

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Language is a system of sounds and words used by humans to express their thoughts and feelings.¹ It plays an important role in our life. English as the foreign language in our country is considered to be important to learn and be used to develop science, technology, art and culture. Realizing the importance of English, it is taught widely at formal and non-formal schools, starting from elementary schools to university. It is in line with the government's program about nine-year basic education. In this day, it is also taught in elementary school and also even in kindergarten. English also an important subject in schools. In our country, English is taught and learned as the first foreign language. It has an essential subject in curriculum and formally introduced in the fourth to sixth year of elementary school.

In learning English, the students find some difficulties and also need much time to master English. When someone learns English as a foreign language, he often faces interferences. English teaching at Junior High School covers the four skills: writing, listening, speaking and reading. However, they have to be supported by language components such as grammar, vocabulary, sound system and spelling. One of the four skills is writing. Writing is a channel of communication with the global community. Writing is one of the English skills has given an important contribution for human being. It can be seen from the fact that can easily find in crucial life such as scientific books, novels, report, letter, magazine, newspaper, etc. Writing skill is more complex and difficult to teach. In learning writing, we have to learn about structure firstly because without mastering structure automatically we cannot write correct form. That is why, among four skills

¹ A. S. Hornby, *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995), p. 662.

which should be mastered, writing is most difficult one for all language user of the whether the language is a first.

In writing, students' ability and understanding is very important thing. In many cases, students are often bored or uninterested enough during writing courses. That is why teacher should use some meaningful approaches and media as a method to teach writing. So that writing will become easier to learn. One of media that can be used to teach writing is pictures. The use of pictures for teaching writing can make students are interested in the lesson, especially in certain course, which is difficult to be comprehended.

B. Reasons for Choosing the Topic

Writing is one of the basic skills that has to be mastered by students in the seventh year of junior high school. So that the writer chooses the following reasons:

1. Writing is one of important skills of four language skills in mastering English. The writer believes that using series of pictures as media in writing class could improve students' ability in writing procedure texts.
2. Procedure text is one of the genres that must be taught to students of junior high school besides report, recount, news item and descriptive.
3. Picture is one of the media that can be used in language teaching especially as teacher aids in writing class.
4. The students of junior high school often get bored when they had an English class, especially in writing. Hopefully they will be interested and enthusiasm in learning English.

C. Research Questions

In this study, the writer intends to answer the following questions. The problems that are going to be discussed in this study are:

1. How is the implementation of series of pictures in teaching writing procedure texts of the seventh year students of MTs Mafatihul Akhlaq Jepara in the academic year of 2009/2010?
2. How is the improvement of students' writing procedure text after being taught using series of pictures?

D. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are:

1. To suggest how series of pictures is implemented in teaching writing procedure texts of the seventh year students of MTs Mafatihul Akhlaq Jepara in the academic year of 2009/2010?
2. To describe and analyze how is the improvement of students' writing procedure text after being taught using series of pictures?

E. Significances of the Study

The results of this study are expected to be useful for:

1. For Students

Students are expected to be able to develop their ideas in writing a procedure text through series of pictures.

2. For Teachers

Teachers are expected to increase their knowledge on how to motivate students to be interested in learning writing through series of pictures.

3. For the Writer

The writer hopes that this study could facilitate him with knowledge and experience about writing procedure text through series of pictures.

F. Definition of the Key Terms

The key terms defined as follows:

1. Pictures

Harmer explained that pictures are clearly indispensable for language since they can be used in any ways. A picture is an art that can express the lifestyle someone or something, for example to express the life style of flowers, animals, or people in their simple characteristics.²

Pictures are placed under the category of visual materials. They may be in the form of drawings or photographs, in color or black-white: because of their effective role, the communication way of teaching language seems to favor the use of pictures to develop a context or situation.

2. Teach

As stated by Hornby the term “teaching” means to cause somebody to know or be able to do something.³

3. Writing

Writing is a discovery process that involves discovering ideas, how to organize them and what it is that you want to put over to your order, so a lot of what a writer does a writer doesn't actually appear on the page.⁴ It is skill which has been develop in civilized society to past on knowledge or messages beyond constrains of here and now.

4. Genre

The term “genre” is used to refer to particular text-types. It is a type or kind of text, defined in terms of its social purposes, also the level of context dealing with social purpose. There are two types of genre, story genres and factual genres. Story genre is a kind of genre that tells the story of something happened. There are several types of story genres; they are narrative, news items, anecdote, recount and spoof. The

² Jeremi Harmer, *The Practice of Language Teaching*, (Cambridge: Longman, 2001) p. 3.

³ A. S. Hornby, *Op. Cit.*, p. 1225.

⁴ Ron White, *New Ways in Teaching Writing*, (Alexandria, VA: Teacher of English to Speakers of Other Language, 1987), p. 10.

examples of factual genres are procedure, explanation, report, analytical exposition, discussion and description.⁵

5. Text

Text is main printed part or book.⁶ It is any meaningful stretch of language oral or written.

6. Procedure Text

A procedure text is a piece of text that describes how something is accomplished through a sequence of actions or steps.⁷

7. Action Research

Action research indicates the basic unity of theoretical and practical knowledge. It means that in action research, a researcher not only needs the theories which support research but also needs to practice and to act with the subject of research.⁸ Furthermore, classroom action research is a reflective study done by teacher in a classroom for getting solution about the problem until it can be solved.

John Elliott gives definition of action research:

Action research is a process, through which teachers collaborate in evaluating their practice jointly; raise awareness of their personal theory; articulate a shared conception of values; record their work in a form which is readily available to and understandable by other teacher; and thus develop a shared theory of teaching by researching practice.⁹

8. The Seventh Grade Students of MTs Mafatihul Akhlaq Jepara

The seventh grade students refer to students who have been studying at MTs Mafatihul Akhlaq Jepara where the writer conducted the research.

⁵ Hartono, R., *Genre-Based Writing*, (Semarang: English Department of Semarang State University, 2005), Unpublished Thesis.

⁶ A. S. Hornby, *Op. Cit.*, p. 1234.

⁷ L. Gerrot and P. Wignell, *Making Sense of Functional Grammar*, (Sidney: Antepodean Educational Enterprises, 1995), p. 206.

⁸ Mu'linatus Sa'adah, *The Implementation of Jigsaw Strategy in Teaching Reading Comprehension* (Semarang: Walisongo State Institute for Islamic Studies, 2009), Unpublished Thesis.

⁹ [Http://www.Madison.K12.Wi.Us./Sod/Car/Carreffect.Html](http://www.Madison.K12.Wi.Us./Sod/Car/Carreffect.Html). Retrieved on 19/07/09.

9. Academic Year of 2009/2010

The phrase of academic year of 2009/2010 means the time for teaching and learning on the other academic activities, which consists of two semesters and has been started on July 2009 and will be completed on June 2010.

G. Limitation of the Study

To limit the scope of the study, the objectives of this study are as follows:

1. Teaching writing in English class at the seventh grade of MTs Mafatihul Akhlaq Jepara through series of pictures media at the preparation activity, main activity and evaluation activity.
2. The researcher takes Pictures, Grammar, Vocabulary, and Mechanism of written texts in scoring the students' writing ability.
3. The instrument of the study which is the instructional program and the achievement test will be developed by the researcher.