

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

Today, English subject needs to be presented as one of the interesting subjects to students and also to all people in the world. In learning English, many activities can influence students' learning. Learning is not the activities that can stand alone. Interest is one of the influencing factors of students' learning.

Interest is a persisting tendency to pay attention to and enjoy some activities or contents. An interest can be expressed by a declaration that is pointed out to the students to make them more enjoyable with something than others, and can be manifested as their participants in some activities. Interest refers to the liking and willful engagement in an activity¹.

Here are some effective strategies for motivating students to learn at the beginning of lessons: Use critical thinking questions; the great thing about using these types of questions is that they don't necessarily have a right or wrong answer, so students are allowed to express their own opinions as opposed to simply being told to memorize facts. Use music to teach; Music is one of the most underrated learning tools and is a great way to spark students' interest. Relate what students are learning to what is important to them. The trick here is to get to know your students and learn about their own interest².

Based on the explanation above, the writer concludes that interest is someone's tendency to do an activity or interest means desire of

¹ Dale Schunck, et al. *Motivation in Educations; Theory, Research and Applications*. New Jersey: Merrill Prentice Hall. 2001. P.210

² [Http://EzineArticle.com/?expert=Adam_Waxler](http://EzineArticle.com/?expert=Adam_Waxler). Retrieved: 10-05-2012

somebody toward something. In connection with students, their big interest is a big capital. It is because interest is one aspect that influences students; if someone has interest with something, he/she will give more attention to the subject. In the research on interest by motivational psychologists, developmental psychologists, educational psychologists, and reading and literacy researches, many different definitions of interest have been given³. In conclusion, all students in Indonesia must have the high interest in learning, moreover in English learning, if they want to equalize themselves with other learners in the world.

Students tend to be more interested in practical, real-world relevant topics and show little passion for the underlying theoretical concepts. Not only does this apply to the young generation, but also it applies to older people as well who love to find interest in many things. Learning about something you wish is to know more proof that you want to be knowledgeable, to expand your brain on the topic.

English subject is one of the subjects taught in this school, starting from first year until third year. The problem happens in every level of school now is that some students are lazy to learn English and they are bored to learn it. Since the students are bored to learn it, it means that they do not have interest in learning it. Interest is condition of want to know or learn about something⁴.

³ Ibid. P.212

⁴ Hornby. *Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary of Current English*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 1974. P.445

Based on the writer's preliminary observation, the students of MTs Muhammadiyah have studied English from the first year of their study.. Besides, the teacher had also done some strategies in teaching and learning process, where the strategy was used to persuade someone to do something and did teaching and learning process as interesting as possible to the students. It was expected by teacher to raise the students' interest. However, the writer found that the interest of some of the students still did not increase and they still faced difficulties in learning English. This problem came from their background knowledge or the factors influencing the students' interest in learning English subject.

Based on the background above, the writer found phenomena as follows:

1. Some of students feel bored in teaching and learning process especially in writing
2. Some of students give up easier when they get difficulties to develop their ideas in writing
3. Some of students are lazy to write
4. Some of students get low score in writing

Based on the symptoms above, the writer would like to carry out a research entitled: "Students' Interest in Writing of the First Year of State Senior High School (SMA N) 4 Siak Tualang District Siak Regency.

B. The Definition of the Term

In order to avoid misunderstanding of the terms used in study, the writer wants to define them as follows:

1. Interest

Interest is condition of wanting to know or learn about something⁵. Interest means persisting tendency to pay attention and enjoy some activities or content. Interest is holding one's attention. In this paper, interest is some effort to learn or to know about the subject and we are happy to do it.

2. Writing

Writing comes from word "write" defines this word as make letters or other symbols on a surface (use paper), especially with a pen or pencil in this study the students' activity of writing by using a pen. According to Nunan⁶, the learners' purposes of writing, which transcend, are producing text from teacher. Writing is activity of writing, written or printed words. It means writing is the activity to produce a paragraph or essay, which expresses ideas that come from our mind.

⁵ As Hornby. *Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary of Current English.*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1974, p. 445

⁶ David Nunan, *Second Language Teaching and Learning*, University of Hongkong, 1991, p. 88

C. The Problem

1. Identification of the Problems

Based on the background and the phenomena above, thus the problems of this research are identified as following statements:

- a. Some of the students feel bored because they have lack of interest in teaching and learning process especially in writing at the first year students of SMA N 4 Siak.
- b. Some of the students give up easier when they get difficulties to develop their ideas in writing because they are not interest to develop their own ideas toward writing at the first year students of SMA N 4 Siak.
- c. Some of the students are lazy to write because the students are pessimistic.
- d. Some of the students get low score in writing because they have low of motivation in writing at the first year students of SMA N 4 Siak.

2. Limitation of the Problem.

Two factors influence to learn English. They are internal factor and external factor. Internal factor are the factor which coming from the inside of the students selves, while the external factor are the factor which coming from the outside of the students

selves. In this case, the writer focuses on external factors. One of them is interest means student's interest in writing, because the time of the writer is limited, the research only focuses on: "Students' Interest in Writing at The First Year Students of SMA N 4 Siak."

3. Formulation of the Problem

Due to the limitation of the problems above, then the researcher wants to formulate the research in to the following question: "How Far is the Students' Interest in English Writing Activity at the First Year Students of SMA N 4 Siak?"

D. The Objectives and Significance of the Study

1. The Objectives of the Study

To know the students' interest in writing at the first year students of State Senior High School (SMA N) 4 Siak.

2. The Significance of the Study

The significances of this research are presented as follow:

- a. To give some contribution to the students at the first year students of SMA N 4 Siak , particularly to English teachers
- b. To answer the writer's question about how are the students' interest in writing at the first year students of SMA N 4 Siak.