

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

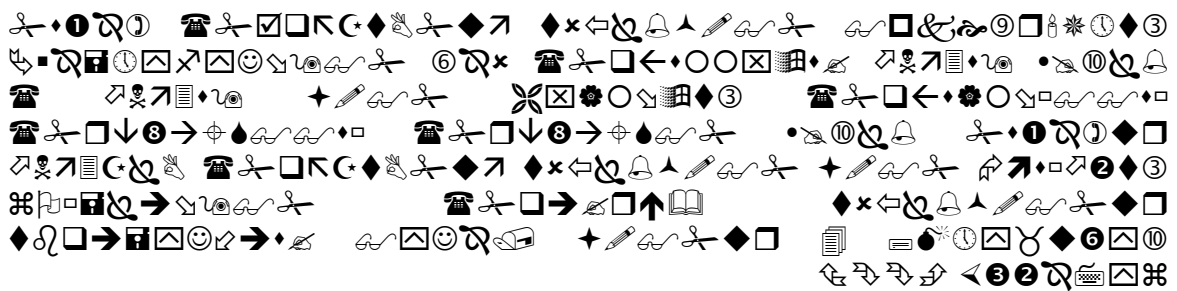
### A. Research Background

Language is primarily a means of communicating thoughts from one person to another. Obviously, then, the major concern of the writer or speaker is to use language in such a way that it will communicate to other people the exact meaning which he wishes to convey<sup>1</sup>

Everyday people communicate with other, and in order to communicate properly they use language. By using language, they can express their ideas, feelings, thoughts, and minds. It means that they use the language as a mean of communication. The use of language itself has played an important role in human life.

The ability to write effectively is becoming increasingly important in our global community. And instruction in writing is thus assuming an increasing role in both second and foreign language education. As advances in transportation and technology allow people from nations and cultures throughout the world to interact with each other, communication across languages become over more essential. As a result, the ability to speak and write a second language is becoming widely recognized as an important skill for educational, business and personal reasons.

In Islam view, keep learning is something suggested, because anyone who has knowledge will be placed on the better degree. Allah stated in the holy Qur'an (Al-Mujadalah: 11)



“O you who believe! When you are told to make room in the assemblies, (spread out and) make room. Allah will give you (ample) room (from His mercy). And when you are told to rise up (for prayers, or *Jihad* (holy fighting in Allah’s cause), or for any other good deed),

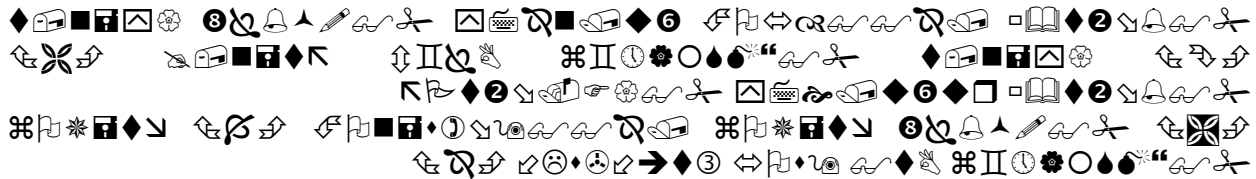
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<sup>1</sup>Claude W. Faulker, *Writing Good Sentences, A functional Approach to Sentence Structure, Grammar and Punctuation*, (New York: Charles Scribner’s Son, 1950) Revised Ed. p. 1.

rise up. Allah will exalt in degree those of you who believe, and those who have been granted knowledge. And Allah is well-Acquainted with what you do.” (Al-Mujadalah: 11)<sup>2</sup>

In Islam writing also considered as one important skill, our beloved prophet Muhammad PBUH and last messenger got the revelation that reflect an instruction to read (Iqra’) and write (‘Allama bi Al Qolam).

