

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Writing in English is easy to do for students, but some student feel Writing is hard to do for them. Many students feel writing takes too long times. Writing requires the students to use correct English and writing skill. Besides the students have restricted vocabulary, poor grammar, little knowledge about writing and the students also read less, so they do not have a lot of ideas to write on.

For students, especially language learners, writing has so many functions for them. They can write their assignments, more creative, and find new things. In writing, they have got to read a lot, so they can enrich their knowledge. Writing canalso be a place of motivation and some students feel writing can bring back their confidence.

In the English lesson, students are expected to be able to use English orally and writing. So the students can do their activities as the students. They can finish their daily assignments, semester exams, do essays and so on. Not just writing, but make the students more creative and critical.

Students in today's educational system feel that writing in English is very difficult. They think that writing has many processes and components. Some of them can use English orally but less in writing. Even the student who read and speaks well feel writing is very difficulties to do for them.

There are many factors which influence the students to master their writing skill. Students feel writing takes too long time and has many processes.

Students do not have enough ideas to write on, poor in grammar, and have limited vocabulary. Teacher's mistake in choosing methods and strategies in teaching is also a factor that makes students less skilled in writing. And the important factor is the students do not have the motivation to learn English.

English learning in senior high schools today does not make students mastering their English skills. Most teachers only provide the theory of knowledge in teaching English. The teachers lack creativity and do not use the right method in teaching English. And the teacher is unable to arouse student motivation in learning English.

The teachers need to change the method they teach in the classroom. The teachers must use a variety of strategies in teaching in order to make students more understand about the materials of English. By using the right method can make the students to like the course. Make the students more active and more motivated in learning English.

Not only change the method in the classroom, but the important thing for the teacher is to provide reinforcement to the students. Reinforcement is very useful to increase the students' attention. Reinforcement can give motivation to the students and develop students' self-confidence in terms of learning.

Written comment is one of the forms of reinforcement or responses are given by the teacher to their students. Written comments will draw the students' attention and encourage the students to look back on their mistakes. This type of information-oriented feedback leads to greater intrinsic motivation, task involvement, and persistence in completing tasks (Bruning, Schraw, Norby, &

Ronning, 2004). Written comments can Increase students' confidences, make the students become motivated and more enthusiasm in completing their tasks.

Sommer (1982) states that “commenting on student writing is the most widely used method for responding to student papers...”most teachers use a method of giving written comments to the students as a response to the students’ worksheets. Ferris and Roberts (2001) state that knowing about students' attitudes, reactions, and preferences for feedback written by teachers and assessing their own weaknesses in writing is important. So the researcher conducted this research because want to know the students’ responses and the reasons students read the teacher’s hand-written commentary. The researcher conducted this research in order the result of this research can be a measurement or assessment for teachers in using comments. The teacher assessed whether valuable or not their comments toward students’ responses in the classroom. From that, the researcher wants to conduct this research, “Students’ Responses toward Teacher’s hand-written commentary at SMAN 4 Batang Hari”.

1.2 Research Questions

In this research, the researcher has some questions based on the problems of the study. And the problems are stated in the following questions:

1. What are students’ responses about teacher’s hand-written commentary?
2. What are students’ reasons to read the teacher’s hand-written commentary?

1.3 The Purposes of the Study

In this research, the first aim is to find out the students’ responses toward teacher’s hand-written commentary. The students’ responses toward Body

comments, Margin comments and End comments. The second aim is to know the reason students read teacher's hand-written commentary.

1.4 Limitation of the Study

This study discusses about teacher's hand-written commentary at SMAN 4 Batang Hari. The researcher investigates students' responses toward teacher hand-written commentary. The responses toward Body comments, Margin comments and End comments then the reasons students read the comments.

1.5 The Significances of the Study

(a) for the Teacher

The results of this study are expected to be input in English class. From the results the teachers know whether the teacher's hand-written commentary are important to the students or not, and why the students read their comments. The result can show whether good or not student's responses toward teacher's hand-written commentary.

(b) For the students

The students know the important of teacher's hand-written commentary.

(c) For the Researchers

The result of the study can give information to other researchers.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

In order to clarify the key terms used in this study, some definitions are put forward:

1. Commentary is a set of comment, expression of opinions, or responses about something.
2. Teacher's hand-written commentary is another way whereby teachers give feedback on students' written performances. Teachers give a response to their students through hand-written comments.
3. Writing is the way to express the ideas or thought and arranges them in written form.