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CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

Writing is one of the important skills that should be mastered by students to be successful in learning language. According to Sanggam (2008, p.3) writing is the most difficult skill because in writing they have to combine the correct grammatical and also the coherence of the paragraph. It is suitable to inform that writing is not easy to do because it needs many basic skills that should be mastered by students, such as mastering vocabulary, mastering grammar, and rhetorical pattern.

Grammar is one of the components of language that must be mastered by the students to learn English. The students need grammar in order to make good sentence. In line with Brown (1994, p.347) grammar is a system of rules governing the conventional arrangement and also relationship of words in sentence. In other word grammar is one kind of language component that give explanation or rule about how to join of the words become a good sentence based on grammatical rule. Grammar is also called as organization words that are combined into sentences to express thought and feeling or to express of the idea in writing. The students need to master grammar because by mastering grammar students will be able to speak and write English correctly.

In mastering English grammar there are many rules and sentences that should be mastered by the students. One of sentences is simple present tense. The simple present tense refers to action or situation that to do not change

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frequently (Patricia, 1990 p.125). It means that simple present tense is one kind of sentence that is used to the express daily activities and general statement. This sentence is used in descriptive text. As we know in descriptive text, the students should be follow the generic structure and use appropriate tenses such as simple present tense, simple future tense, simple past tense, and simple past future. But, in general most of the sentences used in descriptive texts are in simple present tense. Therefore, the students have to understand simple present tense in writing descriptive text to make a good sentences or texts. According to Sanggam Siahaan and Kisno Shinoda (2008, p.89) description is a written English text in which the writer describes an object. In this text, the object can be a concrete or abstract. It can be a person, or animal, or camping as his topic.

Junior High School Muhammadiyah 1 Pekanbaru is one of educational institutions in Pekanbaru using Curriculum 2013 (K13) in the process of teaching and learning English. Based on curriculum 2013 (K13), the standard competence of learning English refers to the attitude, knowledge and skill; affective, cognitive and psychomotor that must be learned by students in a school. Then, the basic competence of writing is the students' ability to understand the purpose, structure of the text, and language features of descriptive text in oral and simple written about people, animal and thing as according to context its use. Base on quotation above, English is one of the subjects that is important to be taught especially writing. In writing descriptive text, the students should be able to identify the generic structure of



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descriptive and use the language features of descriptive text. In reference to, writing skill need many aspects that must be learned by students' Junior High School Muhammadiyah 1 Pekanbaru. It mean, if students' can't master the aspects of the required in writing as demanded by the curriculum the students' learning in writing will not successful.

Descriptive texts and simple present tense should be taught at every junior high schools instructed by School Based Curriculum. Based on writer preliminary study and observation at the first grade of Junior High School Muhammadiyah 1 Pekanbaru. This school have taught about simple present tense and descriptive text. But, many students got difficulties when they describe something. They looked difficult to arrange words to sentences and becomes paragraph. They are just easy to describe something with vocabulary not sentence structure. Furthermore, the students were not able to write text correctly. Because they are lack of vocabularies and sentence structure make them get difficulties in expressing the ideas and make a sentences correctly. In Conclusion, their writing were not clear and difficult to be understood. So, their ability in writing descriptive text is still far from the target of curriculum. This phenomena can writer seen from the result the passing grade of the English subject in Junior High School Muhammadiyah 1 Pekanbaru can't achieved by student's.

Based on the statement above, the writer found several problems dealing with understanding of simple present tense and descriptive text. This problems can be seen in the following phenomena :

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1. Some of students understand of simple present tense, but they cannot describe the text grammatically;
2. some of students are not able to write descriptive text based on generic structure;
3. Some of students are not able to express their ideas clearly in descriptive text;
4. Some of students are not able to use simple present tense in descriptive text;
5. Some of students are lack of vocabularies to write descriptive text;
6. Some of students are not able to use both nominal form and verbal form in simple present tense

After doing primary observation at the first grade of Junior High School Muhammadiyah 1 Pekanbaru, it is clear that most of students are still getting difficulties, especially in term of descriptive text. Therefore, the writer is interested in conducting a research. The writer that will be conducted is entitled **“The Correlation Between Students’ Understanding of Simple Present Tense and Their Writing Ability in Descriptive Text at the First Grade of Junior High School Muhammadiyah 1 Pekanbaru”**.

