

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

Language plays an important role in human life because it is the media of communication, thought, and learning. Human need to interact, to communicate or to show their ideas, feelings and interrelated to others. By using language human beings can narrate and share their experience or information to others. It can be used in any international activities as commerce, diplomacy, politic, sport, science, education, and technology. So, it demands Indonesian students to be able to master English in order to compete with others. Therefore, English must be taught and learnt at school.

According to the Educational Unit Curriculum (KTSP), students must master four language skills; they are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The language skills to be achieved are divided into two parts of language function, namely, oral and written English as a means of communication. In this case, listening and speaking are oral language; reading and writing are written language. However, for the students, the written one is the most difficult skill of language. Sampath and Zalipour (2010) state that students consider writing to be an extremely difficult area in learning English and it seems to be a daunting task for most ESL

learners. While Wallace (2004: 15) states that writing skill for beginning students can give benefit from learning and practicing one skill at a time.

Writing as one of the English skills is important to be improved especially for academic. In the context of education, it is worth if the students' writing skill is improved, student will be able to do some kinds of writing exercise such as essay question, report, or even writing paper. But not only in written, it will also improve their spoken in English. Moreover writing skill is useful not only for academic life, as we know the improvement of technology, like in social media such facebook, instagram, path etc demand people especially students to be able to write, this make students would rather practice their writing skill than practice other skill such as speaking, listening, or reading.

Based on the writer observation in grade X senior high school at SMA Negeri 6 Padang Sidempuan, from 41 students it is found that there are only 18 students could pass the passing grade (KKM) and 23 students still could not pass the passing grade which is made by the teacher, the score of passing grade is 70. Moreover, it happened because of many reasons. First, the students consider that writing is a complex skill because it deals with vocabulary, grammar, and ability to express idea. The second reason is they consider it is difficult to write because they do not understand in arranging words in order to form a good sentence or make a good paragraph. The last is because they do not have any guidelines even from the teacher in arranging their ideas and make it into words. Teacher

uses lecturing method. She only gives a topic, ask students to read the text, explains it, and ask them again to answer questions or write but teacher doesn't allow them to use media.

There are many kinds of genre in writing, to select the appropriate text, the teacher must consider the characteristics of the students, which directly related to the learning process. This study will focus on one of the genre, that is narrative text. According to Wolpert in Hutapea (2013:10), narrative text is made of development used by the write to tell factual event. the story or to give an account of historical. In addition, the story of narrative brings short message for the readers thus at the same time it gives social message that can build students' motivation. Based on Harmer (2004) teachers should be able to select appropriate text and use media to create fun activities so that students can study the subject successfully. Students often need to be encouraged and motivated to engage actively in learning the four language skills of writing, speaking, reading and listening. Furthermore, many teachers are inspired to be as creative as possible, in order to encourage learners to study English more effectively.

Accapezzato (2013:9) states that writing skills are part of daily life. They are even embedded into many activities enjoyed by school students. Because most students don't think that practicing writing is important, the 'how does this apply to me' excuse is uttered on a regular basis in the classroom. The goal is to change the mindset of students. Creating

interesting, engaging lessons that teach the importance of writing skills should be a top goal of school teachers.

There are several approaches to improve students' achievement in writing such as by using method, technique, strategy, game, and media. The study will focus on using media as one of the way to improve students' achievement in writing. Media in language teaching can be classified into three groups, they are: audiovisual, visual, and audio. This study choose picture of comic strips as a media, because among the education media, picture is cheaper and easily to use. By using comic strips, students will be motivated to improve their writing skills without being bored or feeling punished.

The use of comic strips as teaching media in writing narrative class is important. In the writing process, comic strips give advantages in the prewriting stage. Edmunds (2006) states that comic strips enable students to identify the elements of a story through the presented visual and dialogues. They consist of enough words and expressions that can help build the idea of the students to construct sentences. They also provide contextual clues to the meaning of written narrative. In line with that, Vukoja in Kristi (2013) states that through the use of comic strips in prewriting activity, students can explore the structural devices of the story (plotlines, character development, setting, and theme). Moreover Fay (2009) states that the reason of using comics in the classroom is because of

their visual appeal, efficiency, and power of message. Therefore, it will be easier for the students to learn about narrative text.

B. The Problem of the Study

The problem of this study is formulated as follows. “Does the application of comic strips have a significant effect on the students’ achievements in writing narrative texts?”

C. The Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is to investigate the applying of comic strips on the students’ achievement in writing narrative text.

D. The Scope of the Study

This study was focused on investigating the effect of applying comic strips in developing students’ achievement in writing narrative texts. The level of students is grade X of Senior High School.

E. The Significance of the Study

Findings of the study are expected to give significant contribution theoretically and practically. Theoretically, the finding will add up more horizons in theories of language learning. The findings can also be references for further studies. Practically, the findings can be useful for the teachers in improving their teaching.