

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, some topics are discussed which is related to background of the study, problem statement, purpose of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, hypothesis, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

English as a primary language that connects all people over the world make it very important to be learnt and applied in all sectors, institutes and states unexceptionally in Indonesia. In this globalization era, students are expected to keep up with the global competition, so the mastery of communication skill such as speaking and writing are required as it stated by School Based Curriculum (Depdiknas: 2006) that the students should be able to communicate by using English in oral and written form of narrative, descriptive, recount, anecdote, analytical exposition and hortatory exposition text.

Writing is a productive skill besides speaking. J.D Angelo (1989) notes that writing is a form of thinking. It means that writing is an activity to express ideas, issues, events, feeling or thinking to the others through written form. Writing involves some language components (content, organization, vocabulary, language and mechanics). KTSP (School Based Curriculum) stated that eighth grade students of Junior High School have to be able to write in descriptive, recount and narrative. However, the fact shows that English teachers still get problem in teaching those English skills and students do not have mastery

especially in writing skill. Some students think that writing is difficult activity, especially writing in foreign language, because when the students want to write they should know a lot of information or ideas and grammar in their mind so that they will be able to express them into sentences, paragraph and essays.

Based on the researcher experiences when implemented teacher training at SMPN 2 Kebomas, there were some problem found in write simple short essay. When the teacher asked students to write, they do not know how to arrange their ideas into comprehensible, coherent, and organized essay. The first problem, there were so many errors in content, organization, vocabulary, and language use such as spelling and grammar so that their writing was not well organized. And another problem, the researcher found that the instructions and materials that the teacher'd given to teach writing was not effective and not interesting so that the students felt bored and not motivated in writing activities.

Pahleri (2003) realizes some difficulties of teaching writing, those can be caused by the process of teaching writing and also caused by the students factors. And the factors of this problem may also caused by the method or technique and materials used in teaching writing. Related with the explanation above, Wilkins (1983) also believe that techniques and material that used by the teacher affects students in learning. Effective technique and interest material are very needed. So that, teacher should find out new methods, models and techniques in teaching-learning process. In order to give solution for these problems, the researcher is motivated to conduct research by applying the Method. The method was called "Four-Square Writing Method". Four-Square method is a model of teaching writing that consists of several steps to ease students compose a

paragraph in which students can work together or individually in the writing process.

Gould (1999) in his study describe about Four-Square Writing Method (FSWM) as a motivating and interesting way in helping the students to organize their idea in every square.

According to the background stated above, the researcher formulates the problem as follow: Is there any significant effect of using Four-Square Writing Method (FSWM) on eighth grade students' ability in writing descriptive text at SMP Negeri 2 Kebomas.

1.2 Problem Statement

Is there any significant effect of using Four-Square Writing Method (FSWM) on eighth grade students' ability in writing descriptive text at SMP Negeri 2 Kebomas.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

Based on the problem stated above, the purpose of the research is:

To know whether there is any significant effect of using Four-Square Writing Method (FSWM) on eighth grade students' ability in writing descriptive text at SMP Negeri 2 Kebomas.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Theoretically, this research could inspire other researcher to investigate effective method that can improve students' writing ability. Four-Square Writing

Method (FSWM) is one of the effective methods that can ease students in composing and developing their idea in written form especially in form of descriptive text.

Practically, this research is expected to inspire the other English teacher to be more creative and active in teaching writing. By knowing the effectiveness and the influence of using Four-Square Writing Method (FSWM), the English teachers could use this method for teaching English writing especially in writing descriptive text. This research also expected to help students improve their writing ability and develop their idea in writing descriptive text.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this research is the researcher only focuses on the effect of Four-Square Writing Method (FSWM) on eighth grade students' ability in writing descriptive text at SMP Negeri 2 Kebomas. And the researcher limits the descriptive text only on describing people because it is one of writing focus of junior high school students.

1.6 Hypothesis

Based on the problem presented above, the hypothesis is formulated as follow:

There is a significant effect of using Four-Square Writing Method (FSWM) on eighth grade students' ability in writing Descriptive text at SMP Negeri 2 Kebomas in the academic year 2013/2014.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

There are some terms used in this study that need to be defined in order to avoid misunderstanding. These terms are defined as follow:

Writing descriptive is an activity to express ideas, feeling or thinking in written form. It create a vivid picture of a person, place, or thing to be explained in detail for the reader.

Descriptive text is a text which say what a person or thing is like. It purpose is to describe and reveal a particular person, place, or thing. In this research, descriptive text only focused on describing a person.

Four-Square Writing Method (FSWM) is method of teaching basic writing skills that use graphic organizer to help students organize their thoughts before they begin writing. The steps of this method are:

1. Square is drawn, and divided into four smaller square with the same size in each square. And one another square or box is drawn in the middle of the main square. So that, the five square are drawn.
2. The students asked to writes a topic sentence in the center square.
3. After that, the students writes supporting sentences in the top left square, the top right square, and the bottom left square that explains the main ideas in the center square.
4. The last step, the students make a conclusion or summary in the bottom right square. The soncluding sentence describes about the writers' feeling about the topic.