

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Writing has an important role for students who are in the process of learning a language. The students should be familiar about writing, because they do writing in order to complete many tasks of their studies. By writing, the students will know how to write a good content into a text about the object that they want to describe and how to organize the ideas which is supported with the relevant supporting sentences. According to Nunan (2003) explains that “writing is the process of thinking to invent ideas, thinking about how to express idea into good writing, and arranging the ideas into statement and paragraph clearly”. In this skill, the students can improve their grammar such as how to use correct tenses, adjective, articles and noun phrase. They also can arrange a text into good mechanics such as word spelling, punctuation and capitalization.

Furthermore, In Junior High School in Indonesia, the skill of writing is taught by using genre based approach. Students are introduce to some genres and taught through the model of reading texts where they are explicitly taught about the social function, the generic structures, and the language features of the genres. So that, they were able to write the genres by themselves with the right order of generic structures and the correct use of the language features of genres.

Nowadays the junior high school in SMP N 1 Muaro Jambi, the students still used curriculum of KTSP 2006. They are learning about many genres of text, especially descriptive text. Descriptive text is a text that describes about person,

place and things. According to Winch (2005) “Descriptive text is a text that describes about particular thing such as a scene, an animal, person or something that happen in nature”. To practice the students writing, they can start to write the generic structure of this text first consists of identification and discussion. This idea supported by Sudarwati and Eudia (2005) “there are two components of the generic structure of descriptive text. They are identification; identify phenomenon to be described and description; describes parts, qualities, and characteristics”. Generally, the identification occurs in the first paragraph and the description stated in the continuing paragraph. By writing the generic structure, the students can develop their paragraph into good text. It is good for them to increase their ability in writing, they were easy to arrange all kinds of texts.

Furthermore, in Curriculum 2006 of English for Junior High School: Writing (Syllabus and Lesson Plan SMP VIII, 2010): (1) Expressing of the meaning of simple short essay functional written text in the form of the descriptive and recount to interact with surrounding. (2) Expressing meaning in short functional texts (e.g., notices, advertisements, invitations, etc.), formal and informal written using various written languages accurately, smoothly, and thanked in the context of everyday life. (3) Expressing meaning and rhetorical step in the simple short essay by using various written languages as accurate, smooth, and acceptable to interact with surrounding in the form of descriptive and recount text.

Based on the description above, the researcher is interested in analyzing students’ ability in writing descriptive text which is regarded an important aspect

in learning English. The major concern of this theme are developing their ideas, organizing ideas, grammar, mechanic, and using vocabulary appropriately.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the background of the research, there is research question what are students' ability in writing descriptive text at SMP N 1 Muaro Jambi?

1.3 Purpose of the Research

Based on the research questions above, the main purposes of this research is to figure out the students' ability in writing descriptive text at SMP N 1 Muaro Jambi.

1.4 Scope and Limitation of the Research

This research was conducted at SMP N 1 Muaro Jambi especially for eighth graders. The focused of this research was concern on three parts of descriptive text: Description of people, place, and things. More specifically, the researcher was analyzed the students' ability in writing descriptive text which is emphasized on generic structure and language features.

1.5 Significance of the Research

The finding of this research is expected to be useful for English teacher, students, and next researcher.

For English teacher, this research is able to know students ability in writing descriptive text and know the aspect of writing descriptive text.

For students, this research can provide good information for the students about their ability in writing descriptive text.

For researcher, the research finding will be expected to give information about writing in descriptive text. It is hoped to be an inspiration for the next researcher who will do a research in this field. It can be the guidance for them to do a better research.

1.6 Definition of the Key Terms

In order to make clear about the definition of terms in this research and also to avoid the misunderstanding and misinterpretation for readers:

Writing is explains that writing is process of thinking ideas.

Descriptive text is text describes about person, place and things.

Generic structures of descriptive text consist of identification and description.

Language features of descriptive texts that are using simple present tense, using adjectives, using noun phrase, using action verbs, using adverbial, and using figurative language.

