

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

English is a global language which is used by people in the world. It is used in all activities as a formal language. Taking part in the activities, Indonesian people must have a good competence in using English, because it can achieve many opportunities to our country. English is the first foreign language in Indonesia, so it is important to be taught to Junior High School as a compulsory subject. It has been developing the students' communication ability in English, which includes listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Writing as a part of learning English is very difficult because writing depends on grammar, vocabulary, and punctuation as well as rules for forming words and making sentences. Writing for Junior High School students of the first grade consists of writing descriptive, narrative, and recount texts. The students have to be able to understand and produce a descriptive text based on the social function and generic structure of the text.

According Harmer (2004:31) states that writing as one of the four skills has always formed part of the syllabus in the teaching of English. However, it can be used for a variety of purposes ranging from being merely a backup for grammar teaching to a major syllabus strand in its own right where mastering the ability to write effectively is seen as a key objective for learners. The importance given to write differs from teaching situation to teaching situation. In some cases it shares equal value with the other skills. In other curricula it is only used, if at all, in its writing for learner role where students write predominantly to augment their learning of the grammar and vocabulary of the language.

Teaching writing at school is aimed at improving students' achievement in writing descriptive text. The aim of teaching writing is to develop the students' writing skills so the student can writing English text efficiently and effectively.

In reality, the expected results from learning writing have not been achieved yet based on the teaching practice program (PPL) at SMP N 1 Berastagi. The students could not write well. Most of them had difficulties in conveying ideas in writing because they had a lack of vocabulary and appropriate structures of sentences. So the students felt lazy to write any text as they assumed that writing was a boring activity.

Based on the problem that the researcher given from an interview with the English teacher in SMP HKBP Sidorame Medan . The researcher found out that the students' writing ability was quite low in terms of writing texts such as narrative, recount and descriptive texts. Manzo and Thomas (2006) the students failed in writing because they faced some difficulties such as a lack of vocabulary and poor grammar and also the teacher still used the conventional technique that made them get bored and have low motivation in learning. Teachers must build the interest by applying a good technique. For the purpose of improving the students' ability in writing, the researcher assumes that brainstorming technique is a way of teaching

One of the appropriate and comprehensive strategies for teaching writing is brainstorming technique. Litchf and Vincent(2002) brainstorming is a group or individual creativity technique by which efforts are made to find a conclusion for a specific problem by gathering a list of ideas spontaneously contributed by its members. By using brainstorming technique, the researcher tries to make students writing easily, because the students free to think and give information about the topic. Rao (2007) expecting that brainstorming can help students to make them fluent to write in English. Robert(2008) the advantages of using brainstorming

technique in teaching English for the students' thought are activated to write their opinion, makes students think quickly and logically, increases the participation of students in receiving lessons, even students feel free and happy, and democratic atmosphere and discipline can be grown in the class.

Based on the discussion above, the technique of teaching writing for helping students should be provided. Brainstorming is one of techniques that students can use to generate ideas for writing a paper. In the process of brainstorming, the students should suspend any concerns about staying organized. The goal is to pour their thoughts onto paper without worrying about whether they make sense or how they fit together.

B. The Problem of the Study

Based on the background of the study, the problem of the study is formulated as follows” How does brainstorming technique improve Grade VIII students’ achievement in writing descriptive texts?”

C. The Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is to find out if the brainstorming technique improves Grade VIII students’ achievement in writing descriptive text.

