

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Language is primarily a means of communicating thoughts from one person to another.¹ With the language people can express their feelings and thoughts. People use language as a means of international communication among the nations all over the world.

English is an international language used a means of communication in both oral and written forms. People use it to make international contacts and to cooperate among people in different countries in the world. English is spread all over the world for communication. In this modern world, it is very important for people to master English in order to cope with development of science and technology which grows very fast. So, it is very important for people to learn English.

Many countries all over the world, including Indonesia regard English as the first obligatory foreign language. English as the first foreign language has been given a special attention and role especially in education. This is why the Indonesian government chooses English as the first foreign language to be taught at the formal schools.² In Indonesian, English is taught to the elementary school students and those of higher levels of education until they go to university.

There are four skills in learning language that must be mastered, that is listening, reading, speaking, and writing. Those four skills have to be supported by language component such as: phonology, grammar, and vocabulary. Each of the language skills has a relationship each other. In order to mastering writing,

p. 1 ¹Claude W. Faulkner, *Writing Good Sentences*, (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1950),

²Ramelan, *Introduction to Linguistic Analysis*, (Semarang: IKIP Semarang Press, 1992), p.3

for example, students also should master three other skills. It means that English teacher should teach all of the skills.

Writing as one of the four skills has given an important contribution to human life. We can see the importance of writing in daily life and also in our social life, like in education and business aspect, for example when we write letter or application letter. Writing also gives some other benefits. Besides being means of communication, writing can also create jobs. In beginning writing, it is just an activity to express our idea, opinion or feeling in the text. Writing can also be a hobby to spend our time, but finally in this modern life, people can get money from doing their writing, for example a journalist, novelist or scrip writer.

Although writing is very important for people, it is a difficult subject especially for the student. The reason is because writing is a mixture of our idea, vocabulary and also grammar, according to Heaton, Writing skills are complex and difficult to teach, requiring mastery not only of grammatical and rhetorical devices but also of conceptual and judgment elements.³ From the Heaton's opinion, the writer can conclude that writing is a very important subject because in writing we must share idea from our brain, it is not easy to translate concept in our brain to be a written language, and we must also be clever to choose and to combine the vocabulary to create something that is meaningful. We also must pay attention to the grammar, so it is normal if the students think that writing is a difficult subject because they must pay attention to many things (idea, concept, vocabulary, and grammar).

³J.B Heaton, *Writing English Language Tests*, (London: Longman, 1975), p.138

Allah states in the Al-Quran:

ن وَالْقَلَمِ وَمَا يَسْطُرُونَ (القلم : ١)

Nun (these letters nun, etc) are one of the miracles of the Qur'an and none but Allah (Alone) knows their meanings. By the pen and by what they (the angels) write (in the Records of men).⁴

From the verse above, we know that writing has an important role in human life. Allah explained in the verse that Allah taught human by pen. By writing the people will get some information. That is why human being needs to learn how to write correctly.

According to School Based Curriculum there are five kinds of text taught in the tenth grade of senior high school that are: narrative, procedure, recount, descriptive, and news item. Narrative is one of the interesting texts because it can arouse students' imagination. The word "story" may be used as a synonym of "narrative", but can also be used to refer to the sequence of events described in a narrative.⁵ All the events in a narrative happen in the past. In order to help students to master narrative text clearly, the teachers have to find a good medium to teach it. According to Kemp, which is cited by Arsyad, There are many kinds of media.⁶ Those are printed media, audio tape recording, video and motion picture, and multi image presentation.

One of the media used in teaching narrative writing is flash animation. A flash animation or flash cartoon is a film which is created using Adobe Flash and often distributed in the *.swf file format.⁷ Flash animation like cartoon movie, but in a much simpler form. It provides motion picture that make up a

⁴Muhammad Muhsin Khan and Muhammad Taqi-ud-Din Al-Hilali, *Interpretation of the Meanings of the Noble Qur'an in the English Language*, (Riyadh Saudi Arabia: Dar-us Salam Publications, 1996), p. 745

⁵<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narrative>, januari 12, 2010, 12.45

⁶Azhar Arsyad, MA, *Media Pembelajaran*, (Jakarta: PT. Raja Grafindo Persada, 2003), p. 37.

