

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses several things, an introduction related to the research background, research questions, research purposes, research significance, limitation of the research, and terminology.

A. Research Background

English is one of the subjects which be taught at the junior school level. As a foreign language, many students do not really understand English. They still have many problems in learning and understanding English because they only learn English in class, after that they do not learn it. There are some skills in English such as: listening, reading, speaking and writing. The four skills in English are rarely able to be mastered by all the students. Sometimes the students are easy in speaking, reading and listening, but they have problem in writing. Writing is one of the difficult skills in learning English, because writing requires the right ideas. Writing skill is important because it is used to communicate with other people in society to express our feelings and opinions in form of written text.

Based on observations, there are many problems that might make students unable to write a good writing. The students face some difficulties to write the text. First, they do not have enough ideas to make the text. Students cannot develop their ideas into paragraphs based on their own thoughts. Second, students do not know how to express ideas into a sequence of

sentences and arrange them into chronological paragraphs. They are less able to use words and mastery of proper grammar. The last difficulty was found that the students had problems to use correct spelling and punctuation.

In the process of learning English, students can be faced with several types of texts, one of which is descriptive text. Descriptive text is a text that describes something such as people, animals, objects and others. Descriptive text is one of the texts that is quite difficult for all students to learn. Students must also understand the generic structure of descriptive text which consists of identification and description.

In descriptive text, to produce good writing, students must understand the general structure and characteristics of language. The generic structure of descriptive text consists of identification and description. So to get good writing, especially descriptive text, students must understand all of it. There are still many students who think that writing is difficult and boring with several factors. First, students do not understand the generic structure and language features of the type of writing they will write. Second, students have no idea about what they will write and then how to start writing. Third, students lack vocabulary and also have difficulty in applying English grammar. Fourth, students find it difficult to collect and organize ideas into paragraphs. Students do not have many concepts about something they are going to write, when they start writing, students are always stuck, so they take a long time to think of ideas to write something into descriptive paragraphs

and they don't know which ones are included in the identification and description sections.

To write a good text, especially descriptive text, students must understand and know the important parts of the text such as; (Generic structure, and language features). Generic structure means how a text is structured to help the reader or listener understand the information contained in the text. Language features mean that students must understand and know the components of writing skills such as content (ideas), organization, language use, mechanics. One of the mechanical parts in writing is punctuation. Punctuation is very important in a sentence or text, because punctuation gives meaning from word to word. In other words, punctuation helps the reader to understand the sentence to be read. After the writer conducted pre-observation at SMPN 1 Tempunak, students had difficulty in determining the location and purpose of each punctuation, the student only focused on his writing without concerning the punctuation marks.

Problems that occur in class VII students at SMPN 1 Tempunak in learning English, especially in writing descriptive text. The writer has conducted interviews with the English teacher and some students in the pre-observation. The writer found several problems such as students' writing skills that were still very low, low motivation in participating in learning, lack of vocabulary, so that they had difficulty writing texts in English. And then almost all students do not know the identification and description in descriptive texts and linguistic elements. They are also more difficult to find

ideas in writing descriptively about people, things, animals, places and difficult to organize and develop ideas in writing.

So that students are not interested in writing, because they think writing is boring and sometimes they are lazy to write in English. Meanwhile, they always get stuck when thinking about the ideas they will write.

Based on the problems above, the writer argues that by studying descriptive texts, students can improve students' writing skills, especially descriptive texts. So that it is easier for students to develop ideas that they will write down and it is easier for them to remember what they will describe with our minds, and help us to think, memorize, plan and choose the information we will write. Based on the description above, the author intends to conduct a study with the title "An Analysis of Students' Ability In using Punctuation in Writing Descriptive Texts at Class VII In SMPN 1 Tempunak in the academic year 2022/2023".

B. Research Question

Based on the explanation above, the writer formulate some research questions as follows :

1. What types of placement errors in the use of punctuation were made in class VII students of SMP Negeri 1 Tempunak found in writing descriptive text?
2. What are the students' difficulties in using punctuation in writing descriptive text at class VII ?

C. Research Purposes

Based on the research question, the purposes of this research as follows:

1. To describe the students' placement errors in the use of punctuation in writing descriptive text at class VII.
2. To find the students' difficulties in using punctuation in writing descriptive at Class VII.

D. Research Significance

This research is expected to be useful for result of this research are expated use to have same benefits as follow :

1. Theoretically, this research was provide teacher with understanding of the use of descriptive texts, and then students' when writing descriptive texts.
2. Practically, for students especially at class VII in English lessons, the use of descriptive text can help English learners to practice vocabulary when writing text.

E. Limitation of the Research

The writer focus on An Analysis of Students' Ability in using punctuation in Writing Descriptive text in SMPN 1 Tempunak. By considering looking at students' writing skills, especially in the use of techniques as a useful learning strategy for students' ability to understand English. So, the writer was focus on analyzing students' ability in using punctuation in writing descriptive text at class VII in SMPN 1 Tempunak.

F. Terminology

To avoid misunderstandings in the benefits of this thesis, it is important to study descriptive texts by looking at the students' writing skills, especially if the vocabulary in English is lacking. However, without knowing the vocabulary, nothing can be expressed especially when we write, we also have to good vocabulary, punctuation, and capitalization when writing descriptive text especially in looking at the students' ability in using punctuation in writing descriptive texts at class VII in SMP Negeri 1 Tempunak. The writer some terms which is define as follows:

1. Writing

Writing is an activity that someone do to pour an idea into written, and also to create notes or information on a media such as a book, which is the main media when writing.

2. Descriptive text

A text which lists the characteristics of something like the animal. Descriptive text is text that describes especially about the character, color, shape or other specific things about an object. The generic structures at this text are identification and description.