

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), 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.

Based on the description above, writing as a part of the language skills must be taught optimally by the teacher to the students. Through writing the students can exchange their ideas, thoughts, and experiences. Moreover, to express their feeling, need, and desire in written form, the students need writing skills.

Descriptive text is a kind of text that presents the characteristics of something in order to make clear impression of a person, place, object or event. Droga and Humphrey (2005:148) state that descriptive text has certain generic structure and language features. The generic structure of descriptive text consists of identification and description. On the other hand, the language features of descriptive text consist of three things. The first one is that descriptive text focuses on specific participant. The second one is that

descriptive text uses simple present tense. The last one is that descriptive text uses adjective and adverb.

Considering to the importance of writing descriptive text to be mastered by students, it needs an effective way to apply in the teaching of writing descriptive text. One of the ways is by using crossword puzzle, in teaching learning perspective, media are used to deliver content to the learners for achieving effective instruction(Naz, 2010:1). In this case, the use of media in teaching learning process is needed to attract students' attention and to make teaching learning activities more interesting and effective. The teacher needs an alternative medium that can solve lack of vocabularies and spelling, lack of motivation to study, and difficulties in exploring ideas problems.

According to Serna and Azor (2001), crossword puzzle is a well-known game that can be easily integrated in class. Claire (2010:6) defines crossword puzzle as a word puzzle in a grid of black and white squares. The goal is to write one letter in each white square to make the words given by clues. By using crossword puzzle, the teacher will show the vocabularies that will be used in descriptive text, crossword puzzle can help the students in writing descriptive text because it can solve students' problem in finding appropriate vocabularies.

It is supported by Rahajeng (2010) entitled “ A study on the Role of Crossword Puzzle for Teaching English to Elementary School Students”, the study reported that the students will be more concern to learn English through filling the crossword puzzle.

From the statement above, the writer would like to conduct a research under the title “The Effectiveness of Crossword Puzzle for Teaching Writing Descriptive Text at the Seventh Grade Students of SMP Negeri 3 Banyumas in Academic Year 2017/2018”.

B. Reason for Choosing Topic

These reason why the researcher chooses this topic, they are:

1. Writing is an essential skill in English because it plays an important role in human communication.
2. The students find the difficulties in writing because they lack vocabulary.
3. By using crossword puzzle students are expected to be able to improve their writing mastery and it can motivate the students in learning English.

C. Problem of The Research

Based on the background of research, the problem of the research is stated as follows: “Is crossword puzzle effective for teaching writing descriptive text to the seventh grade students of SMP Negeri 3 Banyumas in academic year 2017/2018?”

D. Aim of The Research

The aim of research is to find out whether crossword puzzle is effective for teaching descriptive text or not.

E. The Scope of The Research

This research was conducted at SMP Negeri 3 Banyumas. The consideration of the research was because the portion of descriptive text in the syllabus of seventh grade of Junior High School more emphasized.

F. Clarification of The Terms

To make the topic easy to understand, the researcher wants to give clarification covered in the title of this research:

1. Effectiveness

- a) Effectiveness means a level of success in reaching the target or the aim (Ezioni in Daryanto, 57: 2010).
- b) In the oxford learner's pocket dictionary is stated that the "Effectiveness" means producing the result that one want: having an effect; able to bring about the result intended; making striking impression; actual or existing, fit for service. (Oxford University Press, 1994: 34)

2. Crossword Puzzle

- a) Puzzle that is solved by filling in words indicated by verbal clue down and across prescribes a pattern so as to fit whenever they cross.(Oxford, 1976)
- b) A puzzle in which an arrangement of numbered squares is to be filled with words running both across and down in answer to correspondingly numbered clues. (Grolier, 1981)
- c) Crossword puzzle is puzzle in which words, guessed from their definitions, are fitted into a diagram of white and black squares, the

letters to be filled into numbered squares that goes vertically and horizontally. (Wahyuningsih, 2009: 46)

3. Teaching

In Oxford Advance Learner Dictionary of Current English, it is stated that teaching is work of teacher, interaction that which is taught.

4. Writing

Writing has been characterized as written thinking. The students should be encouraged to express their ideas, experiences, thoughts, and feeling (Finocchiaro, 2007: 89).

5. Descriptive text

Descriptive text is the text picturing the person, place and thing with clear detail to help the readers visualize an object being described. It can be said that descriptive text is used not only to describe a real object, but also to describe an abstract object (Abisarma, 2001:13).

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 research 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 a reference for other researchers who want to conduct the research project on English language teaching especially for teaching writing descriptive text using crossword puzzle 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 3 Banyumas especially for students' writing skill.

