

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. BACKGROUND OF RESEARCH

Writing is the process of creating text. In writing process there are steps that can be used to get good writing. According to Ron White and Valerie cited by Jeremi Harmer, “writing is *re*-writing, that *re*-vision seeing with new eyes, has a central role play in the act of creating text. Drafting, structuring, reviewing, focusing, generating idea and evaluation are the part of process writing”.¹

Mark Tredinnick also explained:

Writing is the art of making utterance perfectly natural through the perfectly unnatural process of making every word and phrase again and again, cutting here and add there, until it is just so. It is contrived spontaneity. What the researcher wants is something just like speech only more compressed, more melodic, more economical, more balance, more precise.²

Writing is one of the skills in English language. Allah SWT also said in holy Koran in surah Al-‘Alaq verse 1-5:

¹ Jeremy Harmer, *The Practice of English Language Teaching*. (UK: Longman), 3rd Edition, p. 258.

²Mark Tredinnick, *Writing Well the Essential Guide*, (New York, Cambridge University Press, 2008), p. 10.

أَقْرَأَ بِأَسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ ﴿١﴾ خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ ﴿٢﴾
 أَقْرَأَ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ ﴿٣﴾ الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ ﴿٤﴾ عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ
 مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ ﴿٥﴾

1. Read! In the Name of your Lord Who has created (All that exists).
2. He has created man from a clot (A piece of thick coagulated blood).
3. Read! And your Lord is the most Generous.
4. Who has taught (the writing) by a pen.
5. He has taught man that which he know not.³

From the surah Al-‘Alaq verse 1-5, it can be concluded that the first direction from Allah SWT is reading. It becomes a key to get the successful in the life and hereafter if it is done for Allah SWT that is for kindness and prosperity. Reading is not only for holy Koran, but also everything that can be read.⁴

From the explanation above, the researcher assumed that that the word *read* not only means reading, but also writing, thinking or

³ Muhammad Taquiuddin Alhilali and muhammad Muhsin Khan, *Translation of the Meanings of the Noble Qur'an in the English Language*, (Madina:King Fahd Complex,), p.842.

⁴M. QuraishShihab, *Al-LubabMakna, Tujuan, danPelajarandari Surah-surah Al-Quran*, (Tangerang:LenteraHati, 2012), p.689.

understanding. Allah also said that Allah teach by qolam or pen. The pen is a symbol for the writing knowledge or creature that can be learned. Writing is also important to be learned, because by writing, the knowledge can be kept.

Genre is a word used in functional grammar and is also often called Text Type. There are several types of text. There are: Anecdote, narrative, description, procedure, report, recount, hortatory exposition, analytical exposition, spoof, review, and news item. The researcher limits this research in descriptive text. Because one of genre introduced in junior high school in the first grade is descriptive text.

Ann Hogue explained that we have to tell about characteristic when we describe a person, and also tell about it looks like when we describe a place. But we have to tell about place first, then what people are doing if we describe scene with people.⁵

Descriptive is one of texts which is used for describing people, place or thing. It needs the technique that can be used to improve ability in writing of descriptive text. One of techniques that can be used is clustering technique. Actually, this technique is one of prewriting techniques. This technique is similar with mind mapping. In this technique, students can be helped to collect and generate the ideas to write descriptive easily. This technique uses the diagram or circles to get the ideas and connect them like branches. The ideas that

⁵Ann Hogue, *First Step in Academic Writing*, (New York : Addison Wesley Publishing Company,1996), p.72.

relate to the topic are connected by using the lines like branches. Clustering can help students to start writing. Students can easily gather ideas by writing many words as a keyword that relate to the topic. This technique gives benefit for students when they have difficulty to start writing, especially in writing descriptive text.

The researcher found a problem faced by students at VIII C grades of MTs NU 02 Al Ma'arif Boja, Kendal, where students were still confused in writing descriptive text. Some students got good result but some students were confused in making descriptive text and got dissatisfying score. They got the score under the minimum passing score. So, it became a problem that important to be solved.

To solve the problem and for the reason above, the researcher tried to use clustering as a technique for learning or teaching writing especially in descriptive text in order to the students easier in getting the ideas then composing the text. By using clustering, student learnt how to get or generating the ideas easily. The researcher hoped that it could help teacher in teaching and improving students achievement.

B. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

This study is intended to answer the following questions:

1. How is the implementation of clustering technique to improve students' writing skill of descriptive text?
2. How is the improvement of students' writing skill of descriptive text after being taught using clustering technique?

C. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are:

1. To describe the implementation of clustering technique to improve students' writing skill of descriptive text.
2. To find out the improvement of students' writing skill of descriptive text after being taught using clustering technique.

D. PEDAGOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Based on the objectives of study, the significance of the study can be stated as follows:

1. For writer

By doing this research, the researcher hopes that he will get some experiences and knowledge about his study and it will be useful in the future. Besides, the researcher hopes can find the effective way to teach writing by using another technique.

2. For Teacher of English Subject

By doing this research, the teacher is expected to be more creative in creating a technique to improve students' skill especially for writing, so it can decrease students' boredom in teaching learning process.

3. For Students

By using clustering technique, the students are expected to improve their writing on descriptive text.

