

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Background of the Study

English is important language in Indonesia and the only compulsory foreign language subject in school. English is one of the four subjects to test in the state examinations before students leave junior and high schools. In addition, English is a very important subject for entry to prestigious and job vacancies. In English there are four skills that should be achieved namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Learning to write in either a first or second language is one of the most difficult task learner encounters and one that few people can be said to fully master.

In terms of skills, producing a coherent, extended piece of writing is probably the most difficult thing there is to do in language. It is sometime most native speakers never master, for second language learners the challenges are enormous, particularly for those who go on a university and study in a language that is not their own. Yet a good writing skills are essential to academic success and requirement for many occupations and professions (Widdoson 1979)

Based on the nature of the writing process, there are three approaches product, process and lexical approach. Writing teachers were mostly concerned with the final product of writing the essay, the report, the story, and what that product should look like. Compositions were supposed to

- (a) meet certain standards of standards of prescribed English rhetorical style
- (b) reflect accurate grammar, and (c) be organized in conformity with what the audiences would consider to be conventional.

The product approach concentrates on ends rather than process. By focusing on the form and structure of writing. The student would emulate and on how well a student's final product measured up against a list of criteria that included content, organization vocabulary use, grammatical use, and mechanical consideration such as spelling and punctuation. At more advanced this level, this approach to the teaching of writing leads to practice in the structure and organization of different kinds of paragraphs and text, because the focus is essentially on the ability to produce correct text product.

The important lexical-approach as innovative step to make the effort of ELT in Indonesia rewarding. It needs to be implemented as early as possible to learners in Indonesia to equip them with sufficient vocabulary according to the levels of education. This approach will also create life-long readers of English. This approach to language teaching will find that the learning of 1000 words only stated in the existing 1994 curriculum for junior high school students and 2500 words for senior high school student's in insufficient. In spite of the limited vocabulary sizes targeted high school leavers have not even reached them

Another approach to improve students writing is the process approach. This allowed the students focus on the content and message, and

1.4. The Objectives of the Study

In carrying out the research, it is necessary to state what the objectives of the study is clearly otherwise, this research will be useless and only wasting the time. So the objectives of this study are:

1. To find out the effect of product, process and lexical approaches.
2. To find out which is the most the effective approaches on students' writing achievement.

1.5. The Significance of the Study

This study is expected to provide, which may have practical as well theoretical values for English language teacher. Theoretically, the result of the study will add what has been found in the area English teaching in foreign language. Meanwhile, practically the result of this study will inform English language teachers in their attempts to decide which of the best method and approach in enhancing the student's communicative competence.