⁷http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flash_animation 18, 2009, 12.45

story. Flash animation can be plays by using computer. To get the flash animation we can download from the internet or create by using program named Adobe Flash. .

Flash animation can affect both teachers' teaching and students' writing skill. As a teacher, teacher can use flash animation to help him explain the narrative text. To the students, flash animation helps students learn and memorize better because the teachers' explanation in facilitated audiovisual media. The use of flash animation as an alternative medium for teaching writing narrative texts hopefully can help students improve their narrative writing. Based on those considerations, the writer does this study, plans to improving students writing narrative text trough flash animation.

B. Definition of Key Term

To avoid mistakes and misunderstanding in terms and contents of the topic in this study, the writer explains each term as follow:

1. Improving

According to oxford advanced learners' dictionary, improving is making or becoming better, making good use of something.⁸ So, improving is to make better, increase the value or good qualities'

2. Writing

Based on oxford advanced learner's dictionary, writing is making letters or other symbols (e.g. ideographs) on a surface, esp. with a pen or pencil on paper.⁹

Writing is one of productive skills, which contains of a symbol (orthographic) and involves a complex process. In making good writing, we

⁸A.S Hornby, *Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary of Current English*, (NY: Oxford University Press, 1987), p.427

⁹*Ibid.* p. 859

must use correct grammatical rules, choose appropriate vocabulary, and consider the coherent and cohesion.

3. Flash animation

A flash animation or flash cartoon is a film which is created using Adobe Flash and often distributed in the *.swf file format.¹⁰

4. Narrative text

Narrative is a piece of text which tells a story and doing so, entertains or informs the reader or listener.¹¹

From the definition above, it can be concluded that a narrative text is a spoken or written text to communicate a message, which is used to interpret its meaning in the story.

C. Reasons for Choosing the Topic

There are some reasons for choosing the topic:

1. Flash animation is an interesting medium for language learning
2. Flash animation will make students relaxed and fun.
3. By using flash animation, students will see colourful objects, hear voices; see gestures of the character of the story, so that students can follow the plot clearly.

D. Research Questions

This research aimed to find the answer of the research question:

1. How is the implementation of teaching narrative writing at tenth grade students of SMA Negeri 13 Semarang in the academic year of 2009/2010 through flash animation?

¹⁰http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flash_animation 18,2009,12.45

¹¹Mark Anderson and Cathy Anderson, *Text Types in English*, (New York: Maimillan, 1997),

2. How is the improvement of students' narrative writing at tenth grade of SMA Negeri 13 Semarang in the academic year of 2009/2010 after being taught by using flash animation?

E. Objectives of the study.

The objectives of this study will be about:

1. To describe the implementation of teaching narrative writing at tenth grade students of SMA Negeri 13 Semarang in the academic year of 2009/2010 through flash animation.
2. To identify the improvement of students' narrative writing at tenth grade of SMA Negeri 13 Semarang in the academic year of 2009/2010 after being taught by using flash animation

F. Scope of the Study

This study is about improving students' narrative writing through flash animation at X6 grade of SMA Negeri 13 Semarang, in the academic year of 2009/2010. The researcher wants to focus her study on the implementation of teaching narrative writing through flash animation and the improvement of students' narrative writing.

G. Pedagogical Significance

The significance of the study can be started as follows;

1. For writer

By conducting this research, hopefully the findings of the study may useful to increase my knowledge and as evaluation for me who frequently used monotonous media and technique in teaching writing in the classroom.

2. For the teacher

By doing this research, hopefully the teacher could know other alternative medium to teach writing and finally they can apply it in English teaching and learning process.

3. For students

The writer hopes the students will be interested in and more enthusiastic in learning especially learning writing.