

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents and discusses background of the research, problem of the research, focus of the research, purpose of the research, significance of the research, assumption of the research, scope of the research, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Research

Language is the most important component in our communication. In daily, we absolutely use a language for communication. People build and create communication to other people, and interact with each other. People use a language to deliver their opinion, some information about themselves, their life, and sometimes their feelings. They create a meaningful communication with their social. As well known, human is social creature. Human interacts with other people to express their needs, feelings, opinion, existence, and to make another being emphatic, sympathetic is the main things that human as social creatures. The language can't be separated from human, they include at all of aspect in life. Just imagine how will our life be without language.

In our country, English has become a foreign language. It means that English officially is not our language, not all of our citizen are able to speak English. Therefore, it must be learned by the all citizens. It is learned at school as one of the main subjects at every level of education in our country; started from

elementary level to highest level of education. Indonesian government has put it on specific place in our educational curriculum, many efforts have been made by Minister of Education to find out the best curriculum, which is suitably applied to Indonesian learners.

There are four skills to be mastered by English learner; speaking, writing, reading, and listening. Writing is an active language skill. It means the learners do not only receive, process, and accept the language, it urges learners to produce their own idea into written products. Writing as well is one of the most essential skills that an individual needs to acquire. Writing is an important part of language teaching as it also functions as an essential tool for learning in which students improve their knowledge of the language elements in real use (Taselin, 2010). Through writing, every person is able to express his thought, needs, idea, and feelings. It helps someone giving information. Then, it enables to make someone to be emphatic, sympathetic through his written information.

Writing skills are very crucial for students at university level. However, it is really difficult to be mastered by the students. There are three reasons why writing skill is difficult. First, they are not used to thinking in English and likely to use direct translations from their mother tongue to English. Second, they may be not really good at English grammatical and are not rich of vocabularies. Third, they may have lower motivation for doing writing activity in conventional method. Writing is a complex skill that needs ability to use appropriate vocabulary, grammar, and build their idea in written. Then, to teach writing effectively the teacher must be familiar with various methods, strategies, and media to help them in teaching.

To get students' ability in writing and interest in learning English, teachers should be selective in choosing the media that is making relation between object and language. Picture like drawings, photographs, posters, slides, cartoons, magazines advertisements, diagrams, graphs, tables, charts, and maps, can be valuable resource for teaching writing (Raimes, 1938). Giving interesting media in learning process will be able to motivate student during the class.

Students may face some problems in doing their writing activity such as they don't know what they will write on their paper because they didn't get any ideas from instruction given by teacher. Some teachers often only give them instruction without giving them stimulation that can lead them to get some idea. Picture often communicates information more quickly and clearly than written text does. Through pictures students are able to think and imagine what are information included. It also increases students' focus level because pictures are colorful. Other than that, picture is able to give students more various idea by seeing it. Such as people, place and things that they have ever or never visited before. It represents idea that student can write into their written assignment. By using picture, it eases teacher to find out attractive media. Then picture is one of the solutions to help teacher delivers material well and more attractive.

1.2 Problem of the Research

Based on the background of the study, the writer proposes the research problem: "What is student's perception toward their learning activity using picture in writing class?"

1.3 Focus of the Research

This research is focused on investigating what are student's perception toward their learning activity using picture in writing class. Specifically in composing good sentences, simple, compound and complex sentences.

1.4 Purpose of the Research

The purpose of this research is to know what are students' perception on their learning activity using picture in writing class.

1.5 Significance of the Research

There are two kinds of benefits that can be found from this research, that are:

1. Theoretical Benefit

- a. This research result is expected to give contribution in general knowledge of what students feelings, impression on joining various atmosphere class with specific method.

2. Practical Benefit *

- a. For the Students

This researchs' result provides some information about their perceptions during the class, it could be some motivation.

- b. For the Teacher

This research result could provide helpful information in selecting and evaluating learning method, and media that teacher able to choose by giving more attention to their students' perceptions.

c. For the Researcher

This research gave the researcher new experience and knowledge about what do the students feel, think, and impress in learning process in the class with some specific method.

1.6 Assumption of the Research

In this research, using pictures as media on writing activities in writing class are able to lead various students' perceptions, either they like or dislike writing, and they could get idea by seeing the pictures.

1.7 Scope of the Research

In this research, the writer limits on what are student's perception toward their learning activity using picture as focus media especially photographs, on writing class of second semester students of Muhammadiyah University of Jember.

1.8 Definition of Key Terms

Some words that are used in this research become key words. In other to have better understanding and to avoid misinterpretation about the terms used in this research that are:

1.8.1 Picture

Picture is one of visual media to deliver some textual information. It can be used more effectively to develop and sustain motivation in producing positive attitudes towards English and to teach or reinforce language skill.

1.8.2 Learning activity

In this research, learning activity means writing skills learning activity that is held in writing class.

1.8.3 Students' Perception

Students' perception refers to student thoughts and beliefs about technology or media used on the class. It is a personal interpretation of their learning experience. (Source:igi-global.com,2020)

1.8.4 Perception on Writing Skill

In this research, perception on writing skill means someone's own interpretation about skills in writing; in which it includes sentences, mechanics, dictions, and grammar. Writing skill is crucial skill for students. Even writing skill is complex skill which means writing skill is not just noting down some idea but it requires to use appropriate knowledge about skills in writing.

