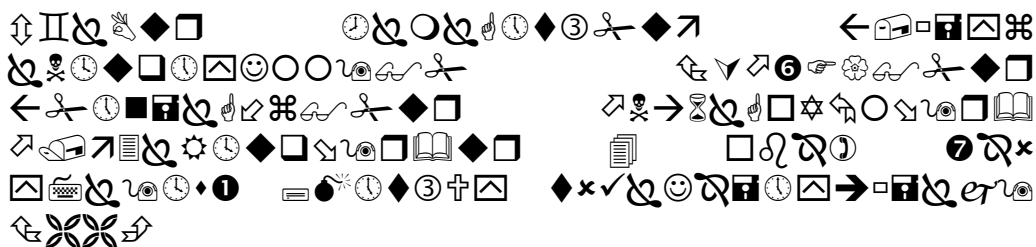


CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Language as a tool of communication is used among human beings in order to establish social relations. By using a language, people are able to convey their message, to express their ideas in oral, written, or signal language, so that they can cooperate and get along with each other.

There are many languages in the world. It is caused every social community has their native language, in example Javanese is used by people who live in Java; English is used by people who live in England, etc. As Allah says in A Holy Koran surah Ar-rum: 22



“And among His signs are the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the diversity of your tongues and your colors. In that surely are signs for those who possess knowledge.”¹

English as an international language is used by people in the world that have different native language to communicate among them. English has become a lingua franca, although it is not the language with the largest number of native speakers. Harmer states that a great deal of academic discourse around the world take place in English. It is often a lingua franca of conference, for example, and

¹Muhammad Zafrulla Khan, *The Quran*, R. J. Achford Ltd. Chisester. Sussex, 1981. p. 398.

many journal articles in fields as diverse as astrophysics and zoology have English as a kind of default language².

In Indonesia, English is the first foreign language that learned after learning native language. It is taught at school from the Junior High School (SMP), Senior High School (SMA) and university. Nowadays, English also taught at elementary school, even at kindergarten. It has become an obligatory subject and as one of the subjects that examined in the national examination. So, learning English is necessary, especially for Indonesian students.

As the target language, English is different from Indonesian. Thus students may face trouble in learning former. There are four skills to be achieved in learning language, i.e. reading, listening, speaking, and writing. In addition, there are also some components to be mastered in learning a language; those are sound systems (pronunciation), grammatical systems (structure), and lexical system (vocabulary).

As part of the language teaching, writing is an important skill besides listening, reading and speaking. Writing can be difficult even in our own language and can be even more difficult in other language. Barli Bram states that for most beginning writers whose mother is not English, to express what they intend is sometimes difficult. One of the common problems might be a lack of ability construct grammatical sentences.³ But, the good news is that writing involves skills that we can learn, practice and master.

The writing skill is regarded as the most difficult and complex language skill because it requires extent of perception and involves thinking process extensively. A large number of research show that all this time teaching writing only focuses on the theory of grammar or writing concept, it does not support the students to write as much as possible. So, although the students get the teaching

²Jeremy Harmer, *the Practice of English Language Teaching*, (Great Britain: Pearson Education Limited, 2001) 3rd Ed., p. 1.

³Barli Bram, *Write Well Improving Writing Skill*, (Yogyakarta: Kanisius, 1995), p. 25.

writing, but they only master the theory, proposition, or the principle how to write.

Many students feel that writing is a boring activity. Therefore, teaching learning process of writing should be varied to make students feel fun during the process. In language learning, students need more than instruction and command from their teacher. This is challenge for the teacher to be able to motivate the students to pay attention. One of the ways is by using media in teaching learning process. Hamalik says that media can be used to motivate students in learning.⁴ The teachers' creativity in using teaching aid will increase the probability that the students will learn more and the knowledge will retain better in their mind. The writer hopes that by using such kind of teaching aid, our students' will not be bored and learn English with full of motivation. A good teacher has some media and he will select the efficient one in order the learners to be more interested in the lesson. There are many media which can help the teacher to make the students attracted to follow the lesson.

Wall magazine is including in teaching media. It can be used as medium of students' creativity. Therefore, the writer want to use wall magazine as an alternative media to improve students' motivation in learning English, especially to improve their motivation in writing descriptive text. The writer will introduce wall magazine to the students of MTs Al Hidayah Getassrabi Gebog Kudus by conducting a research in title "Using Wall Magazine to Improve Students' Motivation in Writing Descriptive Text" (A Classroom Action Research with 8th Grade Students of MTs Al Hidayah Getassrabi Gebog Kudus in the Academic Year 2009/2010).

B. Definition of the Key Term

⁴Azhar arsyad, *Media Pembelajaran*, (Jakarta: PT Raja Grafindo Persada, 2003), p. 15

In order to avoid mistakes and misunderstanding in term and contents of the topic of this study, the writer explains each term as follows:

1. Wall Magazine

Wall magazines are a medium within the educational institutions for the students to express their creativity.⁵ Wall magazine is magazine that attached on the wall. In this study, wall magazine is used as media to improve students' interest in writing.

