

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Research

Writing is one of the skills students must have in learning English. Because writing is one of the tools used to communicate, to acquire good and appropriate writing skills, students must get adequate writing practice. With this writing practice, it is hoped that students can improve their ability to write and express their thoughts in an orderly manner. Writing can also be said to be a language skill that is used to communicate indirectly. Harmer (2004) explained that writing is a form of communication to convey thoughts or express feelings through writing. Communication through the written word requires more proficiency by the writer to be effective. Therefore, it is important for students to master writing skills in order to help them communicate indirectly or in writing.

In writing skills, students must also master vocabulary and how to use grammar in making sentences into texts that are easy to read and understand. Often, students who have difficulty finding ideas when writing and composing them into a correct sentence. Yoandita (2019) explains in her research that some students think that writing is a difficult skill in English, because they have to interpret from Indonesian to English with the correct word structure such as grammar. Students have difficulty finding ideas when writing, most of them

write wrong sentences and some students also cannot finish their writing at the end of the lesson due to lack of ideas and vocabulary.

The researcher interviewed the teacher that most of the students still found it difficult to organize their ideas into writing in English and arrange them into a correct sentence. Some of them write an English sentence with inappropriate grammar and vocabulary. This is the reason the researcher conducted research at SMK N 1 Purbalingga, where there are still many students who make mistakes when writing a sentence in English. However, this research focuses on descriptive texts. Because, the researcher wanted to find out more about what the student's problems when they write a descriptive text.

Descriptive text is one of the texts that students learn that can improve students' proficiency in writing besides there are also Recount, Narrative, Procedural, News Item texts. Descriptive text is a clear description of a person, place, object or event using appropriate details (Yoandita, Eka, 2019). An effective descriptive text will contain a detailed sequence of the objects to be described so that readers can see and feel the objects in real life.

A descriptive text must also be made with correct grammar and vocabulary so that it is easy for readers to read and understand. Based on the background explanation above, the researcher wants to know the problems of 11th grade students at SMK N 1 Purbalingga in writing descriptive text by giving several questionnaires containing questions about problems in writing descriptive texts to 11th grade students who become samples. Therefore, the researcher

conducted a research entitled "*Student's Problems in Writing Descriptive Text at 11th Grade of SMK N 1 Purbalingga.*"

B. Problem of the Research

The problem of study is briefly stated as follow:

1. What are students' problems in writing descriptive text?
2. What is the most dominant problem in writing descriptive text?

C. The reason of Choosing The Topic

The author conducted a research entitled Student's Problems in Writing Descriptive Text at 11th Grade of SMK N 1 Purbalingga based on the following reasons:

1. Writing is one of the basic skills that must be possessed by 11th grade students of vocational high schools and descriptive text is one of the texts that can improve students' writing skills. Descriptive text is one of the text genres that must be mastered by them as stated in the curriculum.
2. After finding the problems of students in writing descriptive texts in this study, this can help teachers overcome the problems faced by students and can help students explore their ideas in writing descriptive texts. Therefore, students can produce a good and correct descriptive text.

D. Aim of the Research

The objective of this research was to find out the student's problems in writing descriptive text, and to find out the most dominant problem in writing descriptive texts.

E. Significance of the Study

The result of this research is expected to contribute to teacher and other researcher.

1. For the teacher

The teacher can evaluate what problems exist in students, especially the difficulty of students in writing descriptive texts. This research can be given to the teacher as an evaluation of the teacher when teaching English writing classes, especially in learning descriptive texts.

2. For the other researcher

For other researchers, this research can be used as a reference with different objects.

F. Definition of Terms

To avoid the misunderstanding, there are some key terms asserted as follows:

1. Problem

A problem is "a situation, quantitative or otherwise, that confronts an individual or group of an individual, that requires resolution, and for which

the individual sees no apparent or obvious means or path to obtaining a solution Stephen & Rudnick (1980)

2. Writing

Writing is one way to express ideas, experiences and feeling into written form. Writing is a way of communication and of course communicates all the time. Then, Deporter & Heracki (2002) explain that writing is a whole brain activity, which uses right brain side (emotion) and left-brain side (logic).

3. Descriptive Text

Descriptive text is a text which is intended to describe a particular person, place or thing. Descriptive text also has its own linguistic characteristics. Descriptive text linguistic characteristics are: using specific participants, written in the present tense, using conjunctive verbs, using adjectives, using relational and material processes.