

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

It is undeniable that writing is a kind of ability that students must master when learning English because writing is one of the language skills. Meanwhile according to Pustika (2021), one of the important skills that some people must master to become global citizens is English. English serves as the international language since it is widely used by most countries in the world (Pustika & Widarti, 2019). The development of language skills both oral and written is one of the goals of learning English, the need for practical support for teaching English as Foreign Language (EFL) writing subjects at the university level has become a major concern for researchers and practitioners (Wahyudin, 2018). Writing is one of the important skills that must be mastered by students who are learning a particular language According to Sari & Wahyudin (2019), foreign language learners can acquire the language they are studying both online and offline. Especially that language is not the language used for daily communication. English is a foreign language for Indonesians because English is not used for daily communication (Mandasari & Oktaviani, 2018).

According to (Nurjanah, 2012), writing is one of the English skills that English learners must master, and writing is also regarded as an indicator of the success of students in learning English and their future careers. In writing students can express the ideas that are in their minds into a text whose meaning can be conveyed to the reader, this skill must be mastered by students because it will be needed in the future. As mentioned by Oktaviani & Mandasari (2020), English must be mastered by every student because it can help students to be proficient in communication with anyone and anywhere, people who master English will be able to negotiate well and give them the opportunity to get a job. According to (Nikmah,

2016) writing is also a form of expressing students' thoughts. In order to write a good writing, students must understand grammar, vocabulary, skills or idea development, etc. Students must master these aspects when writing paragraphs. Writing is a very important skill, but there are many students who still have difficulty in developing the main ideas of writing. It is because writing become the most difficult skill when foreign language learners learn to write (Nikmah, 2016).

Most English learners might agree that writing is the most difficult skill to master (Harsyaf et al, 2009), for example in the Senior High School level. There are many types of texts taught in Senior High School (SMA) such as narrative text, procedure text, recount text, and descriptive text. When the students are in Junior High School, they have also learned to read a descriptive text. Therefore, it can be assumed that Senior High School students already know very well about the descriptive text. From all types of texts, descriptive text is one type of text that is easy to understand but there are still many students who have difficulty in writing and understanding a descriptive text, both in terms of vocabulary, grammar, and content. Therefore, in this study the researcher will focus on the ability and difficulties faced by Senior High School students in writing a descriptive text. Descriptive text is a text created by the writer to describe something. Descriptive text can be used by students to describe something objectively and subjectively, which means that it can physically describe a person, an object, or certain objects. According to Wyrick (1987) as cited in (Husna, Zainil, & Rozimela, 2017), the writer of description creates a wordpicture of persons, places, objects, and emotions using a careful selection of detail to make an impression on the reader. Harris (1969) states that the students can use writing to express their ideas, opinions, realities, and point of view. Apart from the difficulties in developing the main ideas when writing, some

students also experience difficulties in using correct grammar. Difficulty in using correct grammar can influence students to form correct sentences.

Then the next difficulty that the students experienced is the use of proper vocabulary, some students experienced difficulties in mastering vocabulary so it is difficult for them to develop ideas for their writing, some of the students hesitate to choose the right vocabulary according to the theme and topic of their writing. The last difficulty is regarding the use of punctuation and the correct capitalization. However, not all students experience difficulties in all of the aspects above. For example, some students have difficulty mastering vocabulary, but they are good at developing story ideas, and vice versa. According to (Nikmah, 2016) a descriptive text is a text in which a writer tries to describe what she/he is describing.

In order to be able to unify the ideas in a paragraph into a whole, students must be proficient in the description so that they can distinguish objects according to their own characteristics, so that they can support their ideas in the paragraph. (Reep, 2009) pointed out when sentences are carried out in a sequence that supports one point of view at a time, one paragraph achieves coherence. For example, when students want to describe their school, they must know the wide of the school, the paint color of the school, and other parts of their school building. In the descriptive text, students are required to be able to explain or describe people or objects and think logically to convey this information in a paragraph.

The researcher conduct this study with the aim of knowing the ability and understanding of tenth-grade senior high school students and also the difficulties faced by them when writing a descriptive text. From the results of pre-observations that the researcher did at the school that will be the place of research, the results show that there were many students who found

difficulty to compose or write a descriptive texts. Therefore, the researcher will conduct this research to analyze the students' ability and the difficulties faced by tenth-grade students at SMA Muhammadiyah 2 Bandarlampung.

In this study, the researcher will focus on the ability and difficulties of Senior High School students in writing a descriptive text. With the title '*An Analysis of Students' Ability and Difficulties in Writing Descriptive Text (A Study at SMA Muhammadiyah 2 Bandarlampung)*', the researcher will analyze the students' ability to write a descriptive text in terms of content, organization of the text, grammar, vocabulary, and mechanics. Besides that, the researcher will also identify the difficulties faced by students in writing a descriptive text.

1.2 Research Questions

According to the background of the study, the research questions of this study are as follow:

1. How is the students' ability in writing a descriptive text?
2. What are difficulties that students face when writing a descriptive text?

1.3 Research Objectives

The research objectives of this research are:

1. To analyze students' ability in writing a descriptive text.
2. To find out students' difficulties in writing a descriptive text.

1.4 Uses of the Study

1. Theoretically

This research provides new discoveries for students' writing skills, especially in writing a descriptive text, and can provide teachers with some insights to help them understand students' abilities and difficulties in writing a descriptive text.

2. Practically

a. For Teachers

This research is expected to help English teachers in improving their teaching methods and strategies, especially in improving students' writing descriptive text skills. Therefore, the teacher must pay attention to what aspects of writing have been mastered by students and what aspects are difficult for students to master. So, the teachers can apply appropriate strategies to develop students' writing skills.

b. For Students

For students, the result of this research can be a positive thing where students can see and identify their strengths and weaknesses when writing descriptive text. In addition, the results of this study can also help students to overcome their difficulties when they write a descriptive texts, so that they can practice and improve their skills on aspects that they are not good at, such as grammar, vocabulary, and so on, to improve they writing skill.

c. For Researchers

For researchers, the findings are expected to provide information on the writing of descriptive texts. This research is expected to be an inspiration for further researchers on the same topic.

1.5 Scope of the Study

The focus of this research is analyzing students' abilities and difficulties in writing a descriptive text. The sample are 31 students taken out from the tenth-grade students of SMA Muhammadiyah 2 Bandarlampung in the second semester in the academic year of 2021/2022.