# 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

Writing is one of the four language skill (listening, speaking, reading and writing). Writing taught after speaking, listening and reading. As one of the four language skills, writing is often considered as a difficult language skill by most of the EFL. It is supported by Oshima and Hogue (2007:3) who say that writing, particularly academic writing is not easy. It takes study and practice to develop this skill. For both native speaker and new learners of English, it is important to note that writing is a process, not a product.

Writing activity has an important contribution to students. Writing is used for a wide variety of purposes it is produced in many different forms. It could be seen in student daily activities when they need to write memos, letters, notes, and many others. Writing helps and measures the students' knowledge. First, it helps students reinforces the grammatical structure, idioms, and vocabulary. Second, they have a chance to be adventurous with the language in writing. The last, they learn how to express their idea in the right word and right sentence. Therefore,

improving the students' writing skill is important for English Foreign Learner (EFL).

Based on curriculum- School based curriculum (Kurikulum Tingkat Satuan Pendidikan), the teaching learning process is centered on the students, a teacher is a facilitator. Students are expected to be able to write some kind of genres of writing. They are narrative, recount, descriptive, report, explanation, analytical exposition, hortatory exposition, procedure, discussion, news items, reviews, spoof,and anecdote. But in fact, it does not run well on students learning center, not all students are able to work in group or individually in the teaching learning process and write properly.

Based on the preliminary study conducted at SMP Muhammadiyah 6 Wuluhan, there were some problems faced by the students in the teaching learning process. First, the teacher's teaching learning method: the English teacher used conventional method in teaching learning process. Teacher explained the material first, after that asked the students to do the tasks. There were less interaction between teacher and students. Students were passive to ask questions and discuss a topic in writing during the teaching-learning process. Then, when they practiced to write the recount text, most of the students still got difficulty in generating ideas and beginning to write. The teacher helped them by giving them the example of the recount text. So, the students prefer to cite than work in pair or individually.  Based on their product of writing recount text, it could be seen that the students were able to write recount text, but they did not able to organize and arrange the content in acceptable form. Some of them got difficulty to write using

correct vocabulary, mechanics, and grammar. It proved by the students' average score of writing test in preliminary study.

Working in group is a way to eliminate students' problem in learning process because they could help each other to solve problem. The researcher considers cooperative learning as effective way to help the students faced their problem in learning. The fact that most of students are reluctant to ask their teacher when they find difficulties in their learning process becomes the reason for using cooperative learning. Cooperative learning then offers many techniques to solve the students' problems.

Pair work is one of the cooperative learning techniques which could be an effective way to teach writing and helped students to improve their writing skill and solve their problem. Pair work activities can involve not only brainstorming, but writing together and correcting one another's writings as well. However, the use of pair work in writing classes seems quite limited. It tends to be limited to the beginning stages (brainstorming), or more commonly, to the final stages of writing. In this final stage, students review each other's written text and make suggestions on how it could be improved.

**1.2 Problem of the Research**

Based on the bakground of the research, the problem of the researh is formulated as follows:

1. How can pair work technique improve students' writing skill at SMP Muhammadiyah 6 Wuluhan in the 2017/2018 academic year?

2. How can pair work technique improve students' active participation in the teaching and learning proccess at SMP Muhammadiyah 6 Wuluhan in the 2017//2018 academic year?

## 1.3 Objective of the Research

Based on the research problem above, the purpose of this study are:

1. To find out how can pair work technique improve eighth grade students' writing skill at SMP Muhammadiyah 6 Wuluhan in the 2017/2018 academic year.

2. To know how can pair work technique improve students' active participation at SMP Muhammadiyah 6 Wuluhan in the 2017/2018 academic year.

## 1.4 Operational Definition of the Research

The operational definition of the terms is intended to avoid misunderstanding between the researcher and the redears about the concept used in this research. Those terms are operationally defined as follows.

1. Writing Skill

Students' writing skill in this research deals with the students' skill in writing recount text with correct grammar, mechanics, vocabulary, acceptable organization, and content. To know that the writing will be succes or not, it is from the students' writing score it self.

2. Pair Work

Pair work is a learning activity which involves learners working together in pairs. Pair work is activity when the students must be divided into a pairs that consist of two or three students to do an exercise or activity together. Not only

that, in pair work students can practice language together, study a text, research language or take part in information-gap activities.

**1.5 Significance of the Research**

It is expected that the results of the research will give important benefits to the following people.

**a. The English Teacher**

The result of this research may provide beneficial teaching input for the teacher to apply a sufficient teaching technique to improve the students' skill in writing, such as Pair Work activities that useful to help students to be active to solve their problem.

**b. The Students**

Hopefully, the result is useful to motivate the students to tackle, solve their problems and improve their skill in writing recount text.

**c. The Other Research**

The result of this research is hopefully used for other researchers as information or a reference to conduct further researcher with different research design or the same design with different text types to increase the students' writing skill through pair work in teaching.

**1.6 Scope of the Research**

The subjects of this research focusing and limiting on the use of pair work technique in improving the eight grade students of SMP Muhammadiyah 6 Wuluhan in the 2017/2018 academic year that have specific problem in writing skill, especially in writing recount text.