CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Research about the effect of online learning on students' writing creativity in writing descriptive texts about local tourism is motivated by the pandemic of Covid-19 that provided many changes to the order of many people's lives. Education is one part of people's lives that are changing. To prevent the spread of the virus, the Indonesian government is implementing online learning affecting face-to-face learning usually held in schools. Different learning methods have their respective advantages and disadvantages, affecting students' understanding of the learning material. Online learning has its difficulties for both teachers and students. Based on a survey of 20 high school students, it is known that students experience some difficulties with online learning in the implementation. It can be concluded that the leading causes of these difficulties are the lack of supervision, unstable internet networks, and the expensive internet quota.

As one of the learning subjects taught at school, English has four bases in learning; one of them is writing. Writing is an indirect way of communicating that requires skills to express ideas, thoughts, knowledge, and experiences in written form (Aidid, 2020). Writing has many benefits, such as: improving memory, enriching insights, giving readers an impression, and adding vocabulary (Usman, 2019: 7-9), but writing also has its difficulties. Writing skills are more challenging to master than other language skills, even by speakers of the relevant language this is because writing is not just how students express their ideas in writing, but students also have to pay attention to the aspects of writing. Therefore, the role of the teacher is considered very important to direct students in writing learning. One of the writing skills that need to be improved is descriptive text writing skills. *Descriptive text* is a text that aims to describe an object specifically. Besides having to master the generic structure and language future of the descriptive text, to write descriptive texts, creativity is also needed so that students can make novelties both in terms of ideas and uniqueness of the way they are conveyed. Using a local tourism theme is an excellent idea to write a descriptive text because by writing descriptive text with the theme of local tourism that students have visited, they are expected to describe the object specifically. After all, the writing is based on their own experience and not just the image they see so that it can make readers feel the tourism object depicted, even though

they did not see it directly and also The reason why researchers use local tourism as a theme is that researchers hope this will treat students' longing for travel activities —considering that for more than one year, there have been restrictions on mobility as a result of the pandemic, which then resulted in tourism activities experiencing a drastic decline— to generate student creativity. Meanwhile, local tourism is a place in a particular area known for its natural beauty or historical stories owned by the place so that it attracts the interest of others to visit it (IK Daulay, 2021).

Many things can influence students' creativity in writing, especially writing about the description of a place, such as local tourism. In this study, the researcher defined the problem, where the problem to be raised was only whether online learning affected students' writing creativity about local tourism or not. If online learning does affect students' writing creativity, it will be presented in percentages.

This research is expected to contribute knowledge to teachers, students, and the general public. For teachers, this study is expected to assist teachers in considering/deciding appropriate learning methods and media in teaching writing descriptive texts. For students, they are expected to be able to use existing learning media to support them. This research is expected to provide information that can be used in doing related research for another researcher. For the general public, this research is expected to be able to provide new knowledge for readers.