INTRODUCTION

Writing is the language skills needed to improve the quality of learning. Their mastery of writing skills, is expected to express their ideas, thoughts, and feelings that each student after undergoing a learning process in different types of writing, both fiction and nonfiction.

According Rosidi (2009: 3) writing is a form of thinking, which is also a tool to make the other person or the reader think. By writing, students are able to construct a variety of science or knowledge possessed in a post, either in the form of essays, articles, scientific reports, news, short stories, poetry and so on. The purpose of teaching writing in school is that the students have the ability to write so that students do not think that the writing skills is a complex activity. In addition, the overall objective of learning to write in school is that the students are able to understand and be able to express what they catch, ideas, opinions, messages and feelings in written form.

Writing is an activity that is difficult for most people, both in the mother tongue and a foreign language. Lack of vocabulary, lack of understanding of the grammar, and their confusion about the structure of text are several reasons that make students afraid to write. Students often assume writing as an activity that bored, not profitable, and probably because writing is often done as homework, which doesn't have much fun (Hadfield Charles and Hadfield, 2005). Most of teachers are more interested in teaching students in traditional ways. Usually, teachers only give a few theories about how to make a good article without the practice of writing to students. Furthermore, students only know about theories in making good writing, but students do not know how to express ideas and thoughts in writing

Such as that found of researcher from the observation in class SMP Nasrani 1 Medan on July 29, 2019 when the English class, found the problem in learning activities. That is still low of student motivation when learning activities particularly in writng, this condition is evidenced by the number of students who perform other activities such as talking, joking, even sleepy when the activity of the learning takes place because in the learning activities, teachers are still using methods that are tedious, namely expository and methods of lectures and assignments, so that learning activity was dominated by the teacher though each subject matter certainly requires the implementation of a varied strategy because the learning objectives are also different.

Of these problems, it is necessary if it were carried out research on the implementation of a new learning strategies by teachers. The title of the research to be conducted by the researchers that "The Implementation Of Pen Pal Project To Teach Writing Skill Of Recount Text At The Second Grade Of SMP Nasrani 1 Medan"

"Pen Pal 'is a term that describes an activity of exchanging letters to others to be friends with someone. Pen-Pal done through writing a letter on a piece of paper and that will be sent to each of their pen pals through the pen pal sites on the internet. This could be a unique activity for students because students are familiar with the use of email in their gadgets in this era. In this letter, students share information about themselves and their experiences. The use of pen pals may motivate the willingness of students in writing in a humorous way. This strategy has been widely used in a variety of formal educational settings and has been used with participants from all age groups and levels of language proficiency (Larotta and Serrano, 2012). Writing letters to pen pals allow students to share their passion with their pen pals. A study has been conducted by Vera Mello (1998) provide evidence that the pen pal project is an effective way to help students to improve their writing skills. The findings indicate that this project gives the students improve the skills of reading, writing and cognitive, namely the skills to interact with others. The project

also gives them the opportunity to communicate effectively in the English language to express their ideas and thoughts on a particular topic they like.

Pen pal project spark a sincere interest in learning. According to Garcia (2013), the implementation of a pen pal program has been shown to increase student's knowledge of desire to have multicultural experiences. Shandomo (2009) identifies the objectives of pen pal programs to include writing and reading for genuine purpose for audiences to celebrate differences and similarities. Recent research suggests pen pal practices support, nurture and motivate early adolescence reading habits (Gambrell, 2015). Students enjoy getting to know each other while experiencing an increase in cultural knowledge without forced effort from educators (Garcia, 2013). Although, pen pal relationships are generally short lived, it is an experience never forgotten and often reflected on through adulthood.

Recount text is a type of English text that is studied by eighth graders at school. Retelling of one's own experiences is an activity in which we tell people about something that has happened in our lives. Maybe about what we did on vacation or about interesting things that happened in the past. Anderson and Anderson define the recount text as a piece of text that recounts past events, usually in the order in which they occur. From this definition, it can be seen that the recount text consists of chronological events of the past. It further means that we cannot write events randomly because there is a general structure to follow that will make the text easier to understand. This type of text is not only used at school but also at other media written and electronic, it's used in many real social contexts. For example is used in diary, blog, letter, biography, travel report, police report, sport report etc.

A recount text usually has three main sections: Orientation, Sequence of Events and Reorientation.

a. Step 1: Orientation

Orientation introduces the participants, place and time. It provides all the necessary background information to make sense of the text. 5W questions (Who, What, Where, When and Why) are used in order to have systematic and thorough information. Therefore, what happened, who or what was involved in the story, why, where and when the events occurred needed to write.

b. Step 2: Sequence of Events

This step tells the sequence events that happened in the past based on the time and place when it occurred.

c. Step 3: Reorientation

It consists of optional closure of events or it can be stating personal comment of the writer to the story.