

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

Writing as one of the language skills in English that has always formed part of the syllabus in the teaching of English.¹ It is also a language ability used to communicate in written form. It means that it is not only speaking ability to communicate but also writing ability too. For instance, all subjects at school are presented in written form. Writing can be done by anyone, but it is not all of people can do writing successfully and grammatically. In other words, writing will not be produced without mastering the aspects of writing itself. So, to do writing needs to follow the rules because writing has rules. As it is stated by Harmer “writing has some rules too, which we need to recognize and follow purposefully floats.”²In short, writing is not an easy job.

In the context of education, it is also worth remembering that most exams, whether they are testing foreign language abilities or other skills, often rely on the students’ writing proficiency in order to measure their knowledge.³ Especially in teaching English learning process of Indonesian school on every educational level, writing is categorized as the language skill that should be mastered by all students, because the good writing skill that the students have will help them in their academic success and their future.

Senior high school of Muhammadiyah is one of the senior high school of Muhammadiyah at Bangkinang. As a formal school, this school uses curriculum based on

¹ Jeremy Harmer. *How to Teach English. Edinburgh.* (Pearson Education,1998), pp.31

² Jeramy Harmer, *The practice of English language teaching.* (Great britian: Longman,1991), pp. 247

³ Ibid, pp.03

competence as a guide in teaching learning process that includes writing subject and in order to accomplish students' needs of writing. School Based Curriculum (KTSP) provides writing as one of the skills in English mastery that must be taught and learned in senior high school. Based on KTSP⁴, the purposes of teaching English are as follows:

1. Developing communicative competence in oral and written form to achieve informational level.
2. Having awareness about the sense and the significance of English in order to increase national competence in global society.
3. Developing understanding of students about the relationship between language and culture.

Based on the explanation above, it is clear that writing skill must be mastered by students. It means that if students do not understand the aspects of theory as expected by curriculum, teaching writing will not be effective.

In the researcher's preliminary observation, it is known that the teacher of English of Senior High School of Muhammadiyah Bangkinang Kampar Regency used some methods, strategies and techniques in teaching English. However, based on the phenomena that the researcher found, it is clear that some of the students still face the difficulties in writing, especially analytical exposition paragraph. The writing skill of the students is still far from the expectation of the curriculum. It can be proven by the passing grade (KKM) of English subject, especially for writing subject in senior high school of Muhammadiyah Bangkinang is

⁴ Depdiknas, *Kurikulum Tingkat Satuan Pendidikan (KTSP) 2006*. (Jakarta: Unpublished, 2006), pp. 307

less than 70. It shows us that the students have difficulties to reach the passing score yet. Some of them get problems as in the following phenomena:

1. Some of the students are not able to write a good thesis statement in writing analytical exposition paragraph.
2. Some of the students are not able to express their ideas in writing analytical exposition paragraph.
3. Some of the students are not able to use good grammatical devices in writing analytical exposition paragraph.
4. Some of the students are not able to choose vocabulary appropriately in writing analytical exposition paragraph.
5. Some of the students do not have any interest in writing.

Based on the problems that the researcher shows and to improve the students' writing ability, it needs an appropriate method, strategy or technique to help them to solve their problems in writing. There is a method to improve the students' ability in writing, especially in writing analytical exposition paragraph. It is called I-Search Procedure Method. I-Search Procedure Method is very useful. Crawford stated that I-Search Procedure is an excellent way to engage students in doing research that matters to them personally and a somewhat informal method to writing in which students are asked to write in personally first person as they explore their topic.⁵

In I-Search Procedure Method, students will be easier to get information that will be loaded in their writing. I-Search Procedure Method also helps students solve their problem that they have. Though I-Search Procedure Method, the students will search some

⁵ Alan Crawford, Wendy Saul, Samuel R. Mathews (2005) *Teaching and learning strategies for the thinking classroom*. (The International Debate Education Association, New York, 2005), pp. 111

information to clarify the topic to expressing ideas. Searching can be done by using several resources such as books and magazines, interviews, surveys, and Internet-based searches. So, students will be easier to find out information especially in writing analytical exposition paragraph.

Based on the explanation above, it is clear that I-Search Procedure Method is better than others. Because it not only solves the students' problems but also helps student to express their ideas.