Surah Al ‘Alaq (The Clot) verse 1-5



1. Read! In the Name of your Lord, Who has created (all that exists).
2. 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 the pen [the first person to write was Prophet Idrees (Enoch)], 5. Has taught man that which he knew not.<sup>3</sup>

Allah SWT also stated in the Surah Al Qolam



Nun, by the pen and by (record) which men write

In an Atsar is mentioned that

قيدوا العلم بالكتابه (احرجه الطبراني والحكيم عن عبد الله برعمروا، وهو صيح)

Tie the knowledge with writing

The verse and Atsar above contain of an order to write by using *Qolam* (pen). Writing is a great great gift coming from Allah SWT. Writing has a function as a mean to understand human interest. If there are not writings. The knowledge will be lost, religion track will not be exist and life will not be comfortable. So, writing becomes a means to tie the knowledge.

<sup>2</sup>Muhammad Taqi-ud-Din Al-Halili, *The Nooble Qur’an*, (Riyadh: Darussalam publisher and distributors, 2002), p. 641

<sup>3</sup>Mahmud Y Yazid, *The Quran, An English Translation of the Meaning of the Quran* (Beirut, Der Al Choura, 1980)1<sup>st</sup> Ed, p. 457.

The word *Qolam* in verse 4 has meaning of the tool to write (pen) it means that pen is used to write and the result of using pen is written text.<sup>4</sup>

Reading and writing is two activities that link each other. This thing shows that Islam asks human to read and to write early because the god revelation cannot be received without read before and it will not be enjoyed by next generation if there is no documentation in written form.

Writing is a part of language skill and language is an important means to communicate and interact among human being. Language is not only spoken, but it is also written. Almost people's daily activities need language because the language whether it is spoken or written can be used to reveals idea, opinion and feeling to other. The government has chosen the English as a first foreign language taught from junior high school to universities even in elementary school as a local content. It is reasonable since English plays an important role in international cooperation.

Although the ability of speaking becomes the main purpose of studying English, it does not mean that we do not need to learn about writing, we need to learn how to write correctly.

Because mastering speaking is not guarantee to be able to write correctly, then almost the entire English test in the formal school is written test. So, it is very necessary to have good ability in writing sentences, especially to write a composition in writing descriptive, to write a descriptive text, the student must master the vocabulary and phrases. One way to find or create the vocabulary and phrases is from the learning aid. Sketch is one of the Learning Aids to make the students find more vocabulary. By seeing the sketch students will find more vocabulary and apply it in to sentences and then into paragraph and they will have many imaginations about the vocabulary that will be used in their activities.

Based on curriculum, (there are five genres) which are taught in eighth class of junior high school either SMP or Mts those are recount, descriptive, procedure, and narrative, so, it prosecutes students to be able to comprehend its generic structure and language features either in spoken or written.

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<sup>4</sup>Quroisy Shihab, *Tafsir Al Quran Al Karim atas Surat-Surat Pendek Berdasarkan Turunnya Wahyu* (Bandung, Pustaka Hidayah, 1997), p. 98

The writer usually finds the students of SMP get difficult in writing, they make errors in both organization of ideas and in language use, it is caused by the fact writing in English is different from that Indonesia.

Problem of learning to write is partly because the students get little practice. In writing, students have to manage the structure, the voice of words and the punctuation all at once, to be able to do those activities the students need a lot of practice.

Teacher must teach writing as a part of language skill namely reading, listening, and speaking. The major success of a writing teacher may stem from his or her ability to make and develop writing material and media that suit with student's need and interest. So, teaching writing must be taught well either in its making materials or learning aid which are used in teaching learning process.

The writer hopes by using sketch as a learning aid for teaching writing, students will be more motivated and more active in practicing their writing so that they can write correctly. The writer found a problem faced by the students of SMP H. Isriati Semarang in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade was the students did not like writing,

Some people think that making sentence is very easy, but in the fact that the students are still confused to arrange a sentence well. So, it is very reasonable to the writer to choose the title *The Use of Sketch as a Learning Aid to Improve Students' Writing Skill in Descriptive Text (A Classroom Action Research at the 8th Grade of SMP H. Isriati Semarang in the Academic Year of 2010/2011)*

## **B. Definition of Key Term**

### **1. Using Sketch Model**

Use is to employ for some purposes; put into service, to avail oneself, to expend or consume in use, to treat or toward behave<sup>5</sup>

Sketch is the simple drawing that is done quickly and without detail to study a particular topic or describe something.

