BAB I

INTRODUCTION

Writing skills are the skills that move mechanically. Writing skills can not be mastered only through theory, but are done through exercises and practices that are completed to produce well-structured writing. Writing that contains about how to think, arrange the right, and good sentences (Hasani, 2005: 2). Writing skills are the last in the language learning process after listening, speaking and reading skils. Of the four that skills the most difficult writing skill to master is writing. It requires writing skills that require mastery of various things that are not appropriate and outside the language itself which will be contents of the essay. Writing exercies in Indonesian language can accustom students to apply linguistics knowledge such as grammar, vocabulary, language style, spelling and so on.

The reality in the field, based on experience in implementing writing learning in class shows that writing skills are often feared and even avoided by students, this is due to the limited vocabulary they have. Students have difficulty expressing even simple things in written form, and students are less active in learning to write, because they feel bored and are not motivated to be active and explore their ideas. The time used is partly dominated by the teacher to explain, so students are not facilitated to express their ideas, both with their friends and with their teachers and seeing the current conditions, where the development of increasingly sophisticated technology that is very influential in the lack of interest of students in writing,

Even entering English class, most teachers find it difficult in learning activities,, especially in writing lessons, this is proof by the number of students who do the activities like make a joking, playful, not serious in the learning class. This is because the teacher's learning activities are still using boring methods, such as expository, lecture method and tasks, this causes learning activities to be have control over of teachers even though some subject matter certainly requires the application of various strategies because indeed the objectives of each lesson are different.

From this problem, it is need to conduct research on the implementation of new learning strategies by English teachers.. The researcher tittle of this study is "The Effectiveness of the Pen Pal Project in Teaching Recount Text".

Pen pal is often interpreted as a pen friend, that is, a friend who lives far from us so that we communicate through correspondence. Pen pal project will become an alternative way to increase motivation for regular writing activities. There are many advantages in using pen pals. As explained by Walker-Dalhouse, Sanders, and Dalhouse (in Larrotta and Serrano, 2012) that pen pal writing can provide valuable learning experiences for students even though it does not involve direct instruction in writing. Pen Pal project can provide students with language skills and social skills. Through pen pal letter exchanges ESL students learn more than just writing in English; they learn the different functions of the language, grammar, vocabulary, idioms, and culture.

Recount text is a part of the text that recounts events experienced in the past. This type of text can not only be used in schools but also in other written and electronic media, for example it can be used in diaries, blogs, letters, biographies etc. A recount text has three main parts, namely Orientation, Sequence of Events, and Reorientation.

1. Orientation in the sequence of events the text of the retelling is the main element in the form of events involving who, experienced what, in the past, with the orientation structure (the introduction of the actor, place and time). this provides the necessary background information to understand the text. Based on the 5W questions (Who, What, Where, When and Why) that will be used to get more detailed information.

2. The Sequence events is the author will tell the sequence of events that occurred in the past based on the time and place of these events.

3. Reorientation is the closing of the story text, which aims to bring back events in the past. Reorientation This also consists of closing the story or it can be in the form of a personal commentary on the story write