

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter consists of the Background of Study, the Reason for Choosing Topic, the Statement of the Problem, the Objective of the Study, the Hypotheses, the Significance of the Study, the Definition of Key Terms, the Limitation of the Study, and the Outline of the Study.

#### **1.1. Background of the Study**

Language is a tool which is used by people in the world to communicate. That is the reason why language is very important for us especially English. In Indonesia, English has become a foreign language. It is included in the national curriculum that every school has to follow. It is learned by the students from elementary school until university level and it becomes compulsory subject.

English is very important to learn because many people use it as a communication tool to interact and to socialize with others especially from the different countries. It is one of the foreign languages learned in Indonesia. As a foreign language, it has four important skills that must be mastered by the students, they are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Writing is a part of the language skills must be taught maximally by the teacher to the students. For writing skill, the students do not only study about grammar and vocabulary but also try to write effectively.

According to Harmer (2007), the students want to learn English because this is included in curriculum at their school. However, students must have the knowledge about English especially writing skill. Because writing more difficult than other skills. So, it will be challenging for teacher in teach writing skill to students. Teacher must be creative and active to improve students writing ability and English skill.

Writing also gives some other benefits. Besides being means of communication, writing can also create jobs. In beginning writing, it is just an activity to express our idea, opinion, or feeling in the text. Writing can also be a hobby to spend our time, but finally in this modern life, people can get money from doing their writing, for example a journalist, novelist or script writing.

Although writing is very important for us, it is a difficult subject especially for the student. The reason is because writing is a mixture of our idea, vocabulary and also grammar. According to Heaton(1975), writing skill is more complicated and difficult to teach, to require and to master. It is not only grammatical and rhetorical devices but also conceptual and judgment, because of the difficulties of writing. Some efforts have been done to solve the problem. The main objective is to make writing becomes easier to be learnt for the students. They have to pay attention to grammar, so it is normal if the students think that writing is a difficult subject because they have to pay attention for many things (idea, concept, vocabulary and grammar).

Related to the problem, it becomes a challenging task for the teacher to apply a good strategy to teach writing. To make students more interesting and more active, the teacher can improve their English skill. When one strategy does not work, the teacher needs to develop that technique and change it into a more suitable strategy by fitting the students' condition and material.

Many strategies can be applied in teaching writing skill. Media is one of a good strategy to reach the objectives of the teaching learning process. A teacher should use various media or teaching aids in delivering the materials to the students. Harmer (2001) states that a language teacher should use various teaching aids to explain language meaning and construction and to engage students in a topic or as the basis of a whole activity. It means that media plays an important role in a teaching and learning process. The teacher should use various media or teaching aids in giving the material to the students. In this case, the teacher can use a spinning wheel to help students in practicing their writing skill.

From the explanation above, the researcher wants to conduct a research with the spinning wheel as one of the media to improve students' writing skill. Thus, the title of the researcher's research is "The Use of Spinning Wheel to Improve Students' Writing Skill of the Eighth Grade Students of SMPN 1 Karangtengah in the Academic Year of 2018/2019".

## **1.2. Reasons for Choosing the Topic**

These were three reasons in choosing the topic, they were :

- a. Spinning wheel was the newest media used at final project in English Education study program of UNISSULA to teaching writing skill.
- b. Spinning wheel is expected to be suitable to practiced by junior high school students because it is more fun for teaching learning process.
- c. It is expected to help the teacher to improve students' writing skill.

## **1.3. Research Question**

Related to the background of the study above, the research question was "Was Spinning Wheel effective to improve students' writing skill of the eighth graders of "SMPN 1 Karangtengah" in the academic year of 2018/2019?"

## **1.4. Objective of the Study**

The objective of the study is to find out whether or not the use of spinning wheel is effective to improve students' writing skill of the eight grades students of SMPN 1 Karangtengah in the academic year 2018/2019.

## **1.5. Hypotheses**

According to Airasian and Gay(2000), hypotheses can be classified in terms of how they are divided or how they are started.

Based of the statement of the problem, the hypotheses of this study were:

**H1** :There is a significant difference in the ability in writing descriptive text between the students who are taught descriptive text by using spinning wheel as

media and the students who were not taught by using spinning wheel of eight grade students of SMPN 1 Karangtengah in the academic year 2018/2019.

**Ho** : There is no significant difference in the ability in writing descriptive text between the students who are taught descriptive text by using spinning wheel as media and the students who are not taught by using spinning wheel of eight grade students of SMPN 1 Karangtengah in the academic year 2018/2019.

### **1.6. Significance of the Study**

There are two significance of this study, they are:

a. Students

It is hoped that students can improve their writing skill by using spinning wheel and they can enjoy in teaching learning activity.

b. Teachers

Hopefully, this study can be one of strategy resources for teaching to improve students' writing skill.

### **1.7. Definition of the Key Terms**

1. Spinning wheel

According to Miller (2014) as cited in Wahyunica, spinning wheel is modified for learning media. It is usually filled by the numbers for the learning media, topics, and terms of the material to be delivered.

## 2. Writing

According to Richard and Renaldya (2002) writing is the most difficult skill for second language learners to master of putting together strings of grammatically correct sentences.

## 3. Descriptive Text

According to Mukarto (2006), descriptive text is a text that describes the part and the characteristics about a subject. It has 2 generic structures, they are identification and description.

### **1.8. Limitation of the Study**

The researcher limits the study only focused on the use of spinning wheel media in improving writing skill achievement in descriptive text of the eighth grade students of SMPN 1 Karangtengah in the academic year of 2018/2019.

### **1.9. Outline of the Study**

This outline of this proposal is arranged into three chapters.

Chapter I consists of the Background of Study, the Reason for Choosing Topic, the Statement of the Problem, the Objective of the Study, the Hypotheses, the Significance of the Study, the Definition of the Key Terms, the Limitation of the Study, and the Outline of the Study.

Chapter II deals with Writing Skill, Descriptive Text, Learning Media, Spinning Wheel and its Advantages, and the Review of Previous Study

Chapter III presents methodology of the Research Design, the Subject of the Study, the Variables of the Study, the Instrument of the Study, the Procedures of the Study, and the Technique of Data Analysis.

Chapter IV deals with the analysis and interpretation of the data. This chapter consists of The school's Profile of the Subject, Subject of the Study, Validity and Reliability of the Instrument, Pre-Test Analysis, Treatment, Post-Test and Discussion of the Research.

Chapter V is conclusion and suggestions. This chapter presents the conclusion and suggestions made based on the data analysis.