

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Background of the Study

English is used as an international language which is needed by many people. There are four skills in English, namely writing, reading, speaking, and listening. The activity used to express ideas or experiences in paragraphs can be called writing. Writing is considered a fairly complicated skill because writing skills involved the ways of writing texts or essays where students are expected to know how to make good sentences, compose texts, and express ideas that come from their thoughts in accordance with good and correct English structures. According to Richards & Renandya (2002: 303), writing is the most difficult skill to master because of the difficulty of generating, organizing, and translating ideas into readable text. Due to the complexity of its writing skills, teachers are required to teach students on how to write correctly.

According to Pranoto (2004: 9) writing means putting the thoughts into writing or telling something to others through writing. Writing can also be interpreted as an expression or expression of feelings that are expressed in written form. There are several types of writing in English learning, namely descriptive, narrative, argumentative, recount, and others. Where narrative text is imaginary text, true stories and fairy tales that aim to entertain the readers. Argumentative text is the text that contains opinions and accompanied by examples and evidence that aims to convince the readers. Report text is a text that aims to convey information to readers about something as it is as a result of a study. Texts designed to inform readers of past events are called recount texts. This research focuses on descriptive text. Descriptive writing is one of the writing skills in English which is a comprehensive description of words through writing and also aims to make the reader understand the writing and even feel the atmosphere, trying to describe it as if it is in front of the reader or in other words to animate the object to the reader. In this type of text, students are required to list the characteristics of something and it is usually related to the physical appearance of the object described (Smalley et. At., 2001).

In the current pandemic situation, learning is very difficult to do directly. Therefore, the alternative online media is very helpful in teaching and learning activities. Teachers can continue

to carry out the usual teaching and learning system such as using the WhatsApp application for classes or via zoom. In order to create the interest and effectiveness in teaching descriptive text, teachers are expected to use the interesting methods. Therefore, the picture and picture method is the best solution that can be used by teachers to teach how to write good and correct descriptive text in an interesting way.

Basically, students are expected to be able to write the descriptive text properly and correctly, but in reality students are still not able to write the descriptive text and it can be seen from the average score of students in writing the descriptive text. Based on the author's experience in the practice of teaching in SMP Al-Hidayah Medan, many students still don't know how to write descriptive text correctly and do not know how to choose a vocabulary appropriate. For inclusion, the average ability in writing the descriptive texts is 50% based on their scores in semester two on the seventh grade. Many students find that it is difficult to write the descriptive text because they do not know what to write and describe, students find it difficult to write the capital letters properly, find it difficult to choose the right vocabulary, and it is difficult to understand the general structure of descriptive text. Therefore, to overcome this problem it is very important for teachers to find the right media and to support the students to write the descriptive texts.

The media is needed in the teaching to attract students' interest in writing and can streamline the teaching and learning process. There are many types of learning media that can be used in the teaching and learning process and the writer choose one of them, namely pictures. The use of picture as a visual medium in the teaching and learning process is expected to help to solve the problems in writing descriptive text so the quality of learning outcomes can be better. Teachers can use pictures to motivate students to write and stimulate and guide students to write descriptive text, especially when teaching through online media, which usually when learning through onlinemost students get bored faster. Here students will use pictures that are related to the material being studied, therefore the picture media can be a guide for students to be able to start writing and pouring their ideas into written form. Therefore, in this study the authors are interested in examining whether the picture and picture method can affect students' abilities in writing descriptive texts.

In this study the authors took two previous studies to strengthen this research. There are two previous researchers who have the same topic as this researcher. The first researcher is Fitriani, Sofia Winda Nur (2009: 73). Based on the author's findings, the authors conclude that teaching descriptive writing is beneficial for students and teachers. This can be seen from the post-test results that the highest student achievement of the five writing items is content (88.64).

The second researcher is Sa'diyah (2011), picture can boost student concern. Picture also enhance student encouragement and cooperation during learning activities. Picture can also be used an interesting lesson to increase student encouragement. Picture is a medium learning. Picture can be used as guidelines in writing activities (Sadiman, 2005) in Siahaan (2013).

## **1.2. The Problem of the Study**

The problem of the study “Does picture and picture method affect on students writing descriptive text”?

## **1.3. The objective of the study**

The objective of the study is to find out the effect of picture and picture method on the student writing descriptive text.

## **1.4. The scope of the study**

This research will be conducted to find out a good influence as the effect on student achievement in writing descriptive texts and also attracting students to be more interested in writing by using the picture and picture media. Through these activities, students will get the opportunity to write descriptive texts using pictures and pictures media. To collect data and answer research questions, researchers used writing tests in this study.

## **1.5. Significant of The Study**

Finding of this research are expected to be useful and relevant theoretically and practically:

1. Theoretically

- a) For English teacher, it is hoped that this model can help them to increase the quality of teaching writing, use new methods in teaching descriptive writing texts, and to apply this teaching technique to increase the students' writing skill in descriptive texts.
- b) For students, it is hoped to help their writing skill, especially in writing descriptive text. This research will give a knowledge how to write the descriptive text using picture and picture method.

2. Practically

- a) For Researcher, this research will give more information and knowledge to write in descriptive texts using picture and picture method.
- b) Future researchers, the authors hope this research can also help in providing an overview for those who wish to conduct research in the same field.