

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### A. The Background of the Study

Writing is one of the four major skills which should be mastered by English learners. It is a form of communication to express the thinking or feeling through written form that does not need face to face interaction. Heaton ( 1994:18) states that, “ The writing composition is a task which involves the students in manipulating words in grammatically correct sentence from a piece of continuous writing which successfully communicate the contents through any ideas on a certain topic”.

However, writing is quite difficult for the students. At least there are two problems met by the students in learning writing. Firstly, the students should think the ideas they are going to write. Secondly, they have to think how to write their ideas into grammatically good sentences.

Since writing is a complicated skill to be learned, the teacher has to think writing as a serious matter. The way to make it easy to understand must be brought in the class to make the target of writing learning done well. Some teachers whom the writer met told that they used the usual way in teaching writing. The usual way here is that the teacher gives the students theory of writing, then the students are asked to make a written task based the example which given by the teacher. In other hand, they do not use various sources for teaching writing. Most of them used the text book and LKS. This problem

makes the writing teaching learning process becomes boring and difficult to understand by the students. The students will feel difficult to compose the writing task because the media is not interesting and they can not find out the good ideas.

In order to make the students get good ideas in writing, good media is needed. The term media is defined by Brown: J. W, Richard B. L, Fred F: H (1992: 2) as tools or the physical things used by a teacher to facilitate the instruction. Media can be a tool to increase the interest and motivation of study.

Comic is one of many medias to teach writing. Scott McCloud (1993: 9) states that comic is juxtaposed pictorial and other images in deliberate sequence intended to convey information and/or to produce an aesthetic response in the viewer. However comic generally contains visual images and the text inside it. It makes comics show its advantages in making the readers become fun and enjoy reading comic. Beside that, Scout McCloud (1993: 36) states that:

“When you look at a photo or a realistic drawing of a face – you see it as the face of another. But when you enter the world of the cartoon, you see yourself. Factors such as universal identification, simplicity, creating an empty shell that we inhabit which enables us to travel in another realm. We don’t just observe the cartoon or comic, we become it”.

However, in learning writing, the students should have the knowledge of the pattern of the target language first to make them know how to write

correctly. This reason requires the students to read a lot of English articles. Comic, especially foreign comic is also very interesting media to read. The image and the text in comic strip which usually written in fun way makes the students enjoy reading comic. However, comic is powerful way to give the students ideas in learning writing.

The reason for using comic strips in the classroom is that most of children and young adults are familiar with comic. By using comic, the students will have interest in learning. Comic has a multi-dimensional nature which can be used as a source of teaching materials. Teachers and students are also allowed to explore language in a creative way. Comics provide a lot of benefits for teaching English such as they build a desire to learn, they are easy to access in daily newspapers and bookstands; they depict real life language, and they have a variety of visual and linguistic elements and codes that are attractive to students with different learning style.

Based on the background explained above, the writer is interested to make a research entitled ‘ The Effect of Comic Strip on Students’ Writing Skill’. In this research, comic strip will be focused to teach writing of recount text in the second grade of junior high school

## **B. The Reason of Choosing the Topic**

There are some reasons why the writer is interested in choosing the topic and doing a research. They are:

1. Writing is the skill which should be given attention a lot. The learners not only should write in grammatically correct sentences, but they also should know what they are going to write be write. This problem shows that learning writing should be given a lot of attention to make it run effectively.
2. Most of the English teacher whom the writer met used the conventional way. The teacher gives the theory of writing, then the students are asked to make a written task based the example which given by the teacher. Beside that the teachers only use LKS or textbook as a reference. The teacher doesn't consider that writing is a complicated skill. This teaching learning method makes the students feel bored. Teacher should innovatively provides a media to make learning writing become effective. The effective media will make the students enjoy and understand the material well.

### **C. The Problems of Study**

For making a systematical approach to solve the problems, the statement of the problem of the study can be formulated as follows: Is comic strips effective to improve students' writing skill?

### **D. The aim of Study**

The aim of the study is intended to know if comic strip is effective for teaching writing or not.

### **E. The Contribution of Study**

The contributions which are expected from this study are:

1. For the teacher

They can modify their teaching technique. The comic strip used in this research can help and inspire them to create another creative way to teach the materials so the students will be interested in learning English.

2. For the students

The use of a comic strip can make them enjoy in learning writing recount. Besides that, they will study with the new technique and fun atmosphere, so they will be easier in understanding the materials.

3. For the institution

The writer hopes this research will give a positive input to develop the school curriculum especially for English subject.

### **F. The Clarification of Terms**

The title of this study is The Effect of Comic Strips in Students' Writing Skill to the seventh Grade Students of SMP PGRI Sumbang Academic Year 2011/2012. The terms which are stated in the title above need to be defined in order to get some insight or perception of the key terms.

1. Effectiveness

Effectiveness is a measure of the match between stated goals and their achievement ( Fraser, 1994: 104).

## 2. Comic Strips

Scot McCloud (1993: 9) states that comic is juxtaposed pictorial and other images in deliberate sequence intended to convey information and/or to produce an aesthetic response in the viewer.

## 3. Writing

Heaton (1994: 18) states that, “The writing composition is a task which involves the students in manipulating words in grammatically correct sentence from a piece of continuous writing which successfully communicate the contents trough any ideas on a certain topic.