2. Improve

Based on Oxford Dictionary, "improve is make or become better than before, make something or somebody better than before."⁶ In this study, improve means a process to increase the students' motivation in writing descriptive text, in order to become well.

3. Students' motivation

Based on Oxford Dictionary, student is defined as "a person who is studying at a school, college, university, etc. boy or girl who is attending schools; anyone who studies or who is devoted to the acquisition of knowledge".⁷

Based on Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary, "student is a person who is studies, or investigates; a person who is enrolled for study at a school, college, etc".⁸

In Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary, "motivation is a motivating or being motivated, an affecting; a motive; an inciting".⁹ On the

⁵http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wall_magazine, accessed on 27 October 2009

⁶A.S. Hornby, *Oxford Advanced learner's Dictionary of Current English* (New York : Oxford University Press, 2000),p. 652.

⁷*Ibid.* p. 1292

⁸David B. Guralnik, *Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary*, (NY: Warner Books, 1979), p. 1807.

⁹*Ibid.* p. 1173

other hand, Brown states that “motivation is extent to which you make choices about goals to pursue and the effort you will devote to that pursuit”.¹⁰

So, it can be said that students’ motivation is students’ motive to gain success of their goals especially the success of their learning goals by doing effort or doing their best to get it.

4. Writing

Writing is one of skills; it is both physical and cognitive activity in which the writer is required to produce a number of variables that consist of word, spelling, sentence structure, punctuation, and so on, in order to make possible transmission of messages.¹¹ In other words, writing is conveying messages in written form.

5. Descriptive text

Descriptive text is a text that has social function to describe a particular person, place, or thing.¹² So writing descriptive here is the activity to express ideas, opinions and feelings in a text that has social function to describe a particular person, place, or thing.

C. Reasons for Choosing the Topic

The writer is determined to choose this research topic for at least the following reasons:

1. Writing is one of skills that must be mastered by students, but many students feel that writing is difficult and boring activity. So, students must be given a medium to improve their interest in writing.
2. Descriptive text is one of genre in writing. It is thought as the simplest genre than others. Students can describe everything in their mind. Descriptive text

¹⁰H. D. Brown, *Teaching by Principles an Interactive Approach to Language Pedagogy*, (NY: Addison Wesley Longman Inc, 2001), 2nd Ed., p. 72.

¹¹Cambridge, *Dictionary of American English*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000), p. 1006.

¹²Rudi Hartono, *Genres of Texts*, (Semarang: English Department Faculty of Language and Art Semarang State University, 2005), p. 6.

also appropriate to taught in eighth graders as starter to write. Thus, descriptive text hoped will be the beginning for students to like writing. Descriptive text also can be a part of other genre; hence descriptive text is basic genre that must be mastered by students in writing.

3. In teaching writing, teacher can use some media to support teaching and learning process, one of them is using wall magazine. The use of wall magazine as medium is thought can stimulate students' motivation in learning writing, especially in writing descriptive text.

D. Research Questions

The research questions of this study can be formulated as follows:

1. How is the implementation of using wall magazine in improving students' motivation in writing descriptive text with 8th grade class A MTs Al Hidayah Getassrabi Gebog Kudus?
2. How is the improvement of students' motivation in writing descriptive text after being taught using wall magazine with 8th grade class A MTs Al Hidayah Getassrabi Gebog Kudus?

E. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are:

1. To describe the implementation of using wall magazine in improving students' motivation in writing descriptive text with 8th grade class A MTs Al Hidayah Getassrabi Gebog Kudus.
2. To identify the improvement of students' motivation in writing descriptive text after being taught using wall magazine with 8th grade class A MTs Al Hidayah Getassrabi Gebog Kudus.

F. Pedagogical Significance

The result of conducting this study is useful for teacher, students, school, readers, and writer.

1. Teacher

The result of this study may show the teacher that wall magazine can be an interesting media in teaching writing descriptive text. It will become a good stimulant to improve students' motivation in writing.

2. Students

The result of this study may motivate students to improve their interest in learning writing, especially in writing descriptive text.

3. School

The school will make a right decision to use some media for supporting teaching and learning process, especially to use wall magazine in writing class.

4. Readers

The readers can get more information and knowledge from this research.

5. Writer

The writer will get information about the implementation of wall magazine in teaching learning process and the improvement of students' motivation in writing descriptive text after being thought by using wall magazine.

G. Limitation of The Study

This study is classroom action research, so the writer will not investigated all classes at MTs Al Hidayah Getassrabi Gebog Kudus, but the writer limits grade VIII class A only. This study is focused on learning writing descriptive text. The writer tries to find out the effectiveness of using wall magazine as media in learning writing descriptive text and whether wall magazine is really appropriate to be used as media in improving students' motivation in writing descriptive text.