There are many activities that can be used to teach writing especially in teaching descriptive text using sketch for instance if we use sketch as a learning aid, we just show the sketch to students (sketch about house, classroom, dining room, bedroom etc.) and we

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<sup>5</sup>Michael Agnes and David G. Guralnic, *Webster New World College Dictionary*, (Ohio, Wiley Publishing, 2002), 4<sup>th</sup> Ed, p.1343.

ask the students to mention the things based on the sketch given as many as they can and then ask students to arrange them into simple paragraph of descriptive text.

## 2. Learning aid

Learning aids are instructional materials and devices through which teaching and learning are done in schools. Examples of learning aids include visual aids, audio-visual aids, real objects and many others.<sup>6</sup>

## 3. Writing Skill.

To write is to put our ideas and thoughts into papers or other medias in order to show to the reader what inside our brain are, writing is not only writing something in a paper, but how we can develop a kit in it, the word writing comes from a verb, which means it is an activity, a process. Writing is way to produce language, which you do naturally when you speak. Writing is not much different, except that we take more time to think about the subject, person, or people we will discuss with.<sup>7</sup>

## 4. Descriptive Text

Descriptive text is a text which says what a person or a thing is like. Its purpose is to describe and reveal a particular person, place, or thing.

### **C. Reason for Choosing the Topic**

Writing skill especially writing in foreign language, is something difficult and needs extra skill for some students, The students commonly get bored in writing activity as they must spend many times to write their ideas into a writing product. Based on this reason teacher are demanded to make English lesson more interesting and enjoyable, they should be more creative to create some ways in teaching it. One of the ways is by using sketch as a Learning Aid in improving writing skill especially in descriptive text.

The writer used sketch to improve the students' ability in writing because of some reasons as follow:

1. Sketch as a learning aid that can be found in internet, magazines, and newspapers.
2. Sketch can help the students to express their ideas more easily.

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<sup>6</sup>Lade Adeyanju, "Definition of Learning Aid", <http://ultibase.rmit.edu.au / Articles / nov03 / adeyanju 1.htm>

<sup>7</sup>A. Meyers, *Gateway In Academic Writing*, (New York: Pearson Education, 2005), p.1.

3. Sketch as learning aid for teaching writing in the text book is not enough for the achievement for writing work.
4. The teachers can also guide the students to create word and to arrange the words into paragraph in their minds that they get from the sketch.

The writer wants to know the improvement of students' writing skill in descriptive text using sketch at 8th grade students SMP H. Isriati in the academic year 2010/2011.

#### **D. Research Questions**

The study is aimed to answer the following question:

1. How is the use of sketch as a learning aid to improve students' writing skill of descriptive text in SMP H. Isriati Semarang?
2. How effective is the use of sketch as a learning aid to improve students' writing skill of descriptive text in SMP H. Isriati Semarang?

#### **E. Objective of the Study**

Based on the problem above, the aims of this study are as follows:

1. To describe the implementation and to find out the effectiveness of using sketch as a learning aid to improve students' writing skill in descriptive text.

#### **F. Pedagogical Implication**

The result of this study is useful for all who be a part of education institution::

1. For the students

It may help for students to improve their writing skill in descriptive text using sketch.

2. For the teacher

Teacher can use sketch as a learning aid in teaching learning process to motivate the students and it can make teaching learning process easier.

3. For the school

It will make a right decision to use some learning aid to support teaching and learning process

4. For the readers

They will get more information and experience from this research.

5. For the writer

The writer will get new knowledge and experience in teaching descriptive text using sketch.

#### **G. Scope of the Study**

There are many kinds of genre in English. For exactly there are 12 items. One of them is descriptive text and also there are four skills in English such as reading and listening (receptive skill) and speaking and writing (productive skill). And the writing skill will be focused in this research and descriptive text will be studied. The sketch will be used by the writer to improve students writing skill in descriptive text.