

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the study, reason for choosing the topic, research questions, objective of the study, significance of the study, hypothesis of the study, limitation of the study, definition of the key terms and outline of the study.

1.1 Background of The Study

Language is a media for global people to communicate with others. Generally, language used into two ways; verbal language and nonverbal language. When nonverbal language is supported by verbal language, it makes easier for the people to understand our speech. But, when we discussed verbal language, it is larger than nonverbal language. People generally acquired this verbal language through some steps which is called by language skills; listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Nowadays, English is an international language in this modern era. It is the most spoken one all around the world. Nga (2008) states that English brings global people together and helps them understand each other and exchange material, cultural and spiritual values of their countries. In the other side, English has many functions in this global era. People who master English they can easy to get international scholarship, communicate through international media as medium to introduce special culture of the country, easy to get a job and easy to learn other languages.

Learning English was difficult for students in Indonesia. The students face many problems in learning English. Hamdan (2011) states that students are passive during teaching and learning process, shy to talk by using English and the bad condition is they come to class only to fulfill the attendance. It showed that they has low motivation in learning English. On the other hand, the problem also comes from the teachers. They spend most of time by explaining the material to students. Students just listen and has less opportunity to response or ask the material or about the task. And the biggest one is that it is because the teachers often teach them without using the interesting media, approach, strategy or technique.

The use of interesting media, approach, strategy or technique is very helpful for students to learn English especially writing. Writing is one of the difficult skills should be mastered by students. While indeed the teacher should choose or make variations that appropriate to achieve students' ability in writing. To solve the students' problem, the teacher apply an innovative strategy. By using an innovative strategy, the teacher can improve students' ability in writing. One of innovative strategy is semantic mapping strategy.

Semantic mapping is a cognitive strategy in which information categorically structured in a graphic or visual form. Semantic mapping is graphic arrangement of words and it shows how new words and ideas are related to each other within a text (Johnson, 1978). Semantic mapping is one of cooperative learning in which the students directed to think a visual way. More and more students think creatively, they can associate the ideas more easily. To associate the arrangement

of words, the students can connect them by lines or arrows drawn between and among the figures. It means that semantic mapping can be used to explain certain objects to show their relationship. By using semantic mapping strategy, the writer expected that it can help students to find out related words, ideas as many as possible to the topic and they can improve their writing ability.

1.2 Reasons for Choosing The Topic

The reasons for choosing the topic are:

1. Writing is one of the main skills which learn by students besides speaking, reading and listening. It is essential for English teachers to encourage students to write. So that the writer got alternative strategy in improving that skill.
2. One of the genre texts that taught by teacher to the students of junior high school especially for the eight grade students is descriptive text.
3. Semantic mapping has never been conducted in the eight grade students in SMP 4 Islam Sultan Agung.

1.3 Research Question

The problem that discussed in this study “Is semantic mapping strategy effective in improving students’ descriptive text writing of the eight grade of SMP 4 Islam Sultan Agung in the academic 2018/2019?”

1.4 Objective of The Study

The objective to be achieved in this study is to find out whether semantic mapping strategy is effective in improving students’ descriptive text writing of the eight grade of of SMP 4 Islam Sultan Agung in the academic 2018/2019.

1.5 Hypotheses of the Study

According to Arikunto (2008), hypothesis is a temporary conclusion or opinion, which has not been prove, and supposed to be true after being proven by using qualified instrument. The hypothesis of this study were:

H₀: There is no significant difference in mean score of students' writing descriptive text between students of SMP 4 Islam Sultan Agung who has taught by using semantic mapping strategy and those who has taught without using semantic mapping strategy.

H₁: There is a significant difference in mean score of students' writing descriptive text between students of SMP 4 Islam Sultan Agung who has taught by using semantic mapping strategy and those who has taught without using semantic mapping strategy.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The result of the study is expected to give contribution into two parts :

1. Practical

a. For students

This study will solve students' writing difficulties through their own visual thinking.

b. For teacher

It hopefully can be applied by teacher as the way to teach writing especially descriptive text.

c. For the reader

The readers may read and observe the information about the research that related to writing ability on descriptive text by using Semantic Mapping strategy

2. Pedagogical

a. For students

It expands students' writing skills in various types especially in descriptive text. Besides that, by learning writing through semantic mapping strategy the students realize that writing descriptive text is easy.

b. For teacher

The result of the study is hopefully used by teacher in various learning process. While the teacher can modify and add some interesting media which can help students to improve their writing skill.

1.7 Limitation of the Study

In this research, the writer limited the study on the descriptive writing of the eight grade students of of SMP 4 Sultan Agung.

1.8 Definition of the Key Terms

To make the readers understand easily about this study, the writer presents the definition of the terms as follows :

1. Writing

Siburian (2013) states that writing is a group of ideas in the right word by right formula as a way to deliver and communicate to the reader which is presented on a paper

2. Descriptive Text

According to Siburian (2013), descriptive text is a group of sentences which has a purpose to describe what a person, place and object looks like.

3. Semantic mapping

Johnson (1978) says that semantic mapping is a graphic arrangement of words which related one each other within a text.

1.9 Organization of the Study

This study was divided into five chapters:

Chapter I is introduction. It contains background of the study, reasons for choosing the topic, research question, objective of the study, significance of the study, hypothesis of the study, limitation of the study, definition of the key terms and outline of the study.

Chapter II is the review of related literature. It presents the theoretical framework and the review of previous studies. In theoretical review consisted of writing, descriptive text, semantic mapping strategy.

Chapter III is the research method. It presents the research design, subject of the research, variable of the research, instruments of the research, validity of the test, reliability of the test, scoring technique and procedure of data analysis.

Chapter IV is the result and discussion. It presents the description of the school, description of respondents, validity and reliability of the research instrument, pre test analysis, treatment activities, t-test analysis and discussion.

Chapter V is the conclusion. It presents conclusion and suggestion.