

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

Language is an instrument to convey information. It is used to express ideas, feelings, purposes, thoughts, and opinions in the written or in the spoken way. Through language someone can store and transfer her/his knowledge or ideas. One of the languages is English. English is a very important language in the world, because English as an international language that used in some aspects of human life. In Indonesia, English considered as the first foreign language and taught formally in school and university level. It is proved by Educational curriculum of Indonesia.

Based on Educational Curriculum 2006 (KTSP) and Curriculum 2013, learning English is emphasized on four skills of language. They are listening, speaking, reading and writing. By these four skills, students are expected to have a good prestige in their school or in their place when they are working. One of these four skills which is very important and most required in academic is Writing. According to Hyland (2002 :1) writing is the evidence our personal experience and it can be evaluated by reading our own writing. And according to Walsh (2010 : 1), writing is used extensively in higher education which leads to a future career. Because of that, writing is an important skill to be learned.

The aim of writing is conveying the ideas, thoughts, and feelings in writing form. Writing. (Hyland:2002) a good writing is discovered by combination of words which allow people integrity to dominate their subject with a pattern both fresh and original. Writing requires the mastery of vocabulary, spelling, grammar, punctuation, appropriate content, and coherence.

Through writing, someone can share his/her knowledge .Enre (1988:6)said that the benefit of studyingwriting for students are; they can share theirgood ideas for their understanding on one thing, they are helped in thier ability of using language, they can increase their vocabularies and they can progress their cognition to every one who reads it. The knowledge which we have until now mostly we got by reading written information or text. Such as a book, article, newspaper, story and etc which has been written by those who share their information through writing. It is caused that writing is one important skill to be mastered.

In fact, teaching and learning writing is not easy as it looks. Among the four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing), writing is the most difficult to be mastered by the students. This is supported by Heaton (1990:135) who states that writing skills are complex and difficult to teach, not only requiring mastery of grammatical and rhetorical devices, but also of conceptual and judgmental elements. It means that , the teacher is expected to help students to write their ideas by using correct grammar, appropriate vocabulary and punctuation which are some indicators showing the success of writing.

In Senior High School for English lesson, the students must be able to build a text in learning process of writing. They must know communicative purpose, rhetorical structure and grammatical patterns in building a text, such as descriptive, narrative, recount, report, hortatory, procedure, reports, news item, and anecdote, commentary, spoof, analytical, and discussion. Based on syllabus, the researcher chose one of the genre that the students must learn namely Descriptive text. Descriptive text is description about an object (human or non human or idea) vividly so that the readers can visualize the object described, Dirgeyasa (2014:3). The students must be more active than teacher. And the students can make a creation from their lettering. It means that the students have to more than one skill

In fact, many students think that writing is a difficult skill. Based on the researcher's teaching training practice observation (PPLT) at SMA N 1 Dolok Masihul, students' achievement in writing is still very low. Most of the students can't write a text. It's caused they don't own idea, so that they face problem in building a text. And also they lack of vocabularies, so that they can't choose the right words, and using the grammar in organizing the text. Teacher also only gives the topic to the students and then explains it and asks them to answer the questions based on the text..

By interview with the teacher and students, the problem comes from the students, where students seldom practice in writing, so that they don't own and not understand what ideas will be built or written. The other way, teacher does not use media and the strategy, just teach them by conventional method so that not

motivate also not encourage them. Therefore, researcher assumes that those problems come because the students do not have ideas. Consequently, they can not build a good writing text. At last, students think that writing is a difficult and a boring subject.

Considering the condition above, the researcher offers to use teaching media to help students solve their problem. One of media that can encourage students in producing writing a text is flashcard. According to Hamalik (1994) states that using media in the process of teaching and learning can increase willingness and new interest, increase students' motivation in the process teaching and learning and even bring psychology effects for the students. That is mean that flashcard is one of media can effect the students' psychology in thinking . By looking at flashcard students can find ideas from pictures looked. So, Flashcard can make students more creative and comfortable in writing descriptive text. Where flashcard is a kind of media that can be seen and can be touched by the teacher also the students related to the subject of the study. Through flashcards, students will be more interested and they can learn about the lesson with fun especially study about descriptive text in writing skill.

In relation to the problem, the researcher would like to conduct a research to find the effect of flashcards on students' achievement in writing descriptive text, because descriptive text is one of writing skills that is difficult for students. It is caused by they can not make good ideas in building a descriptive text. So, flashcard is very important to support and help students to solve their difficult. By using flashcard , students can find ideas on picture looked and at least they can

make a good descriptive text. This is a reason to use flashcard as guiding teaching and learning process in improving student's achievement in writing descriptive text

B. The Problem of the Study

Based on the previous discussion in background of the study above, the research problem is formulated as follows : "Is there any significant effect of Applying Flashcards on the Students' achievement in writing descriptive text?"

C. The Scope of the Study

There are many genres of writings such as descriptive, narrative, recount, report, hortatory, procedure, reports, news item, and anecdote, commentary, spoof, analytical, and discussion. This research focus on identifying the effect of flashcards on students' achievement in writing descriptive text .so, In this study the research focus on describing about thing (human and animal).

D. The objective of the study

The objective of the study is to find out the significant effect of flashcards on students' achievement in writing descriptive text.

E. The Significance of the Study

The findings of the study are expected to have both theoretical and practical importance to the teacher, students and the next researcher.

1. Theoretically , this study is to increase and expand the knowledge for teaching writing, especially for senior high school level.
2. Practically, this study is expect to :
 - a. For English teacher, as knowledge and skill to construct program of English learning in school.

- b. For English teacher, as reference and to improve the quality of English teaching learning process.
- c. For the students, to minimize the difficulties that students face in teaching and develop writing skill.
- d. For students, to make more fun and active in learning their lesson.
- e. For researcher, as an experience research that useful in next research and as reference to the next research that related of the study.



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