

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

English is one of the subjects that must be studied in the 2013 curriculum. The number of hours of English subjects at the junior high school level is 4 hours in a week. Allocation of time in English lessons is expected that students are able to achieve 4 skills in English namely reading, listening, writing, speaking. The four skills of language are important to be mastered. Speaking and writing are classified as productive while listening and reading are receptive.

Language is one of the communication tools used by humans to interact with each other. The function of language as a communication tool can be through oral and written language Nurgiyantoro (2010: 423). Writing is an activity expressing someone's thoughts, ideas, and feelings as outlined in written language. The purpose of writing itself is to pour out what is in our minds. Writing learning is very beneficial for students so that students can freely express what they think. In writing, there are various types of writing, including: (1) description (2) narrative (3) exposition (4) argumentation. Writing is one of the most difficult language skills and students have not been able to write well even a simple paragraph due to the lack of students' interest in writing students face many problems. In this research, the writer will focus on descriptive texts.

Descriptive text is a paragraph where the main idea is conveyed by clearly describing the object, place, or event that is being the topic to the reader. Tarigan (1994) Descriptions are writings that can describe a story with the aim to invite the reader to understand feel and enjoy the objects being discussed such as moods, people's activities and so on. So the reader feels as if he directly feels what is being expressed in the text. In order to solve the problems, the researcher tries to apply a teaching model named mind mapping technique. Mind Mapping is a technique which was originally used to take notes or summarize with involves images, symbols, words, lines, and colors made on a piece of paper notebooks or paperboard, depending on the function for individuals or the public. Tony Buzan in his book "Buku Pintar Mind Mapp", Mind Mapping is a creative, effective way to record and literally map thoughts (Tony Buzan: 2009; 4). Using mind mapping techniques will attract students' attention in writing because mind mapping

is a creative and effective writing technique that can literally map thoughts. To make it very easy it only requires a piece of paper, and colored pencils.

Based on the background above, the writer feels interested in applying mind map techniques in class lessons in an effort to improve the ability of students to write descriptive types of text in junior high school.

1.2. Problem (s) of Study

Based on the background of the study above, the problems of the study can be formulated as follows :

1. Is it interesting for students to write about English subjects?
2. How do students respond to the mind mapping technique that will be applied?

1.3. Objective (s) of Study

Based on the research statement, this study aims in :

1. explain what is meant by writing and understanding of descriptive text and its use in English subjects?
2. Explain and make mind mapping techniques as attractive as possible so they can attract students' attention.

1.4. Scope of Study

There are many types of writing, one of them is descriptive text and here will be explained how to write descriptive text using mind mapping techniques.

1.5. Review Literature

According to Mayers (2005: 2), writing is also an action a process of discovering and organizing your idea, putting them on paper and reshaping and revising them. It means that writing can be used to express ideas or thoughts on a paper.

Writing can be used for a variety of purposes, ranging from being merely a 'backup' for grammar teaching to major syllabus strand in its own right, where mastering the ability to write effectively is seen as key objective for learners, Harmer (2004:31).

Gorys Keraf (1982: 93), the meaning of description is a discourse used to convey a thing or object of conversation so that readers like to see the object directly.

Melvin L. Silberman (2005: 177) According to Melvin L. Silberman, Mind Mapping is a creative way for individual students to generate ideas, record lessons or plan new research.