

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with background, problem statement, objective, significance, and scope of the research.

A. Background

Writing is getting more and more important today, while in the process of teaching and learning English, writing skill is complex and sometimes difficult to teach, requiring mastery not only of grammatical and rhetorical devices but also of conceptual and judgmental elements (Heaton, 1988: 135). Several processes, mental and physical are carried at the same time. Moreover, writing also requires the students to elaborate the components of writing in terms of content, organization, vocabulary, language use, and mechanics which those work simultaneously to build a short part of a text, consisting of at least one sentence and beginning on a new line. It usually deals with a single event, description, idea, etc.

But, frequently, the students meet the difficulties in writing: organized words to be paragraph, in expressing their ideas, language in grammatical sentences, coherences, cohesion, and so on. For instance, sometimes they have many vocabulary but they are difficult to express the idea so it impedes students to build the paragraph. Further, determining topic or idea of writing is one of the problems that students mostly face when they want to start writing. This is first

thing that a writer commonly needs to decide before starting the writing, either on the level of sentences or paragraphs. The responsibility lies on the teacher to improve their students' abilities specially in writing skill, so the students can write easily and creatively.

Regarding to the problem above, the researcher have done preliminary observation at SMAN 2 Sungguminasa and found that students of first year are also difficult in expressing their ideas and difficult in writing sentences and paragraphs. In line with the problem, the researcher found that there are many methods that can be used to improve the students writing skill, one of the method is fishbone. Fishbone method or usually known as cause and effect diagram or Ishikawa diagram, a method developed by Kaoru Ishikawa (1986), is one of methods in teaching writing that may support the expected situation.

Dealing with fishbone, it guides the students to give visual illustration that clearly shows the relationship between the topic and the various factors related to it. The shape of the model looks like the skeleton of a fish. The head of the fish represents the topic to be analyzed, and the bones of the fish represent the factors or categories of factors related to the topic. It can be very enjoyable for students to be creatively in writing.

Referring to explanations above, the researcher excited to conduct a research titled “Improving The Students’ Descriptive Writing Skills Through Fishbone Method”.

B. Problem Statement

Based on preliminary observation, the problem of this research is the students had difficulties to write the descriptive text in view of components of writing. Staring to the problem, the researcher attempted to conduct fishbone to solve the students' problem in their writing project by formulating two research questions as follows:

1. Does the use of fishbone improve students' descriptive writing skill?

These minor questions are pinpointed to the mayor question, as follows:

- a. Does the application of fishbone improve the students' descriptive writing skill in term of content?
 - b. Does the application of fishbone improve the students' descriptive writing skill in term of organization?
 - c. Does the application of fishbone improve the students' descriptive writing skill in term of vocabulary?
 - d. Does the application of fishbone improve the students' descriptive writing skill in term of language use?
 - e. Does the application of fishbone improve the students' descriptive writing skill in term of mechanic?
2. Which of the five components of writing is the most significantly improved by using fishbone?

C. Objective of the Research

Based on some problem statements above, the aims of this research is provided into two research objectives below:

1. a. To discover the extend to which the fishbone can improve students' descriptive writing skill related to the content of writing.
- b. To discover the extend to which the fishbone can improve students' descriptive writing skill related to the organization of writing
- c. To discover the extend to which the fishbone can improve students' descriptive writing skill related to the vocabulary of writing
- d. To discover the extend to which the fishbone can improve students' descriptive writing skill related to the language use of writing
- e. To discover the extend to which the fishbone can improve students' descriptive writing skill related to the mechanic of writing
2. To discover which of the five components of writing is the most significantly improved by using fishbone.

D. Significance of the Research

The result of this research is expected to take care some significances related to teaching and learning. Moreover, to give contribution to the practical use both for teacher and students at the SMAN 2 Sungguminasa in learning English. For the teachers, it is expected to help them, by giving them the solution to faced the student who have difficulties in expressing their ideas in writing, in

addition, the researcher also expects this research's result can give positive contributions for all teachers in teaching their subject in the classroom, so the teachers can be easily control their students and achieve the goals improveively. As the last, the teachers had additional experiences in teaching writing. For the students, through this research it is expected to help them to improve their ability in writing and develop their ideas through fishbone method especially in writing descriptive text. Theoritically, this reserach is expected to become useful contribution for the development of the teaching English especially in teaching writing.

E. Scope of the Research

The scope of the reserach is limited into three different aspects namely discipline, content, and activity. By discipline, this research is under applied linguistics. By content, this research focused on writing descriptive text restricted to the content, organization, vocabulary, language use, and mechanic of the text at the first year students of SMAN 2 Sungguminasa. By activity, the reseracher used pre-test and post-test to see the students ability in writing text. Moreover, the researcher gave fishbone method in experimental group.