

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background and the problem of the research, the research objective, the operational definition of term, the significance of the research, and the scope of the research. They will be respectively in the following section.

1.1 Background of the Research

English is a tool for communication either verbal or written in daily used. Communication is to understand and express information, thought and feeling to develop science, technology, and culture. The ability to communicate within the meaning of the whole is the ability of discourse, namely the ability to understand and/or produce spoken text and/or write realized in the four language skills, namely listening, speaking, reading and writing. The fourth skill is used to respond to or create a discourse in public life. Therefore, subjects in English are directed to develop these skills so that graduates are able to communicate and discourse in English at a certain level of literacy.

Among the four language skills, writing skills is included in productive skills. In this product, the writing skills of students become a target at the end of the learning process. According to Sokolik(2003) in Linse (2005:98), writing is a combination of process and product. The process refers to the act of gathering ideas and working with them until they are presented in a manner that is polished

and comprehensible to readers. Raimes (1983: 3) states that writing means the effort to express ideas and the constant use of eye, hand, and brain is a unique way to reinforce learning. So the writer will use all of his imagination or thought and try to pour it down into written form by using the use of all aspects to use to write such as hand, eye, and also his brain to build up a new or some ideas.

Writing ability is an activity in teaching learning process to produce language in written form. Writing is one of four skills in English that is learnt by elementary school student up to university level. Student can write any opinion or ideas based on their willingness. Some students often feel difficult to speak in English, so they can use written language to express their thought. Written language can also help students to share their ideas with others.

In teaching students in the classroom, technique in teaching should be taken into account. Therefore, teachers should be able to improve the learning process which gives a chance to the students to be more active, both physically and mentally. One of the teaching strategies that can improve students' ability in writing is The Power of Two. According to Silberman (2014: 173) this activity is used to improve learning and confirm the benefit of synergies that two heads is better than one. There will be a correlation to the cooperative learning that engage the students to work in team, as stated by Slavin (2005: 4), the use of cooperative learning is to improve students achievement and can develop inter-group relation, acceptance of classmate who were weak in academic field, and increase self-respect. Through learning activities such as discussion and exchange of ideas, students get more portions to be directly involved in the learning process and learn on how to take responsibility in the teaching and learning process. So, The Power

of Two is the way of making an active learning in teaching and learning process in the classroom.

Based on the result of interview that was conducted on March 21st 2016 and April 6th 2016, the English teacher of eight grade students of SMPN 1 Jambesari Darussholah stated that students still had difficulties in learning English especially in writing. This was due to the lack of vocabularies, low mastery of grammar, and low interest in learning writing. Among the six classes that he teaches, one class (VIII F) had the most obvious problem in writing. The teacher stated that the students often look unenthusiastic. Usually only a few of the students gave response to the teacher's questions. Most of the students did not pay attention to the teacher's explanation. In addition, students rarely asked question. As the result, on the last test conducted by the English teacher, this class had the lowest average score. The average score of this class is 74 while the researcher decides 80 as the standard minimum requirement. Considering those facts, the teacher proposed this class to be the research participant.

Meanwhile, in daily practice of teaching English, the teacher spends more time in teaching speaking skill than other language skills including writing. As he claimed, the emphasis of teaching English in junior high school is developing oral communication skill. The writing assignments from the teacher to the students were usually in the form of the text dialogues and the students were rarely assigned to write a text types like narrative, descriptive, report, or recount.

Therefore, classroom action research entitled "Improving the VIII F students' skill in writing descriptive text by using The Power of Two strategy at SMPN 1 Jambesari Darussholah in 2015/2016 academic year" is conducted to

develop student's writing ability of class VIII F at this school to solve problem mentioned above. This classroom action research is hoped to be able to give a significant improvement to the students' writing ability.

1.2 Problem of the Research

Based on the research background above, the research problem in this study is formulated as follow:

“How can the use of The Power of Two strategy improve the VIII F students' writing ability at SMPN 1 Jambesari Darussholah in 2015/2016 academic year?”

1.3 Objective of the Research

Dealing with the background of the research above, the objective of the research is the use of The Power of Two strategy improves the VIII F students' writing ability at SMPN 1 Jambesari Darussholah in 2015/2016 academic year.

1.4 Operational Definition

An operational definition will become a guide to understand the concept of this study. It is also important to avoid the broad interpretation of the terms used in the title between the writer and the reader. The terms that are necessary to be defined operationally are as follows:

1.4.1 The Power of Two

According to Silberman (2014:173) The Power of Two is a beneficial strategy that will involve students to learn in a pair that make them more active in studying the material in the classroom because it engages students in pair to work cooperatively so they can share some ideas to build up new opinion about some problems that they get in teaching and learning process. The use of picture in

teaching and learning will also help the students to easily understand about the material given by the teacher. Thus, it will automatically attract the students' participation in teaching and learning process in the classroom.

1.4.2 Descriptive Writing Ability

Writing is an activity in which we express our ideas through written form. Descriptive text is a text that has purpose to describe an object or a person that the writer interest in. Thus, in writing descriptive text the writer should know well what they want to describe. They describe their ideas and thought vividly based on what they see, hear, taste, smell or touch.

So, based on the explanation above, writing ability in this research is the ability of the students to describe something as clearly as possible based on the picture given using correct grammar, vocabulary, and organization of the text.

1.5 Significance of the Research

The results of the study are expected to give some benefits for english teacher, students, and the other researchers.

a. For English Teacher

Hopefully, the finding of the research can be used as an input for the English teacher to know the new strategy in teaching English especially in teaching writing. Thus, teacher can select the most appropriate methods in teaching writing.

b. For the Students

Through The Power of Two strategy that is applied in teaching and learning process, student hopefully will know the new learning style that

can be applied in writing class. In which it allow them to learn while they are working with their pair. Further, they will know the importance of working cooperatively and improve their writing skill.

c. For the Other Researcher

The results are useful for future researcher as a reference for further research to broaden the view concerning with conducting further research dealing with writing ability in teaching learning process.

1.6 Scope of the Research

As it is impossible for the researcher to discuss all aspects of writing, the researcher limited the research on the implementation The Power of Two method in teaching and learning process. In this classroom research, the subjects of this research are the VIII F students of SMPN 1 Jambesari darussholah. This research focuses on writing descriptive text. The student will be asked to write Descriptive text about the topic that is given by the teacher in teaching and learning process in the classroom. The teacher comments are limited to the aspect of writing such as grammar, vocabulary, mechanic, and text organization.