CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

Writing is the activity of someone in inventing and producing the ideas about something to be conveyed to the others in the written form. According to Linse (2006:98) in Hami (2011:8), writing is the process to explore the thoughts and put them into the paper as the product presented to the readers. Besides, writing is the method to communicate with other people in the form of writing. Related to the statement, writing is an act for communicating in the written form in which the writers can show their ideas to the readers.

Writing is an integral part of communication tool. Betts (2009) states that written communication is an essential component of communication done by human. People can share the useful information through writing to the others. It also aims at recording the spoken language and the important information. In addition, the curriculum of 2006 requires the students to be proficient in written communication. According to Depdiknas (2006) in Kartika and Saun (2013), School-based-curriculum or KTSP states that the purpose of teaching learning at Junior High School is creating the students to evolve communicative skill in written as well as in spoken to get functional literacy level. Hence, students are demanded to be able to develop the writing skill in order to achieve the objective of learning.
Nevertheless, there are some problems of writing faced by the students. First, the problem comes from mechanic aspect. The students do some mistakes in using capitalization, punctuation, and spelling, so that it can affect to the clarity of writing. Second, the pupils have difficulty in writing with the right grammar. Most of students do not make the right sentence structures. Third, it is difficult for the pupils to express the ideas in writing. This thing seems to be linked to the creativity of someone in inventing the ideas to be written. The last, teacher’s technique in teaching becomes one of the students’ problems in writing. Teacher just follows the instruction from book or students’ worksheet (LKS) without using a creative way to teach writing, so it impacts to the students’ low motivation in writing.

Additionally, on the syllabus of KTSP at the seventh grade students of Junior High School, one of the texts learned by the pupils is descriptive text. Priyana et al. (2008: 88) states that descriptive text is a text describing about the characteristics of a particular thing like animal, person, and thing. This text contains a specific thing explained in detail dealing with reality. Here, the students have to be able to write descriptive text according to the social function, generic structure, and language features of the text. The generic structure of the text is identification which identifies phenomenon to be described and description which describes parts, qualities, and characteristics (Wardiman et al., 2008:100). The language features of this text are telling a particular thing and applying epithet, classifiers, simple present tense, adjective, and adverb (Iriagiliati et al., 2009: 65).
Considering to the importance of writing descriptive text to be mastered by students, it needs an effective way to be applied in the teaching of writing descriptive text. One of the ways is by using Words to Sentences game. It is a game in which every player from both teams has to race in writing a sentence containing a specific word given by teacher in a short time. This game has a purpose to write a sentence having a specific word in it (Adams, 2013). The sentences should be correct in grammar and clear meaning.

In teaching writing descriptive text through this game, teacher prepares the same two sets of words. Teacher tells a certain topic for the students to be described. Next, teacher divides the class into two teams and gives each team a set of words, so that every student in a team gets one or two words. Then, teacher gives two minutes for the students to design their sentences in their team. After that, teacher says a word randomly, a student from each team acquiring that word has to come forward to race in writing a sentence containing the word based on the topic given. Teacher and students review the clarity and correctness of the sentences. Here, they will check and revise the sentences if there are some mistakes. The first student who writes a sentence having clear meaning and grammatically correct will get a point for his or her team. This game will be played until all the words have been written on the board. In the end of this game, every team can create sentences containing the particular words given by teacher. The team who achieves the highest point wins the game. Furthermore, teacher asks every student to arrange the sentences that have been written by their team into a descriptive text.
By playing this game, the students can find the ideas easily, for this game provides the particular words to stimulate them in creating sentences to describe something. In addition, students will be directed to use adjective and adverb in writing sentences through the words supplied by teacher. This game also trains the pupils to write the sentences having clear meaning and grammatically correct. At this point, the students can attempt to make the clear sentences with the right punctuation, capitalization, and spelling. Moreover, this game encourages the students to write the sentences by using simple present tense correctly which is the language feature of descriptive text. Furthermore, it will be easy for teacher to monitor the students in arranging the sentences that have been made by their team into a descriptive text based on the generic structure of the text.

Therefore, the researcher tried to find out the effectiveness of Words to Sentences game for teaching writing descriptive text. This research was conducted at Seventh Grade Student of SMP Negeri 1 Sokaraja in Academic Year 2014/2015”.

B. Reason for Choosing the Topic

There are some reasons why the writer chooses the topic as the title of the research. The reasons for choosing the topic are as follows:

1. Writing is an essential skill in English because it plays an important role in human communication.

2. Words to Sentences game is a fun way to teach writing descriptive text since it provides the particular words to stimulate the students in writing.
C. Problem of the Research

The problem of study can be formulated as follow:

“Is Words to Sentences game effective for teaching writing descriptive text?”

D. The Aim of the Research

Based on the problem that has been formulated above, so there is a purpose of this research as follow:

To find out the effectiveness of using Words to Sentences game for teaching writing descriptive text

E. The Scope of Research

The research was conducted at SMP Negeri 1 Sokaraja, Banyumas. The population of this research was the seventh grade students of SMP Negeri 1 Sokaraja since the material of descriptive text was taught at the seventh grade of Junior High School. Then, sample was chosen randomly.

F. Clarification of the Research

The title of this research is the Effectiveness of Words to Sentences game for Teaching Writing Descriptive Text. In order to make the readers understand about the key terms based on the title, the classification can be given. The key terms of the research are clarified as follows:

1. Effectiveness

According to Shapiro (2001: 3), effectiveness is a measure to know how far the program or project reaches the specific purpose.
2. Writing

According to Linse (2006:98) in Hami (2011:8), writing is the process to explore the thoughts and put them into the paper as the product that is presented to the readers.

3. Words to Sentences game

Words to Sentences game is a kind of game that has a purpose to write a sentence having a specific word in it (Adams, 2013).

4. Descriptive text

Priyana et al. (2008: 88) states that descriptive text is a text describing about the characteristics of a particular thing like animal, person, and thing.

G. Contribution of the Research

The findings of this research hopefully give the valuable contribution as described as follows:

1. For students

Students will be motivated in writing activity, for it uses an enjoyable way or technique in writing descriptive text.

2. For teacher

The result of this result can be consideration for the teacher to use a new technique in teaching writing descriptive text as an effective way to actively engage and facilitate the students in writing.
3. For other researcher

This research can be taken as reference for other researchers who want to conduct the research project on English language teaching especially for teaching writing Descriptive text using Words to Sentences game in Junior High School.

4. For school

The result of this study can develop the institution’s quality in English teaching learning process in SMP Negeri 1 Sokaraja especially for students’ writing skill.