

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

The aim of teaching-learning English as a foreign language commonly define in term of four language skill namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing. English is one of the International languages that is used by many people in the world and in many areas of daily life. Therefore, using English is the easiest way to communicate with people from other countries about many aspect in human life such as technology, economy, social and politics. It has been introduced to the educational institutions, from elementary school to university level as a compulsory subject to learn. So, English is very important in teaching and learning process.

In English teaching and learning process, students are expected to master four English skills namely listening, speaking, reading and writing. Writing is one of the four basic skills in learning English as a foreign language. Writing is an important communication tool. Writing is a way of us to convey ideas, opinion and thought and expressing them as a series of words and writing them down in a piece of paper. Actually writing is an opportunity, it allows students to express something out themselves, explore and explains ideas. Students can convey their ideas in their mind by organizing them into a good text so that the others know them and they can think critically. By writing the students easier to express what they want to write. In addition, writing can also be an alternative to practice their memory to remember the lessons that have been learned by the teacher.

Unfortunately, most students are not able to write English well, they don't use appropriate words and grammar in writing.

Based on the Curicullum 2013, one of the indicators of this curriculum that is a student must be able to write well in English. The students are expected to be able to comprehend the writing skills well. It is stated by Allan and Vallet (1981;5) that writing is considered as the most of difficult language skills. Hornby (1974;1016) says that writing is "to put down by means of word on paper". Expressing the ideas and thought should be known by the students since it becomes the goal of writing. On the other hand the students should be able to express their ideas or opinions in paragraph form.

This study will be focused on writing skill. Because based on data during interviewing the English teacher at SMA Abdi Negara Binjai, that most of the students are not able to write successfully. It can be seen in the list of students' scores of English subjects. The writer attaches the student's writing score in two semesters, academic year 2013-2014 below.

Table 1.1 : The Percentage of Grade X Students' score in Writing

Semester and Academic Year	KKM	Score	Students	Percentage
1 st Semester 2013/2014	75	< 75	20 students	66,6 %
		≥ 75	10 students	33,4 %
2 nd Semester 2013/2014	75	< 75	18 students	60 %
		≥ 75	12 students	40 %

Source : Students' accumulated score of Grade X students at SMA Swasta Abdi Negara Binjai academic year 2013/2014

In general, the students are able to tell stories and describe what they want, but most students don't know how to describe something, someone, or a certain place correctly. By studying the descriptive text will increase their knowledge of how the steps to describe something, someone, or a certain place correctly. But most students are not confident to use their own English, because of their limited mastery on grammar and vocabulary, and they are not able to organize their ideas into a good text. Moreover, in writing process the students have to master the knowledge not only about the material but also about grammar and vocabulary.

So based on the situation above, it is needed to know some Strategy for helping students in writing ability. The appropriate and comprehensive strategy for teaching writing is Discussion Strategy. Because this strategy the discuss material within the group. If there able to the saw the beetle can share their knowledge, opinions or thought to their lower friend. So, everybody will get benefit of Discussion Strategy. By applying Discussion Strategy the students are accustomed to interacting with his or her friends. Discussion Strategy will facilitate students to exchange ideas, answer questions, and resolve the issue or

problem. The students are also trained to tolerate the opinions of his or her friends. “Discussion Strategy is an orderly process of face-to-face group interaction in which student exchange ideas about an issue for the purpose of solving a problem, answering a question, enhancing their knowledge or understanding, or making a decision. When the discussion involves the whole class, the lesson will have some of characteristics of direct instruction and some of characteristic of student-centered learning. It will resemble direct instruction because the teacher will determine the lesson objective, control the student activities, and maintain the focus of lesson on some form of academic outcome.” Killen (1998;26). It will help the students in the writing descriptive text.

Killen (1998;29) states that Discussion Strategy is a versatile teaching and learning strategy that can adapted to suit any subject at any level from kindergarten to post-graduate study at university.

In Discussion Strategy, students are divided into several teams from the different writing groups. A teams consist of four students. For example, the teams consist of two students from high writing group and two students from the low writing group. Students work in teams on a series of cognitively engaging activities, including partner reading, making predictions, identification of characters, settings, problem solutions, summarization, vocabulary, story related writing. Therefore, the writer interest to conduct a research about “The Effect of Applying Discussion Strategy on Students’ Achievement in Writing Descriptive Text.”

B. The Problem of the Study

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

“Is there any significant effect of applying Discussion Strategy on students’ achievement in writing descriptive text ?”

C. The Scope of the Study

The scope of study is limited to the study of the effect of applying Discussion Strategy on students’ achievement in writing Descriptive Text.

D. The Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is to find out whether Discussion Strategy Significantly effect on Students’ Writing Descriptive Text.

E. The Significance of the Study

Results of this study are expected to be giving out the theoretical and practical significance. The significance can be described as follows :

1. Theoretical

The expected of this research is to enrich the learning of science writing especially in writing descriptive text by applying Discussion Strategy.

2. Practical

a. For student

- 1) The students can produce a good descriptive text through applying Discussion Strategy.

b. For teacher

- 1) To increase their own professionalism in teaching writing by applying Discussion Strategy.

- ### c. For other researcher, the result of this study can be used as a basic information in doing further Discussion Strategy to improve students' writing competence.