communication. In communicating, human being use language to communicate or to interact to each other. English is one of languages in the world and it is internationally used. This is the reason why every country takes English as one of courses for students. English has been included in school curriculum and university level to be taught to the student.

In learning English, there are four basic language skills that must be well mastered by the students, namely speaking, reading, listening, and writing. Writing is the skill in transferring information by using written language to express the ideas, opinions, experiences, etc. Reading is a process of interpreting information to what they read. Listening means to give attention with the ears; attend closely by hearing to the speaker. Speaking is the act, utterance, or discourse of a person who speaks to the listener.

In general, writing is complex and difficult among the language skills. It is a must for the language learners to master writing skill. Without having good knowledge in writing, it is so difficult to be able to convey the ideas to the readers. That is why writing is one of important things that must be taught to students.

In addition, writing has many kinds of text genre such as narrative, descriptive, recount, report, and procedure. According to Educational Unit Curriculum in Junior High School, the students are expected to be able to understand and write procedure, descriptive, narrative, and report text.

In this study, the researcher only deals with writing descriptive that purposed to describe thing, person, or place, so the reader can imagine what the researcher wrote. Descriptive text is a type of writing which has the meaningful linguistic unit to describe something by using vivid details. Descriptive text is concerned with creating a verbal realia of what we experience but it does not always have to rely on sense impressions.

Based on data during interviewing the English teacher at SMP SWASTA YAPENDAK TINJOWAN, there are some problems in teaching English. The most problem is writing. Many students cannot write good text especially in descriptive text. Almost 76 % students got the score under the Minimum Criteria Mastery (KKM). The KKM that applied for the subject in that school is 75. Most of them got lower score in writing. The students were not able to write and did not pay attention on the writing task. They do not know how to recognize their ideas in writing. They frequently being confused of what to write and how to start. For the students, writing is difficult because it is complex subject that involves organization of thought, the usage of English language and imagination. This condition affect the students' achievement in writing descriptive text. In order to solve this problem, it is needed some creative and engaged strategy to make the teaching writing more effective and interesting .

The failure of the students in writing is likely to happen because of the media used by the teacher during teaching and learning process take place. During teaching and learning process, teacher just explain the materials without giving an interesting media so the students cannot enjoy the lessons and make the students difficult to understand the materials. The teacher should not just explain the subject or materials and force the students to memorize or do their activities because it can make the students are not interesting in their lessons.

So, based on the explanation in advance, the researcher tries to give media that may help the students elaborate their ideas in writing. The media is needed in teaching writing especially in writing descriptive text. The media as the tool helps both teacher and students in conducting learning process. It can support teaching learning process because it is an instrument that can affect condition of teaching learning process. The teacher will get easier to describe the materials and the students will be interested in learning.

Media can play several roles in education process, (Kariman, 1991:10) In classroom, media serve as a source of pupil motivation, and expressions when the learners produce materials for being used in classroom. There are many kinds of media, one of them is Realia that is interesting in helping student in teaching.

Realia has meaningful because realia brings an authentic piece of the target culture into the language classroom. According to Heaton (1979), by presenting material through diverse media, realia helps to make English language input comprehensible as possible and to build an associative bridge between the classroom and the world. Realia is not only a series of artifacts that describes

they costumes and traditions of a culture, but they are also a set of teaching aids that facilitate the stimulation of experience in target culture. In other words, realia can be used to meet the students' interest and their level of capability.

Harefa (2011) used this media to find out the improving of students' achievement in writing descriptive text. He proved that realia can significantly affect the student's achievement in writing descriptive and improve they skill in writing and also knowledge of vocabulary.

Realia provides language learners with multi – sensory impression of the language. The students can learn by seeing, hearing, touching and manipulating items. By using realia, students can solve their problem in expressing ideas, opinion through writing.

B. The Problem of Study

Based on the background of the study, the problem is formulated as follows:
“ Is the students' achievement in writing descriptive text is significantly affected by using realia?”

C. The Objective of the Study

In line with the research problem, this study is aimed at finding out the effect of using Realia to improve the students' achievement in writing descriptive text.

D. The scope of the Study

In conducting this research, the researcher focuses the study on the effectiveness and the efficiency of using realia to improve the students' writing achievement mainly writing descriptive text.

E. The significance 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 develop their knowledge in teaching writing skill by using the media of realia.
3. The readers who want to conduct the same research.