B. The Problem of the Research

Based on the phenomena illustrated in the background above, it is very clear that there are many students at the first grade of Junior High School Muhammadiyah 1 Pekanbaru who encounter problems both in simple present tense and ability in writing descriptive text.

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1. Identification of the Problem

Based on the problem of the information above, the problems of this research were identified as follows :

1. Why are some of students not able to write grammatically?
2. Why are some of students not able to write descriptive text based on generic structure?
3. Why are some of students not able to express their ideas clearly in descriptive text?
4. Why are some of students not able to use simple present in descriptive text?
5. Why are some of students lack of vocabularies to write descriptive text?
6. Why are some of students not able to use both nominal form and verbal form in simple present tense?

2. Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of the problems, there were many problems in this research. But, in this research paper, the writer focuses on “the correlation between students’ understanding of simple present tense and their ability in descriptive text at the first grade of Junior High School Muhammadiyah 1 Pekanbaru”.

3. Formulation of the Problem

Based on the limitation of the problems stated above, thus, the problems of this research can be stated in the following research questions :

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1. How is students' English simple present tense understanding at the first grade of Junior High School Muhammadiyah 1 Pekanbaru?
2. How is students' Ability in writing descriptive text at the first grade of Junior High School Muhammadiyah1 Pekanbaru?
3. Is there any significant correlation between students' simple present tense understanding and their ability in writing descriptive text at the first grade of Junior High School Muhammadiyah 1 Pekanbaru?

C. Objective and Significant of the Research**1. Objective of the Research**

Based on the research questions formulated above, the objectives of this research are as follows :

- a. To find out how students' simple present tense understanding at the first grade of Junior High School Muhammadiyah 1 Pekanbaru.
- b. To find out how students' ability in writing descriptive text at the first grade of Junior High School Muhammadiyah1 Pekanbaru.
- c. To find out the significant correlation between students' simple present tense understanding and their ability in writing descriptive text at the first grade of Junior High School Muhammadiyah 1 Pekanbaru.

2. Significant of the Research

Related to the objectives of the research above, the significant of the research are as follows :

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- a. Hopefully this research is able to benefit the writer as a novice researcher in learning how to conduct the research.
- b. These research finding are also expected to be useful and valuable information for both students and teachers of English at the first grade of Junior High School Muhammadiyah 1 Pekanbaru to be the future focus of teaching and learning English.
- c. Besides, this research finding are also expected to be valuable information for those who are concerned in the world of teaching and learning English as a second language.
- d. Finally, this research finding are also expected to be the practical and theoretical information to the development of theories on language teaching in general.

D. Reason for Choosing the Title

There are some reasons why the writer is interested in carrying out the research. This research is instigated by the following reasons :

1. The tittle of this research is relevant with the writer status as a students of English Education Department.
2. The result of this research can give information for the teachers about understanding of simple present tense and ability in writing descriptive text.
3. The result of this research is expected to be able to motivate the school to improve the quality of learning English.

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4. The location of this research facilitates the writer for conducting the research.

E. Definition of the Term

There are so many terms involved in this research. In order to avoid misunderstanding toward the terms use, thus, the following terms are necessary defined as follows :

1. Correlation

Creswell (2012, p.338) stated that correlation is statistical test to determine the tendency or pattern for two (or more) variables or two sets of data to vary consistently. So, it means that to correlate between two variables. Variable X refers to students' understanding of simple present tense. While variable Y refers to Students' writing ability in describing object on simple sentences.

2. Simple Present Tense

Simple present tense is something was true in the past, is true in the present, and will be true in the future. It is used for to express habitual or everyday activity (Azar, 1989, p.11). It means that simple present tense is the tense that may be use to express an activities and habitual action that is a situation in present time.

3. Writing Ability

Writing ability is specific ability which help writers to put their ideas into words in meaningful form and interact with the message. In this research, writing ability means that skill how to write a good

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describing object on simple sentences at the first grade of Junior High School Muhammadiyah 1 Pekanbaru.

4. Descriptive Text

Descriptive texts is texts which is used to tell about the subject looks, sound, feels, tastes and smells, likes (Syafi'i et al, 2011) . According to Sanggam Siahaan and Kisno Shinoda (2008, p.89) description is a written English text in which the writer describes an object. In this text, the object can be a concrete or abstract. It can be a person, or animal, or camping. In this research, descriptive text means that is a text that used to describes an object such as things, peoples, and animals.