Therefore, the writer is interested to carry out a research entitled: *The Effect of Using I-Search Procedure Method toward Students' Ability in Writing Analytical Exposition Paragraph at Senior High School of Muhammadiyah Bangkinang Kampar Regency.*

B. Problem

Based on phenomena above, some of the students at senior high school of Muhammadiyah Bangkinang Kampar Regency still face difficulties in English subject, especially in writing analytical exposition paragraph. So, the researcher would like to clarify the problems as in the following:

1. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the problems above, it is clear that some of the second year students at Senior High School of Muhammadiyah Bangkinang Kampar Regency

are still facing the difficulties in learning English. To make the problems of this research clearer, the problems of this research will be identified as follows:

1. Why are some of the students not able to write a good thesis statement in writing analytical exposition paragraph?
2. Why are some of the students not able to express their ideas in writing analytical exposition paragraph?
3. Why are some of the students not able to use good grammar in writing analytical exposition paragraph?
4. Why are some of the students not able to choose vocabulary appropriately in writing analytical exposition paragraph?
5. Why do some of students not have interest in writing.

2. Limitation of the Problem

Based on the problem identified above, students still face the problem and difficulty to express their ideas especially in writing analytical exposition paragraph. Considering the weaknesses that the writer has, the researcher limits the problem of the research to the effect of using I-Search Procedure Method toward students' ability in writing analytical exposition paragraph of the second year at senior high school of Muhammadiyah Bangkinang Kampar Regency.

3. Formulation of the Problem

The problems of this research are formulated in the following questions:

- a. How is the students' ability in writing analytical exposition paragraph before being taught by using I-Search Procedure Method of the second year at Senior High School of Muhammadiyah Bangkinang Kampar Regency?
- b. How is the students' ability in writing analytical exposition paragraph after being taught by using I-Search Procedure Method of the second year at Senior High School of Muhammadiyah Bangkinang Kampar Regency?
- c. Is there any significant effect on the students' writing ability in writing analytical exposition paragraph who is taught by using I-Search Procedure Method of the second year at Senior High School of Muhammadiyah Bangkinang Kampar Regency?

C. Objective and Significance of the Research

1. Objective of the Research

This research has some objectives as follows:

1. To find out the information about the students' ability in writing analytical exposition paragraph before being taught by using I-Search Procedure Method.
2. To find out the information about the students' ability in writing analytical exposition paragraph after being taught by using I-Search Procedure Method.
3. To find out the significant effect on the students' ability in writing analytical exposition paragraph taught by using I-Search Procedure Method.

2. Significance of the Research

1. Hopefully, these research findings are expected to be very meaningful, especially for the writer for as a novice writer in term of learning how to carry out a research.

2. These research findings are also expected to be valuable inputs for both teacher and students of English of the second year at Senior High School of Muhammadiyah Bangkinang Kampar Regency as a consideration for the following teaching points.
3. Besides, the research findings are also expected to be meaningful, especially who are concerned with teaching and learning of English.
4. Finally, these research findings are also expected to be meaningful inputs for both, practical and theoretical development of TEFL and TESL in general.

D. Definitions of the Terms

To avoid misunderstanding and misinterpreting toward the terms used in the research, it is necessary to explain them:

1. Effect

Effect is change that somebody or something causes in somebody or something else. In the research, the researcher wants to know the effect of using I-Search Procedure Method toward students' ability in writing analytical exposition paragraph.

2. I-Search Procedure Method

- i. I: it is used to refer to oneself as a speaker or writer.

It means that I functions as a subject.

- ii. Search: it makes a careful examination or investigation of probe.
- iii. Procedure: a set of established forms or method for conducting.

In this research, I-Search Procedure Method is a method that students will search some information to express their ideas in writing analytical exposition paragraph.

3. Analytical Exposition Paragraph

- i. Analytical: relating to analysis or analytics or dividing into elemental parts or basic principles
- ii. Exposition: A statement or rhetorical discourse intended to give information about or an explanation of difficult material.
- iii. Paragraph: A distinct division of written or printed matter that begins on a new, usually indented line, consists of one or more sentences, and typically deals with a single thought or topic or quotes one speaker's continuous words.⁶In this research, analytical exposition paragraph is a paragraph will be written by students.

⁶ Anne. H. Soukhanov. *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*. Third Edition.