

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Research

Writing is a form of spoken language that is expressed into some written words or sentences which is understood by people. Writing is important to be learnt because it is one of English skills that have to be mastered. This skill also needs to be learnt because it can be used to communicate with others. As writing might be read by many people, it is also an easy and simple way to shape people's mind to accept our thought. According to Nunan (2003:88), writing is a mental work of inventing ideas, thinking about how to express them, and organizing them into statements and paragraphs that will be clear to a reader. Without having a good writing skill, writer cannot bring the message and communicate it to other people in a particular language.

In Indonesia, writing can be said as the next thing to do by the students after they learn to speak. From this situation, it can be said that writing is also one of the important thing to master since the student will not be only forced to speak well, but also to express it into written form. Students are expected to have a writing habit, so that they will not get any difficulties in doing such kind of things, for example writing an exam, a message, and etc.

On the other hand, students have tendency to get bored whenever writing task come to them. It has been proven after doing pre-observation on the 1st grade of SMP Muhammadiyah Purwokerto, the students felt bored. Their boredom about learning writing can drag them into the difficulties in learning writing like all the time. Of course, when the students feel uncomfortable in learning writing, they will not be able to have desire to learn writing well. This situation also will make the students get difficulties to build their writing habit. Some students are extremely unconfident and unenthusiastic in writing. It indicates that the students still consider that writing is a hard skill to learn. If the teacher cannot handle this kind of situation, it will be very possible that the students will not like or even master writing skill in their whole life.

In this case, teacher has to change the way to teach and learning writing and boost the students to have writing habit so that they will recognize writing as being a normal part of classroom practice and they come to writing tasks with a much enthusiasm as they do other activities. English teacher, in whatever reason, have to help the students which still consider that writing is hard skill to learn. One way of doing this, of course, is to give them interesting

and enjoyable tasks in teaching learning process. Chain Sentence is considered as one of appropriate technique to build students habit in writing.

Through this technique, English teacher can live up the writing class to be interesting class to be followed by students. Chain sentence is believed as a technique which can be used to teach writing because it will stimulate students' thinking.

This technique can be said as an adoption from the learning technique which will be modified, that is "Word Association". In word association, it is involving the exchange of words that are associated together. Once an original word has been chosen, usually randomly or arbitrary, a player will find a word that they associate with it and make it known to all players, usually by saying it aloud or writing it down (Harmer, 2002). Chain Sentence takes almost the same rules as word association, what makes them a bit different is just the way those words are used. Usually, this word games is used to find out how many vocabulary comes from the students mind, but because this is going to be used to teach writing, the rules of this game will be changed.

Chain sentence can be said as interesting technique where the students are forced to make a sentence by using their own words in fun way. One example of advantages in implementing word association as Wilson (2003) says that this game is enjoyable and active games. Another source that can be adopted is " Writing Word". As Halfield (1990:03) stated that through writing word, the atmosphere in teaching writing will be much more fun and it can release students' hard thinking in doing writing task.

Differently with the conventional technique in teaching writing, here, the students will be stimulated by some pictures, they will try to make a sentence for the first students which will be continued by the second student and the next students until they create a long sentence by their own. It will be easier for them because they do not afraid of the teacher who will point them to answer a question or something, but they just continue making a sentence which has been created by their previous friend.

Chain sentences is also a technique which can be used to boost students' writing habit. This is because this technique will bring an enjoyable atmosphere in the classroom. First time they listen the instruction from the teacher to write something, they will be afraid. They are afraid that they are not able to create even a short sentence because they have nothing to write on their mind. Trough this technique, students are expected to be usual to compose sentences, because they will have different atmosphere when they learn writing through this Chain Sentence that will make them become easier in composing sentences. Here, students will naturally make their own word which will be continued by their friends until they could make their own long sentences. This easier step will make the students to be stimulated to create a good sentence better than their previous friends. After they have enjoyed the process of learning writing and find it fun, they will indirectly follow the "competition atmosphere" because they will try to make the best sentence they can. Therefore, students will have a good writing skill.

According to what has been explained above, the goal of this research is to give contribution to English teacher to boost their students writing skill through active and creative technique such as Chain Sentence.

B. Reasons of Choosing Topic

In this research, the topic chosen is the impact of Chain Sentences on Students' Writing Skill at the first grade students of SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Purwokerto for the reasons below:

Writing is still considered as a difficult skill to learn since the students do not have writing habits. The students are still difficult to what they have in their mind into written words or sentences. Moreover, the teacher who teach writing class still use an ordinary technique that make the students fell uninterested in learning writing, so that they have bad perception on the way of teaching and learning writing. In addition, the fun and interesting technique needs to be applied on teaching writing in order to make the students involved and get interest on learning writing which is actually is not as hard as they think.

C. Problem of the Research

The problem of this research is “does chain sentence give impact on students' writing skill teaching English?”

D. Aim of the Research

The aim of this research is to know whether or not chain sentence can give impact on students' writing skill in English classroom.

E. The Scope of the Research

To know the scope of the research, this is can be limited from the material of descriptive text into the following points:

Descriptive

1. Things : Animal, Tool, Activity
2. People : Figure
3. Place

The material and pedagogical points of descriptive text are based on the syllabus in the first grade of SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Purwokerto and also English teacher's consideration.

F. Clarification of the Terms

1. Chain Sentence

According to some previous sources, they are Word Association and Word Game, Chain Sentence can be said as a technique where the students will collect some words first, then from those words they can make sentences which can be connected from one to another.

2. Writing

- Is a representation or symbol that combines words into a good order with full stop (Ramelan, 1989:14)

G. Contributions of the Research

Through this research, it is expected that this research can give improvement for:

1. English teacher

- a. This research can be used for English teacher that needs an inovative way to use this Chain Sentence technique to improve students' writing skill.
- b. English teachers can live up the classroom atmosphere in teaching writing through this technique.

2. Students

- a. Students will be much enthusiastic in learning writing skill by applying Chain Sentence technique in writing class.
- b. Students get a fun situation in learning writing by using this Chain Sentence technique.