

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. The Background of the Study

Language is one of the most important things in communication and it is used as a tool of communication among the nations in all over the world. As an international language, English is very important and has many interrelationships with various aspects of life owned by human being. There are four important skills in English. They are reading, writing, listening and speaking. People need to learn writing English, for occupational or academic purposes. Writing is one of media communication. It purposes to express ideas, feelings, opinions, experiences, or information in form of written language.

In general, writing is complex and difficult among the language skills. It is a must for the language learners to master writing skill. Without having good knowledge in writing, it is so difficult to be able to convey the ideas to the readers. That is why writing is one of important things that must be taught to the students.

In addition, writing has many kinds of text genre. But According to Educational Unit Curriculum in Junior High School, the students are expected to be able to understand and write procedure, descriptive, narrative, and report text.

One of the genres that should be mastered by students in the process of learning English is descriptive text. In this study, the researcher only deals with writing descriptive text that purposed to describe thing, person, or place, so the reader can imagine what the researcher wrote. Saragih (2010:20) claims that Descriptive text is a kind of text that has a purpose to describe a particular person, thing, or place.

In Descriptive text, writers describe person, object, appearances, landscape or phenomenon naturally so they can make the reader imagine and feel it (Alwasilah: 2007).

Based on data during interviewing the English teacher at SMP NEGERI 1 TORGAMBA, Many students cannot write good text especially descriptive text. Almost 80% students got the score under the Minimum Criteria Mastery (KKM). The KKM that applied for the English subject in that school is 70. Based on the observations that have been done by some researchers, there are many reasons why students have difficulties in writing especially for writing descriptive text.

University of Leicester ([www.@201130edu.com](http://www.le.ac.uk))states in English writing, there are two reasons why the students are weak in writing. Firstly, teacher and students think it's not important to practice writing, especially in junior high school. Second, the students aren't taught writing systematically, such as how to choose words, make sentences, organize paragraphs and contemplate the whole article and so on.

Based on the explanations we know that there are many reasons why writing is difficult to be done. For example, many students still weak in vocabulary, They don't know how to arrange the sentences well, they don't know how to organize idea, They also have difficult in adapting English as Foreign Language. And The most teachers don't teach the students about how to write well. In order to solve this problem, It is needed some creative and engaged technique to make the teaching writing more effective and interesting.

According to (Buzan, 2003 : 10), to solve the students' problem in writing descriptive text in the literature, one technique that can be used to help students' write is mind mapping.

The mind mapping technique is one of the teachers' technique in teaching. Not only Mind Maps show facts, but also show the overall structure of a subject and the relative importance of individual parts of it. It helps students to associate ideas, think creatively, and make connections that might not otherwise make (Buzan, 2010). As Alamsyah (2009) explained that mind maps work well as their visual design enables students to see the relationship between ideas, and encourages them to group certain ideas together as they proceed. The mind mapping technique can be used to explore almost any topics in writing and also used in every kind of writing such as : narrative, descriptive, recount, persuasive, argumentative, essay etc. Students can improve their ideas and lend themselves to discussing ideas in groups. According to Murley (2007),

mind mapping can maximize brain's ability in associating number with visual qualities (space, image, color) and as the result the memory will be able to store more fact.

A mind-map is made based on radiant thinking, a concept which describes how the human brain processes various ideas and information that are associated to each other through relationship hooks (Buzan & Buzan in Budd, 2003; Murley, 2007; Siriphanic & Laohawiriyano, 2010; Al-Jarf, 2011).

Actually, there are many technique to make teaching interesting, especially in teaching writing. In this part, the researcher will try toconduct Mind Mapping Technique in writing descriptive text. In details, the writer entitled : *The Effect of MindMapping Technique on Students' Achievement in Writing Descriptive Text.*

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

Based on the background of the study, the writer formulates the problem of the study as follows;

“Is there any significant effect on students' achievement in writing descriptive text through mind mapping technique?”

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

The aim of this study is to investigate whether there is a significant effect of mind mapping technique on students' achievement in writing descriptive text in SMP Negeri 1 Torgamba.

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

This study focuses on the students' achievement in writing descriptive text specifically on describing person. The technique that is going to be applied is mindmapping technique.

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

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

- a. The teachers, as one the consideration in teaching writing skill especially descriptive text by using Mind Mapping Technique.
- b. The Students to be motivated on writing various descriptive text by following the think sheet of mind mapping.
- c. Researchers who are interested in doing research about mind mapping technique as a basis for study that will use the result of this study as the new information.