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CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

Writing is one of the English skills that is crucial. Learners have to pay attention to writing skill because writing in English is not easy for students.

Writing has an important role in English as Second Language (ESL) or English as Foreign Language (EFL) learning. Nunan (2003:88) mentioned that writing is the mental work of inventing idea, thinking about how to express them, and organize them into statements and paragraphs that will be clear to a reader.

There are some peoples who can express their ideas and opinions by writing. It is not a matter what kind of writing the students do, they should have a specific and a clear objective (Syafii. 2014:4).

Writing is an activity that students need time to do it clearly. For this, students need time to get ideas in order to express in their writing. However, there are many students that complain that they do not know what to write. They can neither link sentences into coherent paragraph, nor express this thought clearly.

There are some students who still have difficulties in mastering writing skill. This condition is caused by some aspects. Writing skill is complex and sometime difficult to learn, requiring mastery not only of grammatical and rhetorical device but also of conceptual and judgmental elements (Heaton 1988 : 135). This complexity confuses the students. Therefore, the teacher has to make creative method to teach writing subjects by using a media of teaching



writing. Learning through media can be one of the solutions to motivate students' interest in learning English. The media can be used in learning English are movie, television, books, radio, etc. It means that there is no limitation of learning English. (Etemadi, 2012).

Media such a cartoon can stimulate the students to express their ideas in writing. Based on Hamid (in Purwoto, p.3) aids will stimulate the students and make material taught to be more interesting and impressed. Picture is painting, drawing, draft, sketch, and cartoon. Especially as a work of art. Cartoon will make students interested in studying; it will make students focus on the lesson given. Cartoon can describe the real condition interestingly. Cartoon can attract the students' attention and develop the students' motivation. Students can study effectively if the teachers use visual media like cartoon in learning teaching process.

Islamic junior high school Dar-el Hikmah is one of the junior high schools in Pekanbaru. English is served as a compulsory subject in this school. The time allocation of English subject is two times a week (90 minutes). For the eighth grade students of Islamic junior high school Dar-el Hikmah Pekanbaru, refer to the School based Curriculum (KTSP) In which, "the students is demanded to comprehend the purpose structure, and literature element of descriptive text in the form of spoken or written about person, animals, and inanimate object shortly and simply". According to the quotation, it is clearly that students have to be able to write descriptive text.



Based on writer's preliminary observation on 28 January 2016 in Islamic Junior High School Dar-el Hikmah Pekanbaru, some strategies in teaching writing especially for the eighth grade have students been applied by the teacher in the classroom, but the result of the learning process was still far from the teacher's expectation. Teacher used the various strategies to teach descriptive paragraph. One of the various strategies was teacher gave the explanation about descriptive paragraph. After that teacher asked students to make a descriptive paragraph in English writing. Automatically, the students were difficult to describe in written form because the students had to find the object before they were going to write English on a paper.

On the other hand, writer also found the problem such as, some of the students had difficulties in using grammatical orders in writing descriptive paragraph, They could not write a descriptive paragraph clearly, They also got problem to write based on generic structure of the descriptive paragraph and students have difficulties in selecting appropriate vocabularies in writing a text.

Based on this condition, it is clearly that most of the students still got difficulties in descriptive paragraph in English because students were confused to choose the objects and to describe the objects in descriptive paragraph well. It also automatically caused them difficult to achieve the passing score or cumulative minimal standard (KKM). The passing score of English subject at Islamic Junior High School Dar-el Hikmah Pekanbaru is (75) with the predicate "B".



Based on the problem above, the writer tries to implement appropriate technique to help students in writing descriptive paragraph by using cartoon, cartoon is one of the effective media that should be applied in order to improve students' writing ability. In order to know the effectiveness of cartoon in improving students' writing ability, the writer is interested in carrying out the a research entitled : **The Effect of Using Cartoon Media on Students' Writing Ability in Descriptive Paragraph at Islamic Junior High School Dar-el Hikmah Pekanbaru.**

B. Problem

1. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the problem, it is clear that most of the eighth grade students at Islamic Junior High school Dar-EL HIKMAH Pekanbaru still get some problems in their writing ability on descriptive paragraph. To make it clearer, the problems are identified as follows:

- a. Why do some of the students get difficulties to use grammatical orders in writing a descriptive paragraph?
- b. Why cannot some of the students cannot write the descriptive paragraph with the clear information?
- c. Why do some of the students have problem to select appropriate vocabularies in writing descriptive paragraph?
- d. Why do some of the students have problem to write based on the generic structure of descriptive paragraph?

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2. Limitation of The Problem

By identification of the problem stated above, it could be caused by the strategy that was used before. It demonstrates that application of the strategy used by the teacher was less effective on students' writing ability. The students were difficult to write the detail information of descriptive paragraph based on the generic structure. They also could not select the appropriate vocabulary, the grammatical order and also the mechanical technique in English writing. In this opportunity, the writer want to limited the problems of this research on the teaching method used by the teacher. The researcher tried to use a method called *cartoon media* and to know that *Cartoon Media* could give significant effect on students' writing descriptive paragraph ability of the eighth grade students at Islamic Junior High School Dar-el Hikmah Pekanbaru.

3. Formulation of the Problem

Based on the limitation of the problem above, the problem can be formulated as follows:

- a. How is the students' ability in writing descriptive paragraph taught by using Cartoon Media at Islamic Junior High School Dar-el Hikmah Pekanbaru?
- b. How is the students' ability in writing descriptive paragraph taught without using Cartoon Media at Islamic Junior High School Dar-el Hikmah Pekanbaru?



- c. Is there any significant effect of using Cartoon Media on students' writing ability in descriptive paragraph at Islamic Junior High School Dar-el Hikmah Pekanbaru?

C. Objective and Significance of the Research

1. Objective of the research

- a. To know the students' ability in writing descriptive paragraph taught by using Cartoon Media at Islamic Junior High School Dar-el Hikmah Pekanbaru.
- b. To know the students' ability in writing descriptive paragraph taught without using Cartoon Media at Islamic Junior High School Dar-el Hikmah Pekanbaru.
- c. To find out whether there is or not a significant effect of using Cartoon Media on students' writing ability in descriptive paragraph at Islamic Junior High School Dar-el Hikmah Pekanbaru.

2. Significance of the Research

- a. These research findings are expected to be positive and valuable information for the students to improve their writing ability.
- b. Hopefully, this research is able to benefit the writer as a novice researcher especially in learning how to conduct a research.

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- c. These research findings are also hoped to be useful and valuable, especially for the teachers of English at Islamic Junior High School Dar-el Hikmah Pekanbaru. To be consideration for their future teaching and learning English process.
- d. Finally these research findings are also expected to be practical and theoretical information to the development of the theories on language teaching.

D. Definition of the Term

To avoid misunderstanding of some terms in this research, the writer provides definition of the terms in this research as follow.

1. **Cartoon** is a graphic media containing interpretative pictures using symbols to create a brief message and quickly change an attitude towards people, situations or specific events (Dahlan, 2015:5)
2. **Writing Ability** is the ability to express language in the form of letters, symbols, or words.

Writing descriptive Paragraph is a unit of organization of written language in many languages, which serves to indicate how the main ideas in a written text are grouped. (Jack Richard, 2010:418). The term paragraph in this research refers to descriptive paragraph. According to Osborne (2008:12), a descriptive paragraph describes how something or someone looks or feels.

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E. Reason for Choosing the Title

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

1. The title of this research is relevant with the writer's status as a student of English Education.
2. The problems of this research are not yet investigated by other previous researchers.
3. The location of the research facilitates the writer in conducting the research.