

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

At the present, English has become one of the bridges to communicate with each other and has been used by people all over the world. Therefore, English is known as an international language. In Indonesia, English has been part of the education curriculum since then 1945 and declared as the first foreign language taught at school. English is taught from the elementary level to university level students.

The purpose of teaching writing is that students can write what is in their thinking creatively. Students can interact with academic writing, especially descriptive texts. In descriptive writing, students can master the generic structure, language features, vocabulary and mechanics. Students are able to understand the function of writing.

Writing is one of English language skills to express or to transfer thoughts and feelings. As Harmer (2004) stated, writing is a form of communication to deliver thought or to express feeling through written form. Therefore, it is important for students who study a language to learn writing in order to help them communicate in the written form. In junior high school, writing is leaning the types of texts including descriptive text.

Descriptive text is a series of texts that describe an object in which consists of identification, description, and conclusions.

According to Barnet and Stubbs (1990:105) “A good paragraph has unity (it makes one point, or it indicates where one unit of the topic begins and ends)”. In order to have a unified paragraph, each student must support the idea in the sentence. By mastering the description, they can make a good classification of objects based on characteristics.

Reep (2009:82) states that “a paragraph achieves coherence when the sentences proceed in a sequence that supports one point at a time. For example, when a student wants to describe about his house, then he should have background knowledge about parts of his house, such as how many rooms that this student has?, what is the color of the wall?, how wide or how high the house is.

From the explanations above, the researcher conduct to reserach at SMP SWASTA Talitakum Medan, because the research has never conducted before in SMP. The researcher tries to describe the analysis indicators to see the students’ ability in writing at second grade students

at SMP SWASTA Talitakum Medan. The researcher write thesis topic in this thesis under title “AN ANALYSIS of STUDENTS’ ABILITY IN WRITING DESCRIPTIVE TEXTS AT THE SECOND GRADE SMP SWASTA TALITAKUM MEDAN”.

This research had previously been conducted by Prasetyo Hariyadi; Wennyta; Nurul Fitri at SMAN 11 Jambi in class X MIPA 3 with a total of 35 students but two of them did not take the test. Data collection methods used by researchers previously used qualitative methods, with the instrument using descriptive text writing test. From the research conducted by researchers found 18 students or 55% in the good category, 9 students or 27% in the excellent category, 5 students or 15% in the as satisfactory category, 1 student or about 3% in the unsatisfactory category. Researchers concluded that students' ability to write descriptive text at ten grade students of SMAN 11 Jambi is good.

Another research conducted by Junita Siahaan (2013), this study also uses qualitative methods and text analysis that focuses on semantic structure and linguistics features using systematic functional linguistics. The results found by researchers some students have been able to write a semantic structure of descriptive text using appropriate linguistic features. But there are still students who are confused, so that it is needed to improve their skills to write descriptive text.

The problem of this research is, how is the students’ ability in writing a descriptive text at second grade SMP SWASTA TALITAKUM MEDAN ?, why some of students are not able to organize their writing in generic text in their writing?, why some of the student do not know how to write a text based on the text given by the teacher?.

For Students, they can find out their strenght and weakness so that they can fix the weakness and improve the strenght in writing descriptive text at the second grade SMP SWASTA Talitakum Medan.

For Teachers, the English teachers can use the research for increasing their method to find out the students’ strength and weakness aspect in writing descriptive text and also for another genre of text.

Furthermore, based on this research it is expected to provide information about writing in descriptive text. It is hoped to be an inspiration for the next researchers who will do a research in this field. This can be a reference for further researchers to conduct better research. The evaluation space of this research is to analyze the descriptive writing test. This study was limited

on the analysis of ability in writing. This study has the purpose to find how is the students' ability in writing descriptive text at the second grade SMP SWASTA Talitakum Medan.