

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Problem

In daily life, people usually share information and everything in their minds through either spoken or written language. When they use spoken language, it means that they communicate with one another orally, directly or face-to-face. While written language means that they express their ideas through writing. English as an important means of communication, which is used by many countries in this world, plays a very important role in the process of modernization as an international language. That is why the Indonesian government chooses English as the first foreign language to be taught at schools. Realizing these facts, Indonesian government has tried many endeavors such as changing and making the curriculum better and also introducing new approaches (methods) of teaching to the English teachers.

Based on its process of teaching, learning English must cover the four language skills namely listening, speaking, reading and writing. Even though writing may be considered the last skill, we cannot ignore this skill because it is also as important as the other skills. Moreover, it is not a simple thing to teach writing skill because we do not only pay attention about punctuation and the capital letters but also how to develop their ideas, and how to teach them to use correct punctuation and the capital letters, how to develop their ideas, and how to motivate them.

There are some kinds of genre in English. The genres which should be taught in junior high school are procedure, descriptive, recount, and narrative. Recount is a spoken or written text, which is used to tell other people about their experiences.

Writing is the learned process of shaping experience into text, allowing the writer to discover, develop, clarify, and communicate thought and feelings. Writing requires and support the development of thinking skills. Writing skill involves the way how to write a paragraph or an essay, and to express ideas that come from our mind. In reality, most of junior high school students find difficulties in writing, including the students of SMPN 1 Singingi.

There are some steps that have to be mastered by the students in writing process, like: practice writing with dictionary and English grammar books and practice writing by paying attention to the correction and reflection which they get from teachers and discussion. They are required to be able to write many kinds of text, such as narrative, descriptive, procedure, etc. But, most of them are not able to describe their ideas and do not know the generic structure of the text.

Based on the writer's observation, most of the students were not good enough to express their ideas in the form of writing. In other words, writing was really difficult for them. These might be caused by many factors, such as, the students were of grammar mastery, vocabulary, fluency, spelling, or even in choosing words, and the organization of their ideas in writing performance, also their lack of motivation to write, and they were also not able to produce a single, comprehensive sentence, students wrote more focused summaries with more complex

sentence structure than they had used in their reviews. Students are taught several kinds of writing such as writing paragraph, writing essay, summarizing, and others. In writing recount text, second year students included students in SMP Negeri 1 Singingi are required to be able to write many kinds of genres including narrative, explanation, discussion, and review text. The goal of learning writing is to enable the students to function the language in written form.

Based on the observation above, the writer is interested in conducting a research entitled "A STUDY ON THE SECOND YEAR STUDENTS ABILITY IN WRITING RECOUNT TEXT AT SMP NEGERI 1 SINGINGI"

1.2 Setting of The Problem

the junior high school students learn four major language skills, they are speaking, listening, reading, and writing. All junior high school in Singingi including the students from SMP Negeri 1 Singingi have also learned how to write narrative, explanation, discussion, and review text. The reason why the writer thought it is important to conduct this research, because writing is one of the skills that must be mastered in learning English, at least the writer knew how far the ability of the second year students in writing paragraph.

1.3 Limitation Of The Problem

This research was about the ability of second year students in writing paragraph at SMP Negeri 1 Singingi. It was specifically focused on the writing components. They are grammar, vocabulary, mechanics, fluency, and organization.

1.4 Formulation Of The Problem

Based on the explanation above, the writer formulates the problem as follows:

How is the second year students' ability in writing recount text at SMP Negeri 1 Singingi.

1.5 General Objective of The Study

The general objective of this research was to find out how good is the ability of the second year students of SMP Negeri 1 Singingi in writing recount text.

1.6 The Needs of The Study

1. To know the ability of the second year students of SMP Negeri 1 Singingi in writing recount text.
2. To increase the writer's knowledge in doing research.
3. To give some information for the students of SMP Negeri 1 Singingi as well as another interested readers about the ability in writing recount text, so that the students need to pay more attention about the problem in writing recount text.

1.7 Definition of the Terms

1. Study : a process of acquiring knowledge through reading investigation or thinking or seeing something scientifically. Hornby (1974 :1187) in this paper, study means a piece of research work to know the students' writing ability of
2. Writing : the activity or work of writing books, poems, stories.
3. Recount text : a text which retells events happened in the past Emilia (2010)

4. Writing recount text : the activity or work of write recount text in books, stories.
5. SMP Negeri 1 Singingi : The place where the writer took the data.



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