CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

In Indonesia, English is one of the foreign languages, as compulsory subject that must be taken in school since kindergarten level until University. English is completely different from Indonesian language based on the system of structure, pronunciation and vocabulary. Therefore, English is considered as a difficult subject for the Indonesian students.

According to the concept and the function of English at Senior High School, the teaching of English has three purposes, 1) to develop the competence to communicate in spoken and written form (listening, speaking, reading and writing) to reach informational literacy level, 2) to grow the awareness of the reality and importance of English as case of the foreign languages to increase the nation competition on global society, 3) to develop the comprehension of the culture and language interrelation and broaden the culture.¹ The explanation of the first purpose that, the students should have the competence in discourse, the competence of understanding and making text in written and spoken form realized in four competencies; listening, speaking, reading and writing integrated to reach informational literacy level. Therefore, writing is one of the competencies that must be developed in the Senior High School based on KTSP.

Hornby states in *Oxford Advance Learner's Dictionary*, that writing is the activity to make letters or number on a surface, especially using pen or pencil.² Generally, writing can be interpreted as the act of forming or tracing a character on paper or other suitable materials with a pen or pencil. Writing as one of the English skill that is mastered by students. It is one of the ways to improve students' ability in expressing their ideas stories and memories into the written forms.

¹ Departemen Pendidikan Nasional, *KTSP Mata Pelajaran Bahasa Inggris*, (Jakarta: Depdiknas, 2003), p. 308.

² A. S., Hornby, *Oxford Advance Learner's Dictionary*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007), 6th Ed., p. 528.

Writing, as one of the language skills, has given an important contribution to human work. There are so many records of recent activities that can be read today, which can also be read in the future. Recently, there are many new information which is transferred by using discourse or article from the newspaper, magazine, or internet. This means that writing plays very important role in a modern society. Writing is one language skills that can be a measurement of literacy development in a country. Through writing, many people can communicate one another over long distances and periods of time. Allah decrees in the holy Qur'an:

From the verse above, the researcher can conclude that writing has an important role in human life. People must know how to write by using pen. Because writing is important, human being needs to learn how to write correctly and they can practice it on the paper using pen. They can learn writing in school or other educational institution.

In writing, there are many genres that must be learnt by students. According to Slade (1999), he has identified the structures of different storytelling genres (brackets indicate an optional element and a caret that the stage always follows next): Narrative, Anecdote, and Recount.⁴ One of the genres is narrative, it can be described as a way of telling story, since the process of recounting events and describing details of our life contributes to our conscious understanding of what happened in general. Narrative text is generally taught through written text. The researcher usually finds the students of Senior High School get difficult in writing; they make errors in both organization of ideas and

⁽QS.Al 'Alaq: 4-5).³

³ Mahmud Y. Zayid, *The Qur'an*, (Lebanon: Dar – Al – Choura, 1980), 1st Ed, p. 457.

⁴ Adapted from: Ken Hyland, *Teaching and Researching Writing*, (Great Britain: Pearson Education, 2002), p.16

in language use. It is caused by the fact writing in English is difficult from that Indonesian. Problem of learning in write is partly because the students get little practice.

Senior High School/Islamic Senior High School has department study program for XI and XII grade. It consists of four courses: (1) Program of Natural Science, (2) Program of Social Science, (3) Language Program, and (4) Religious Program, specifically for Islamic Religion Senior High School. Each program focuses on specific subjects. For example is on natural study program which is focus on exact subjects (mathematics, chemistry, physic), and for social program they focus on economic, geographic, and historical subjects.

MA NU Banat Kudus has three study programs for regular class; natural, social, and language study program and best quality class for special program. There are the similarities and the difference for teaching learning activity in English lesson between Natural and Social study program. From the curriculum structure of Senior High School/Islamic Senior High School, the allocated time of English lesson on natural and social study program at eleventh grade is four hours per week.⁵ The similarities are not only the allocated time for English lesson for natural and social study program are same but also the English book. The difference is the person who teach English subject with their own methods of both two classes. Because of the notion above, the researcher will analyze comparative research entitled "Narrative Writing Skill of Islamic Senior High School Students (A Comparative Study between Natural and Social Study Program at Eleventh Grade of MA NU Banat Kudus in the Academic Year 2012/2013)".

B. Research Questions

The problems in this study are:

 How is the way to teach narrative writing for students at eleventh grade of natural and social study program at MA NU Banat Kudus in the Academic Year 2012/2013?

⁵ Muhaimin, Pengembangan Model Kurikulum Tingkat Satuan Pendidikan (KTSP) pada Sekolah dan Madrasah, (Jakarta: PT Raja Grafindo Persada, 2009), p.354.

2. What is the difference of students' narrative writing skill between those in natural and those in social study program at eleventh grade of MA NU Banat Kudus in the academic year of 2012/2013?

C. Objectives of the Study

This study reaches some goals:

- To know the teaching of narrative writing skill for students at eleventh grade of natural and social study program at MA NU Banat Kudus in the academic year 2012/2013.
- 2. To know the difference of students' narrative writing skill between those in natural and those in social study program at eleventh grade of MA NU Banat Kudus in the academic year of 2012/2013?

D. Significance of the study

The researcher chooses the title "Narrative Writing Skill of Islamic Senior High School Students (A Comparative Study between Natural and Social Study Program at Eleventh Grade of MA NU Banat Kudus in the Academic Year 2012/2013)" in the hope that finding of this study will give great advantages for the following group of people:

1. The Teacher

The results of the study are expected to make sure the students' narrative writing skill in both classes. It will become a good stimulant to improve students' motivation in writing.

2. The Students

The results of this study may motivate students in both classes to improve their interest in learning writing, especially in narrative writing.

3. The School

The institution will know students' achievement result in narrative writing between students of both classes.