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CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

Writing is one of productive language skills, that the students can produce and share their ideas through written language. Since writing is productive language skill, it also helps the students to develop their ability in expressing what they are thinking about, so they can think creatively. In classroom practice, most of students think that writing is difficult when they start to write a particular text with the topic given by the teacher. It is because in writing, there are some crucial elements such as vocabularies, spelling, punctuation, and grammar. Especially for students in senior high school, they must do writing assignment with the topic given and it was finished in particular time.

State Islamic Senior High School (MAN) 1 Kampar is one of senior high schools in Kuok district, Kampar regency. This school uses 2013 curriculum for the tenth grade students as the guidance in teaching and learning process. For the tenth grade students, English is taught once a week for 90 minutes and writing is one of skills in English subject. Based on 2013 curriculum, recount text is one of texts that is taught at the tenth grade. The basic competence in writing is the students are able to compose simple recount text orally and written about experience, activity, or event by paying attention to purpose, text structure, and grammatical unsure correctly and appropriate to the context.

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During the writer's preliminary observation at State Islamic Senior High School (MAN) 1 Kampar, the writer interviewed the English teacher. Based on the interview, the English teacher said that some of the tenth grade students still had difficulties in writing recount text. When the teacher asks the students to write recount text about their experience, the students usually translate the text from the source language (Bahasa Indonesia) into target language (English). Whereas, the students have their own ideas about their experience and they have already learned recount text since junior high school. But, they are still difficult to write recount text because they are not able to construct the sentence, grammar and lack of vocabulary. The problems make some of the students cannot achieve the minimum criteria of passing grade. The minimum criteria of passing grade for the tenth grade students of State Islamic Senior High School (MAN) 1 Kampar is 70. The writer found that only 6 students or 22% from 27 students at the tenth grade could reach the minimum criteria of passing grade. It means that most of the students got low score.

Besides, the writer also interviewed some of the tenth grade students. They also said that they still have difficulties in English subject, especially in writing. Their difficulties can be seen in the following phenomena.

1. Some of the students were not able to write recount text grammatically.
2. Some of the students were not able to write recount text appropriately based on the generic structure.



3. Some of the students were not able to use simple past tense correctly.
4. Some of the students were not able to use the vocabulary correctly.

Based on the phenomena above, the writer assumes that some students at the tenth grade of State Islamic Senior High School (MAN) 1 Kampar still have difficulties in writing recount text. It is also related to Nunan's statement about writing. Learning to write fluently and expressively is the most difficult of macro-skills for all language users whether as a first, second or foreign language (Nunan, 1989, p. 35). Thus, the writer was interested in observing the problems above into a research entitled **“An Analysis of Students' Difficulties in Writing Recount Text at the Tenth Grade of State Islamic Senior High School (MAN) 1 Kampar”**.

B. Problem

1. Identification of the Problem

Based on the phenomena illustrated in the background above, it is clear that some of students were having difficulties, especially in term of writing recount text. The problems of this research will be identified as follows:

- a. How are the students' difficulties in writing recount text grammatically?
- b. How are the students' difficulties in writing recount text based on the generic structure of the text?
- c. How are the students' difficulties in using simple past tense in writing recount text?

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- d. How are the students' difficulties in using vocabulary in writing recount text?

2. Limitation of the Problem

In carrying out this research, the writer is aware that there should be a limitation of the problem to be solved. In this case, this research focused on students' difficulties in writing recount text.

3. Formulation of the Problem

Based on the problems limited above, these research questions are formulated as follows:

- a. What are students' difficulties in writing recount text at the tenth grade of State Islamic Senior High School (MAN) 1 Kampar?

C. Objectives and Significance of the Research**1. Objectives of the Research**

Based on the formulation of the problem above, the objectives of this research are:

- a. To investigate about the students' difficulties in writing recount text at the tenth grade of State Islamic Senior High School (MAN) 1 Kampar.

2. Significance of the Research

- a. Hopefully this research is useful for the writer as a novice researcher, especially in learning how to conduct a research.
- b. These research findings are also expected to be useful and valuable, especially for students and teacher of English at State

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Islamic Senior High School (MAN) 1 Kampar to be consideration for their future learning process.

- c. The research findings are expected to give information to the teacher of English about students' difficulties in writing. Besides, it can help the students to know their difficulties and weaknesses in writing, so they can improve their ability in writing.
- d. These research findings are also expected to be positive and valuable information, especially for those who are concerned in the world of teaching and learning English as a foreign or second language.
- e. Finally, this research is conducted to fulfill one of the requirements to finish the writer's study in English Education Department of State Islamic University of Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau.

D. Reason for Choosing the Title

There are some reasons why the writer is interested in carrying out this research. This research is conducted based on the following reasons:

1. Writing is one of crucial skills in English that should be taught for senior high school students.
2. The title of this research is not yet investigated by other previous researches in this university.
3. The title of the research is relevant with the writer's status as a student of English Education Department.

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4. The location of the research is facilities the writer in conducting this research.

E. Definition of the Term

In order to avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation about the title of this research, the writer explains the term used in this research. They are as follows:

1. Students' Difficulties

Difficulties define as something that is hard to do or understand. Students' difficulties are the condition in which the students face problem.

2. Writing Recount Text

Writing recount text is the activity of expressing the ideas about past experience or event through sequence of event in good sentences and paragraphs. It consists of orientation, events and conclusion (re-orientation).