

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter discusses some issues related to the topics of the research. They are background of the research, problem of the research, objective of the research, significance of the research, operational definition, and scope of the research.

#### **1.1 Background of the Research**

In learning language, there are four aspects that we have to be mastered. They are speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Writing is one of the four skills in English that is learnt by junior high school students. It is one of the productive skills, which has a great function in communication. Through writing, a writer can share his/her thought, idea, information, hope, and so forth.

However, the teaching of writing in our educational setting is slightly neglected for many year, since more communicative teaching methods emphasize speaking rather than writing. Besides, the literate culture in Indonesia is in fact still poor. According to Hogue (2008:2), academic writing requires certain skills. These skills include sentence structure, organization, grammar and punctuation ". the purpose of the academic writing is explaining something and giving information about something.

According to Langan (2005:15), writing is treated as a process. It means that writing as both a skill and a process of discovery to explain and illustrated the sequence of step in writing essay. Writing an essay in which there is an overall statement and in which each of three supporting paragraph begins with a topic sentence is more challenging for many students than writing a free-form or expressive essay.

According to Kennedy (1998:8), Writing is a school subject that historically has been dominated by one idea but now is dominated by another. The fact that such a change is under way nationwide makes this a useful subject through which to examine whether or how teachers are able to change their beliefs about writing. The importance of writing as a school subject, the fact that it is taught at all grade levels, and the recent movem to reform its definition combine to make this particular school subject a useful site for studying teacher learning. Of interest is whether teachers, through their teacher education programs, can not only come to understand new ideas about writing, but also learn to draw on these ideas when they interpret particular classroom situations.

Students always feel hard to write something because they learn English as a foreign language so they often find the difficulties when they want to write. The most difficult text to write for the students is descriptive text in the form of paragraph. This matter is caused by some cases. Most of the students lacked vocabularies and also got difficulties in applying English grammar. When starting to write, the students always got stuck. The students did not have many concepts to write something. Besides, when doing some writing exercises, the students

needed a long time to think the idea to write something put into a descriptive paragraph.

An outline is simply a framework for presenting the main and supporting ideas for a particular subject or topic. Even then, outlining does not have to be a thing of the past. A good outline can help you generate ideas, organize thoughts, help you save time and write faster(washington Univercity).

Based on the preliminary study of SMPN 1 Sumbermalang, it was revealed that class VIIA still had difficulties to express and organize ideas. They also had problem with vocabulary and grammar. It could be proven when they had free writing activities. Some of students just did nothing, looked confused and did not know what they have to do. It was proved by the result of writing test score which showed only 41% of the students got 70 . The rest of students got below 70. To reach of the good level, students must be achieve score of upper 70.

The teacher said that class VIIA had lower writing score than other class. The teacher asked them to imagine about the person that they like, but the teacher did not give any media to the students. Then the teacher give some clues for them to start their writing. But after that, they stuck again and they did nothing. They keep asking about how to write it to their teacher. The researcher also asked the socre of previous writing test to make sure that the students' had problem in writing.

The reseacher was also observed the students to make sure that they had difficulties in writing. The teacher in the classroom asked the students to write descriptive text about describing something. But the students still confused to

write about the something. They did not know how to write them on a piece of paper. They did not know how to arrange the sentences into good order. The researcher and the teacher made agreement to use single picture from place, people, and something as a media in teaching descriptive writing.

Based on the reason above, the researcher was conducting action research entitled *Improving Students' Descriptive Text Writing Ability Using Outlining at SMPN 1 Sumbermalang in the 2016/2017 academic year*.

## **1.2 Problem of the Research**

Based on the background of the research above, the problem of the research to be formulated in this study is: "How can the use of outlining technique improve the VII students' descriptive text writing ability?"

## **1.3 Objective of the research**

The objective of the research is to implement the way how the use of outlining technique in improving the VII students' descriptive text writing ability of SMPN 1 Sumbermalang in the 2016/2017 academic year.

## **1.4 Operational Definition of the Research**

The operational definition of the terms is to avoid misunderstanding of the concept used in this research. They are outlining and writing ability.

### **1.4.1 Outlining technique**

Outlining is learning technique in which the students attempt to outline words to become the topic.

#### 1.4.2 Writing Ability

Writing ability refers to the students competence in writing descriptive text has been implemented of the content, grammar, and vocabulary.

### 1.5 Significance of the Research

The result of the research was expected to be useful the English Teacher and the students

#### 1.5.1 The English Teacher

Hopefully, the result of this research are able to be used as useful input and information for the English teacher to give an alternative strategy in the teaching writing to improve the students' writing ability

#### 1.5.2 The students

The actions of this research are expected to be useful for the students to improve the students' writing ability. In addition, they will have a new learning technique by using outlining words in the process of writing that can help them to finish the writing assignment easily.

### 1.6 Scope of the Research

The scope of the Research is using outlining words technique in teaching learning process to improve the students' writing ability. In this classroom action research, the subjects of this research are the VII students' at SMPN 1 Sumbermalang in the 2016/2017 academic year.