

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Research

In Indonesia, English is one of the languages that is taught to the students. It is important and needed to learn English in the current era of globalization. Besides, in education, English is mandatory learning that is tested. Students must master four basic English skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Apart from these skills, other components in English support these four skills, such as grammar, pronunciation, and vocabulary. According to Selvaraj and Aziz (2019, p.452), one of the most important skills to master in English is writing.

Writing can be defined as the process of exploring ideas and thoughts and turning them into something that can be seen and done. It is a way to convey ideas, thoughts, and information using the alphabet or script (Sangkala, 2012, p.2). Students must have ideas, information, or concepts that they want to express in words to write (Syifa et al., 2022, p.22). They must comprehend the objectives and possible actions before they can start writing. Students can discover the inspiration to write or create a coherent work if given a clear topic and notion to portray. Furthermore, writing can be difficult to master, especially in terms of genre or type of text.

In the high school curriculum, descriptive text is one of the various types of texts studied. The descriptive text describes and reveals certain people, places, or objects (Hanafi 2019, p.56). In other words, descriptive text clearly explains a person or object's condition. The aim of descriptive is to provide information about

something or someone. In descriptive text, the writer describes people, objects, appearances, views, or phenomena naturally so that readers can imagine and feel what they say. The descriptive text has two generic structures: identification and description.

Although descriptive is a genre or type of text that high school students must master, they face several problems writing descriptive texts. Based on an interview that the researcher did with the teacher at one of the high schools in Jember, the teacher said the students' low ability to write descriptive text, such as a lack of understanding regarding sentence structure, finding main ideas, and expressing these ideas in paragraph form clearly. In addition, students tend to make mistakes in using established tenses, spelling errors, and inappropriate punctuation.

The statement above is consistent with the findings about writing difficulties from previous research conducted by Sarlin (2019,p.55), which found that students in senior high school had dominant difficulty writing descriptive texts because they had not surely mastered grammar and could not construct sentences with good grammar. In addition, they have difficulty with vocabulary, which causes them to have difficulty constructing sentences, and many still need clarification about the form. Therefore, English as a Foreign Language (EFL) students generally find it easier to communicate orally than in writing (Harisna et al., 2018, p.139).

Furthermore, based on research conducted by Riadil et al. (2023, p.72) in analyzing EFL learners at University difficulties in academic writing, it is stated that grammar and syntax are the most difficult components in writing. Symptoms of these errors include using prepositions, adjectives, singular or plural verbs, sentence structure, and idioms. Similar to the research results stated by Syifa et al.

(2022, p.473), the difficulties faced in writing descriptive texts include grammar that is not understood, lack of mastered vocabulary, and difficulty in constructing sentences because they do not like English lessons both in terms of boring teaching techniques and laziness to learn. These factors themselves contribute significantly to the students' overall difficulties in writing. He suggested that future researchers investigate what strategies are effective for students to use in resolving difficulties during writing so that students are more enthusiastic and not bored in learning to write.

From the problems above, the students need the strategy of writing descriptive. With a good strategy, it will be easier for students to compose writing. Therefore, the researcher is interested in investigating the difficulties students, especially high school students, encounter in writing descriptive texts. Apart from that, the researcher also wants to explore the strategies used by students in writing descriptive texts. This research aims to make it easier for students to write descriptive text by knowing the strategy.

1.2 Problem of Research

- 1) What difficulties that are faced by students in writing Descriptive Text?
- 2) What strategies that are used by students in writing Descriptive Text?

1.3 Focus of Research

This research focuses on investigating the difficulties faced by students writing descriptive texts and strategies they use to overcome these difficulties.

1.4 Objective of Research

The objective of this research is to determine the difficulties faced by students in writing descriptive texts and what strategies they use to overcome these difficulties.

1.5 Significances of Research

This research has two significant theoretical and practical implications based on the objective above. The researcher will explain as follows:

1.5.1 Theoretical

The results of this research can be used as a reference and literature for further research to conduct research related to writing difficulties and strategies for EFL, especially in writing descriptive text.

1.5.2 Practical

The findings of this research can provide teachers with helpful guidance on how to modify teaching strategies to help students who struggle with writing. The findings of this study will also give students knowledge of strategies for improving their writing abilities.

1.6 Scope of Research

The scope of this research is to investigate the difficulties faced by the students in X-grade at SMAN 4 Jember when writing descriptive text and what strategies they used to overcome these difficulties.

1.7 Definition of Term

1.7.1 Descriptive text

Descriptive text refers to text that aims to convey information about something or someone clearly. There are two main parts to descriptive text: identification and description.

1.7.2 Writing difficulties

Writing difficulties refer to various challenges students face when composing a text that focuses on describing people, places, and things clearly and in detail.

1.7.3 Writing Strategies

Strategy in this research refers to certain techniques and methods that students use to overcome problems and challenges while writing descriptive text

