

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background of the research, problem of the research, objective of the research, operational definition of the terms, significance of the research and scope of the research.

1.1 The Background of the Research

English as International Language has to be learned by people in the world. That is why it is possible for everyone to communicate with other people around the world in English. The ability in using English is very important for everyone. English as a foreign language is English which is taught to the people and learned by the students who live in non-English speaking Countries. For example in Indonesia, English is not used as everyday language, English is considered as a foreign language. English is commonly learned by students of Elementary School until University level.

When studying English, students should study the forth language skills, i. l., Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. Writing is one of language skills that very important to be learned. According to Alderson (2002:5) writing is an important part in curriculum in school that should be taught from the earliest year in the school from the basic level. Teaching writing is important in teaching language skill because writing helps the students in delivering some messages on their own word. Graham et al (2007:2) writing is important in helping people to communicate with other people

especially for some people in distance. Writing is the skill that is used to express the feeling, ideas, and opinions, in written form. Fairbairn and Winch (1996:32) define writing is an activity to convey meaning by selecting words and putting them together in a written or printed form.

One of the competences in the English syllabus in Curriculum 13 for the second year students in Senior High School is narrative text, that is one kind of text that should be mastered by the students. In fact, many students think that writing narrative text is still difficult to do. It is because narrative text is formed by the past. Moreover, they have problem with a lack of vocabulary, a little bit understanding of grammar and unable in organizing their ideas.

Based on the observation and interview done to the English teacher in the grade X of SMA Muhammadiyah 3 Jember, many students had difficulties in composing text such as generating and organizing the ideas in a good sentences based on the topic of narrative text.

By considering the fact above, in teaching writing a narrative text the teacher should teach by using the appropriate strategy. One of the strategies that the teacher can use in teaching writing is PLEASE strategy. The teacher can teach the students how to use PLEASE strategy in helping the students to write a text. Akincilar (2010:53) tells that PLEASE strategy is effective for improving the students' ability in writing paragraph. PLEASE strategy can help the students to improve the students writing ability especially in writing a paragraph. In addition, PLEASE strategy is a writing strategy that is used to generate cohesive organized paragraph (Brownell et

al:2012). PLEASE is an acronym from six letter and each letter explain each strategies. Those are: P is Pick, pick a topic, purpose and audience. L is List, list the ideas about the topic. E is Evaluate, evaluate the list of ideas and plan the best way to organize the ideas. A is Activate, activate the paragraph with a topic sentence. S is Supply, supply the supporting sentences. E is End, end writing and evaluate your work.

This strategy is not only can be used in writing paragraph but also in writing a text and an essay. PLEASE strategy will guide the students to generate ideas about a topic for writing a text, organizing those ideas, generating text that communicates those ideas and then revising their writing. PLEASE is a mnemonic writing strategy that guides the students to write all of the parts of a paragraph using the planning, composing, ad revising components (Boyle 2010). Using this strategy, the students will be able to write sentences that are complete and coherent.

In this research, PLEASE strategy is applied in teaching writing especially in narrative text. Because narrative text is a part of competences learning in the syllabus for the second semester in Senior High School. Finally, it is drafted an action research entitled: “Improving the tenth grade students’ writing ability by using PLEASE strategy at SMA Muhammadiyah 3 Jember in the 2016/2017 Academic Year”.

1.2 The Problem of he Research

Based on the background above, the problem of this research were formulated as “How can PLEASE strategy improve the tenth grade students’ writing ability at SMA Muhammadiyah 3 Jember in the 2016/2017?”

1.3 The Objective of the Research

This research attempts to improve the tenth grade students' achievement writing ability in narrative text by using PLEASE strategy at SMA Muhammadiyah 3 Jember in the 2016/2017 Academic year.

1.4 The Operational Definition of the Research

1) Writing ability

Writing ability in this research is one of English language skills that should be mastered by the students in narrative text with considering some aspects such as grammar, vocabulary, mechanics, and organization.

2) PLEASE

PLEASE is one of strategies in teaching writing narrative text which requires the students work individually to list their ideas about the topic which is given by the teacher to improve their writing ability in generating sentences into a good paragraph.

1.5 The Significance of the Research

The significance of the research were expected to be useful for the students, the English teacher and the other researchers.

1.5.1 Theoretical Significance

This study is expected to be as a guide or reference for English language teachers in teaching and enhance students' skills in writing in the classroom.

1.5.2 Practical Significance

The results of this study are expected to be a solution for English language teachers in overcoming the difficulties of teaching English language learners in teaching writing.

1.6 The Scope of the Research

In this research, focuses on describing the use of PLEASE strategy to improve the tenth grade students' writing ability focusing on the writing narrative text at SMA Muhammadiyah 3 Jember in the 2016/2017 academic year.