

## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

### A. The Background of the Study

Language has a very important role in human activities to communicate with other people. It is used to express their feelings, purposes, ideas, even in spoken or written way. There are many languages all over the world and one of them is English. English as an international language has been commonly used not only in speaking but also in writing. In Indonesia, English has been taught from elementary school up to University level. But actually, there are still many people who are not able to write in English well.

In teaching-learning process of English subject, there are four skills. They are speaking, listening, and reading and writing. In practice, teachers usually focus on speaking, listening, and reading before they teach their students how to write. It does not mean that writing is not important. All of these language skills are very important to everyone especially for students to become fluent in English. Writing is one of the four language skills that plays a very important role in second language learning. People use writing to express feelings and ideas, to communicate with others and also have remembering facts and details. People need to learn writing in English, for occupational or academic purposes. Writing is a process of transforming thoughts and ideas into written form. (Harmer, 2004:13) Writing skill is specific ability which helps writers put their thoughts into words in a meaningful form and to mentally interact with the message.

(Hyland, 2002:88) defines that writing is generative in which writers can explore and discover ideas as they write. So, by writing students can express their knowledge, ideas, messages, and feelings into the form of letters and convey their messages to the readers.

Stratified Educational Unit curriculum ( Kurikulum Tingkat Satuan Pendidikan/KTSP 2006) of Junior High School states that in writing, students are expected to comprehend the element of the text and be able to write certain types of text. One of the text introduced in this level is procedure text.

The procedure text is one of the genres in writing that must be well-mastered by the students. procedure text is a text that shows a process in order. The purpose of procedure text is to help readers do a task or make something. The text organizations of procedure text are goal, materials, and steps. Goal means the final purpose of doing the instruction. Material means ingredients, utensils, equipment to do the instructions. Step means a set of instruction to achieve the final purpose. The language features are use of imperatives, actions, connectives, and adverbial phrases.

Adrie (<http://bahasa.kompasiana.com/2011/01/17/procedure-text/>) states that procedure is the set of steps which should be completed in the right sequence to get the goal and it is related to most our daily life. In our daily life, procedure text is used to perform some steps to make or get something done. That is reason why procedural text is very important to be learnt.

Based on the experiences of some preliminary researchers, the students faced some difficulties in writing and their achievement in writing skill is quite low such as writing sentence, paragraph, organizing idea and so on. It can be concluded that there are about 70% students of junior high school that still problem in writing especially in writing procedure text. The writer attaches the students' writing score in two semesters, academic year 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 below. The minimum Criteria Mastery (KKM) which is applied by the school is 75.

**Table 1.1**  
**The percentage of Grade IX 4 students' score in Writing**

Semester	KKM	Score	Students	Percentage	Mean
First Semester 2013/2014	75	<75	28 students	77,7	51,7
		≥75	8 students	22,2	
Second Semester 2014/2015		<75	23 students	63,9	53,3
		≥75	13 students	36,11	

*Students accumulated score of Grade IX students at SMP N 1 Padang Bolak Julu academic year 2013/2014 and 2014/2015*

From the previous data, it can be concluded that the students' ability in writing is still low. It can be seen from the most of students' score percentage was under the KKM.

Based on the observation done by the researcher in the grade IX of SMP N 1 Padang Bolak Julu, teacher's explanation about the weakness of students in writing. Many students got difficulties to develop their writing because of many factors such as lacking of vocabularies, motivation, and limited of grammar make students uninterested in writing. It was not easy for the students to write well in

English. The students are difficult in generating and organizing ideas into a paragraph if he works individually, but it will be different for the students if they are grouped in some small groups. This condition affects the students' achievement in writing procedure text. So some creative and engaged strategy should be used in order to make the teaching writing more effective and interesting.

Teachers can make writing enjoyable for students by using variety of activities, approaches, methods, strategies and techniques. Based on the explanation above, writer is interested in small group work strategy.

Small group work is one of the strategy in teaching and learning process. Small group strategy engages student actively in discussion. Students can communicate one another to exchange any information or idea about the topic being discussed. Beside it, small group work also increases students' motivation in learning. Therefore, the writer is convinced that by using small group work strategy the teaching learning process will be more succesfull, especially in teaching and learning procedure text in writing. There is a well of information about group work and the benefits of collaborative learning. When students spend time meeting in groups, they are able to achieve a deeper learning themes covered in class as well as develop skills, such as writing and communication (Light, 2001).

The effectiveness of small group work has been researched and proved by some researchers. Small group work helps students develop teamwork skills and

social interactions as well as learning about various backgrounds, culture, beliefs, and attitudes (Payne et al., 2004). Svinicki (2005) found out that small group work strategy was an excellent alternative to the lecturer, especially when higher cognitive process needs to be practiced. It will be fun for the students and it will challenge the instructor to apply.

The most important advantage is that small group work strategy will not bore the students. That is the reason why the writer chooses small group work as the title of this research.

### **B. The Problem of the Study**

Based on the background, it is necessary to formulate the problem on this research as follows : “Is the students’ achievement in writing procedure text taught by small group work strategy higher than the students’ achievement taught by individual strategy ?”

### **C. The Objective of the Study**

This study is intended to find out whether student’s achievement taught by small group work strategy is higher than students’ achievement taught by individual strategy in writing procedure text.

### **D. The Scope of the Study**

Language skill have four skill, such as listening, writing, reading and speaking. This study focus on writing. There are many genres of writing. Such as narrative, descriptive, recount, procedure, anecdote, expository, and many types other. This study basically is limited to writing procedure text. This study focuses

on identifying the effect of small group work strategy on students' achievement in writing procedure text.

### **E. The Significance of the Study**

It is expected that this study gives some contribution to language teaching and learning. The result of the study is expected to be useful for :

#### 1. Theoritically

- a. The result of the study can be used as input in English teaching learning process, especially in teaching writing procedure text.
- b. The theory of the research paper can be used as the references for those who want to conduct a research in English teaching-learning process.

#### 2. Practically

- a. To motivate students to be better in writing procedure text
- b. Teachers are motivated to apply this strategy as alternative to teach procedure text writing
- c. Other researcher interested in applying this strategy as the basic information of how to develop students in writing Procedure Text.