

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

Language is a system of communication that enables humans to cooperate. It is a tool to communicate between people to express their personal reactions to situations, to share their ideas and knowledge, etc. According to Harmer (2001:12), language is the description of the ways in which words can be used to express the thoughts.

English is a West Germanic language that was first spoken in England and is now the most widely used language in the world. It is used by many people all over the world to communicate among nations either in spoken and written interaction. Consequently, people as human resources are demanded to have an ability to communicate in that language. The government has determined to put English as a subject matter in school. It is taught from elementary level up to university level.

There are four skills that should be achieved in learning English; listening, speaking, reading and writing. But to acquire those skills, especially the writing skill, the elements of writing must be understood.

Writing is one of the most powerful communication tools. It is a process of communication which uses conventional system to convey the meaning of receiver. Writing is a challenging process that requires a wide range of skills. Among them are clear thinking, imagination, and the ability to organize ideas (Levey et al: 1993:R2).

According to Lado (1969:249), writing is one of the most important skills in learning language beside listening, reading and speaking. Brown (2001:335) states that written products are often the result of thinking, drafting and revising procedures that require specialized skills.

Based on the writer experience in Teaching Experience (PPL), there were many students got difficulties in writing, especially in writing descriptive text. The difficulties are faced by students in writing process are: limited vocabularies, limited knowledge about grammar, didn't know the generic structure and language features that used, etc.

It was happened because the technique that the teacher applied in teaching writing text was not good. The teacher asked the students to write a descriptive text based on the title given without telling them the rules of writing descriptive text.

Descriptive text is a text describes someone or something. Media, as a tool to store and deliver information or data is a way to make students achieve the goal of learning purpose in writing descriptive text.

In this case, movie poster is a right media to be used. A movie poster is a poster used to advertise a film (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Film_Poster, accessed on March 1st 2013). Movie posters are prominently displayed on billboards, inside and on the outside of movie theaters, in DVD and VCD shop, in magazines, in the internet, etc.

A movie poster contains the physical appearances, expression and setting/situation in a package. Those components make a movie poster become a

perfect media for students to develop their ability in writing descriptive text. It is easy to find it everywhere and by seeing it directly, students will describe the pictures in a movie poster clearly.

A research by using movie posters by Tengku Nova Mulyana in SMAN 1 Galang academic year 2011/2012 found that from 36 first grade students, there were 34 students (94,44) achieved score 70 and above in test III (cycle II) in writing descriptive text. It can be concluded that by analyzing movie posters, the students will give more attention to the subject to develop their descriptive ability. Finally, it will improve their achievement in writing descriptive text.

B. The Problem of the Study

Based on the background of the study, the problem of this study is formulated as follows: “Is the students’ achievement in writing descriptive text improved when they are taught by using movie posters?”

C. The Objective of the Study

The objective of this study is to find out the improvement of students ability in writing descriptive text by using movie posters.

D. The Scope of the Study

The scope of this study is limited on the improvement of students’ achievement in class X of YP SMA SWASTA UTAMA MEDAN in writing descriptive text by using movie posters.

E. The Significance of the Study

The results of this study are expected to be useful for:

1. English teachers who want to increase the quality of teaching and learning descriptive text.
2. Students who want to enlarge their knowledge and improve their writing skill in descriptive text.
3. Researchers who are interested in applying the related research media.

