

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter This chapter highlights some points related with the topic under study. They are background of the study, Problem of the Research, Objective of the Research, Operational Definition, Significance of the Research, Scope of this Research.

1.1 Background of the Research

It is believed that language has an important role in the world because everybody uses it to communicate with others. It is used to deliver meanings, feelings and desires from someone to others. Therefore, it is obviously significant for all people to learn language because of its importance in their daily life both spoken and written. Harmer (2004:3) says that almost all human beings grow up speaking their first language (and sometimes their second or third) as a matter of course, writing has to be taught, spoken language for a child, is acquired naturally as a result of being exposed to it, whereas the ability to write has to be consciously learned.

Writing belongs to an important activity in an English class. School-Based Curriculum as the curriculum applied in Indonesia educational curriculum explains that students of senior high school not only learn about grammar and vocabulary, but also they should reach the discourse level. It can be said that

students not only focus on understanding the texts taught, but also focus on constructing new texts as well.

There are some reasons for making students practice writing. They can choose their own themes or topic to be written. It is as stated by Harmer (2004:12) “Process writing is a way of looking at what people do when they compose written text. We have seen that it recursive and may involve many changes of direction while the writer chops and changes between the four main process elements.

Sometimes Students not only focus on understanding the texts taught, but also focus on constructing new texts as well. Because they are still learn, most of them have same difficulties how to write in English. Students will be easier get bored if they have the monotonous method while the teacher give the material and it is make the goal of teaching learning process is difficult to achieve. Sometimes students will be easier to write something when they have experience about that topic.

From the researcher’s experience when practice teaching at SMP Muhammadiyah 6 Wuluhan, almost all from the students have some difficulties in writing, such as they are lazy to open their dictionary, and they are always confuse where to start their writing text. It can be known from the result of interview with the English teacher. In the interview, the teacher said that the average (mean) standart passing score is (75). From thirty (30) students just ten (10) students that can reach standart passing score. Its mean that the writing process in the classroom of class VIII A is not success.

To solve that problem, the teacher needs to find alternative teaching techniques which can encourage and motivate the students in the writing class, and also can improve their writing skills. Kane (2000:21) states that a journal/diary collects our own experiences and thoughts rather than quotations. He also said that keeping a daily or almost daily journal/diary can be an excellent way to get practice in writing.

According to Kane (2000:21) A *journal*—the word comes from French and originally meant "daily"—is a day-to-day record of what you see, hear, do, think, feel. Indeed, Porter et al. (1990) in Sadeq (2015) states that diaries are used in writing courses to investigate the connection between writing and learning. A comprehensive list of the purpose of diary writing is given by Absalom and Leger (2011) in Sadeq (2015) said that for example, diaries can be use by a learner to reflect on his/her learning experience of learning or by a pre-service teacher as a way of reflection their practice. It can be seen in a personal diary. A diary is used as a representative of individual. It means that diary can express the writer's interest, feeling, and wish. The writer thinks that by writing diary can make students freely write their ideas in the written form.

Starting from the problems arising in teaching English writing and the students' achievements of writing which are unsatisfactory, the researcher wants to conduct a research entitled "improving students' personal recount text by using personal diary". This teaching learning uses integrated teaching with focuses on teaching writing. The researcher wants to investigate whether the teaching model by using students' personal experience can achieve the goal of teaching writing better.

1.2 Problem of the Research

Based on the background above, the problem is organized as the following :
How can personal diary improve students personal recount text by making diary at the eight grade students of SMP M 6 Wuluhan in the 2016/2017 academic year?

1.3 Objective of the Research

Regarding the problem mentioned above, the objective of this research is to know how personal diary can improve students' writing ability

1.4 Operational Definitions

To avoid misunderstanding, by giving clear definitions that would be explained as the following:

1) Writing Ability

In this research writing skill will be focused on writing personal recount text. Personal recount text in this research is a paragraph that students retells events or experiences in the past in fact. The students are required to write a short personal recount text consisting of at least 50 words. The measurement of students' paragraph writing includes organize, grammar, mechanic, and vocabulary. The students are required to write a short personal recount text by using past tense. The allocated time for the writing test is 30 minutes.

2) Diary

Diary of this research refers to teachers' learning media in teaching writing English by involving students' true experience in their life is like write a diary. In this study the students will write some from their experience in the past, not only about their holiday. The students also can write about their good or bad experience. So they will write their experience in the past by form of personal diary itself.

1.5 Significance of the Research

Every technique hopefully will give contribution to English teaching and learning, they are :

a) For the teacher

It will help the teacher to make the teaching learning English more fun. The technique may improve the students' writing recount text.

b) For the students

The students will be interested to make a recount text because the topic is based on their personal experience in the past.

c) For the writer

It will add the new information about that technique and the writer will get new experience in teaching recount text using personal diary. beside fulfill of the requirement for the degree of Bachelor of Education.

1.5 Scope of the Reaearch

This study is focused on the classroom action research of the teaching writing in personal recount text making diary. The subject of this study is eight grade students in SMP Muhammadiyah 6 Wuluhan in 2016-2017 academic year.