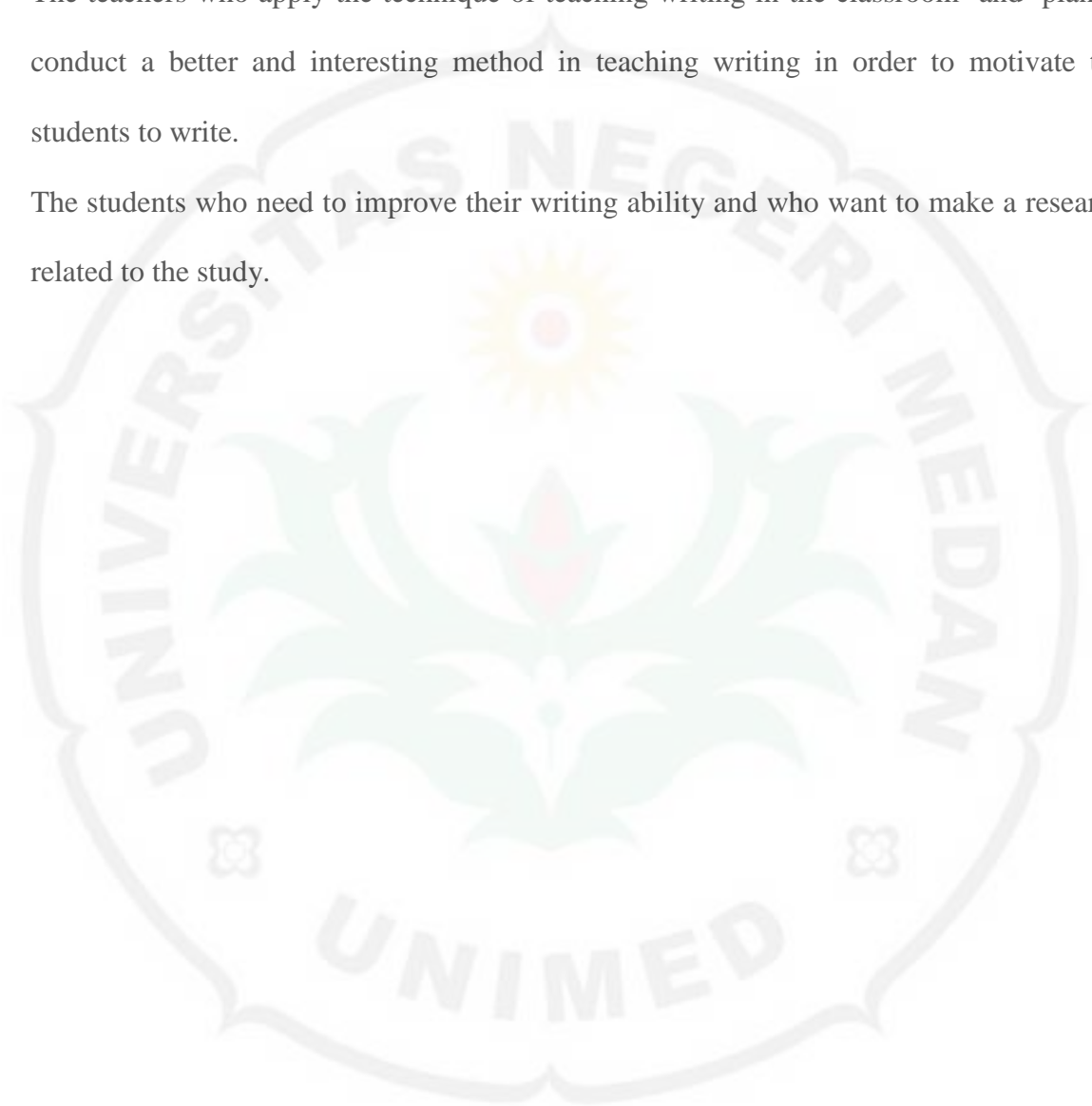
D. The Scope of the Study

The study is focused on brainstorming technique which is applied to discover when can improve Grade VIII students’ achievement in writing descriptive text.

E. The Significance of the Study

The results of the study will be useful for:

- 1) The teachers who apply the technique of teaching writing in the classroom and plan to conduct a better and interesting method in teaching writing in order to motivate the students to write.
- 2) The students who need to improve their writing ability and who want to make a research related to the study.



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