

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Rationale

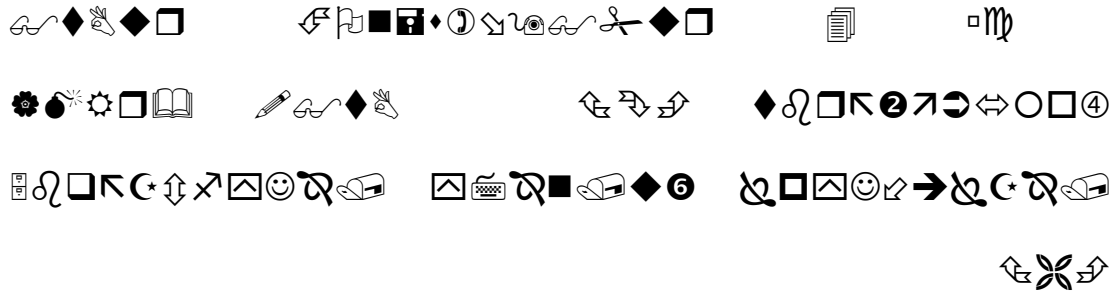
For the last two decades, English language teaching has gone through a lot of changes, challenges, and paradigm shift which were particularly driven by globalization and the emergence of English as a global language among all the major driving forces.<sup>1</sup> In Indonesia, English as a foreign language has been taught from elementary school until university. Learning a foreign language is an integrated process that the learners may not ignore one or more aspects of the basic skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.

Writing is one of the most difficult skills that students of English need to master. In the era of international study, the ability to write assignment, thesis, and examination task is even the most the important in writing.<sup>2</sup> It also allows the writers to give information to others about their intentions, and permits them to express their feeling and emotion. Besides, it can help the students in learning process. Writing is a process of active activity. Because of this importance, Allah said in the Holy Quran Surat Al-Qalam verse 1-2 as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> David Bourne, *A Framework for Academic Writing Programmers*, Tefl Asian Conference, Paper Journal, Vol. 1, No. 02, p.1.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, p. 2.



These verses explain to us that Allah express the high honor to words, pen and scientific writing. Its means that Allah also orders to increase our faith, knowledge and so on, especially in reading and writing.

In writing, there are some ways to minimize the mistake and to make the writing easier to read and understand. Writing process needs all aspects of thought, because when it is done, the students must really concentrate and gather all the data into one interesting reading. In the process of writing, the students apply and test their knowledge about grammar, vocabulary, and mechanics. In editing process, the students are made aware of their grammar problems as they are required reading and checking their grammar and vocabulary problems.<sup>3</sup>

Teaching writing is not an easy job, it needs the way, which can help the teacher to make the interesting study condition. The variety of techniques used should depend on the instructional goals or teacher competency. The technique will make the teaching and learning process enjoyable. One of the model of teaching which can be used in studying English is cooperative learning. It is an instructional strategy that provides the social structure for learners to work cooperatively in groups.

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<sup>3</sup> J. G. Gebhard, *Teaching English as a Foreign or Second Language*, (Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, 1996), p. 230.

There are several cooperative learning models. Cooperative learning consists of four approaches, they are: STAD (Student Teams Achievement Division), Jigsaw, Group Investigation, and Structural Approach. Based on the observation on the eleventh grade students at MAN Negara, the English teacher of that school used to have several interesting model to attract the students' interest. One of the cooperative models is STAD (Student Teams Achievement Division).

Then, based on the writer's observation, she has found that there are some students who make mistakes in writing letters, especially application letters. The writer thinks that is the problem for them. By using instructional model of cooperative learning called STAD, the students' errors in writing, she believes, could be minimized. Students Teams Achievement Division (STAD) is a cooperative learning method for mixed-ability groupings involving team recognition and group responsibility for individual learning. In Student Teams-Achievement Divisions (STAD), students are assigned to four-member learning teams that are mixed in performance level, gender, and ethnicity. The teacher presents a lesson, and then students work within their teams to make sure that all team members have mastered the lesson. Finally, all students take individual quizzes on the material, without any help from one another. By using that learning model, students are more interesting and English learning process.

The other problem is that the students have limited vocabulary. These problems could make learning process become slow. Using the cooperative learning, the students who have limited vocabulary will be assisted by clever student in their

group. Another problem is that the students have low motivation and no interested in learning English.

Based on the problem above, she is interested to minimize the students' error in writing application letter through instructional model of cooperative learning STAD. The writer wishes to conduct a research entitled **“Minimizing Students’ Errors in Writing Application Letter through Instructional Model “Cooperative Learning STAD” at Eleventh Grade of Natural Science Program 1 at MAN Negara Academic Year 2011/2012”**.

To avoid misinterpretation toward the title that is adapted in this study, the writer feels necessary to explain some terms concerning the title as follows:

- a. Minimize means to reduce something to the smallest amount.<sup>4</sup>
- b. Error is a thing done wrongly.<sup>5</sup>
- c. Writing is a specific ability which helps the writers put their thoughts into words in a meaningful form and to mentally interact with the message.<sup>6</sup>
- d. Application letter is the letter applying for a job position.
- e. Instructional model is the practice of maximizing the effectiveness, efficiency and appeal of instruction and other learning experiences. The process consists broadly of determining the current state and needs of the

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<sup>4</sup> A. S. Hornby, *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995), p. 741.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, p. 390.

<sup>6</sup> Heather Jones and Robyn Mann, *Stepping Forward*, (Singapore: Utopia Press, 2001), p.2.

learner, defining the end goal of instruction, and creating some "intervention" to assist in the transition.<sup>7</sup>

- f. Cooperative Learning “STAD” is a cooperative learning method for mixed-ability groupings involving team recognition and group responsibility for individual learning.<sup>8</sup>

Thus, the title of the paper means a study of minimizing students’ errors in writing application letter through instructional model “Cooperative Learning STAD” at MAN Negara to know the errors that do by the eleventh grade of Natural Science Program 1 at MAN Negara in writing application letter, the application of the instructional model “cooperative learning STAD by the teacher and to know whether instructional model “Cooperative Learning STAD” can minimize students’ errors in writing application letter.

## **B. Formulation of Problem**

The problem of learning language, especially writing skill has been a complex problem that requires problem solving. So, based on the background of the study above, the writer would like to formulate the problem as follows:

1. What errors the students make at eleventh grade of Natural Science Program I at MAN Negara in writing application letter?

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<sup>7</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Instructional\\_design](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Instructional_design). *Instructional Model*, accessed on January 4, 2011.

<sup>8</sup> Trianto, *Model-model Pembelajaran Inovatif Berorientasi Konstruktivistik*, (Surabaya: Prestasi Pustaka, 2007), p.,52.

2. How the teacher applies the instructional model “Cooperative Learning STAD”?
3. Whether instructional model “Cooperative Learning STAD” can minimize the errors in writing application letter?

### **C. Reasons for Choosing the Title**

There are some factors that make the writer conduct this title, they are:

1. English is one of the most important foreign languages in Indonesia, and it is an international language in science and technology.
2. Writing can help to develop students’ ability to use language as a means of expression and communication.
3. The writer believes that by knowing the result, the writer can inform it to the teacher and the students. So that they can evaluate their way in teaching and learning writing, particularly in writing application letter.
4. Instructional model of cooperative learning STAD used by teacher at MAN Negara in teaching writing application letter may influence the students’ ability to understand English lesson.

### **D. Purposes of Research**

Related to the statements of the problem, the purposes of this research are:

1. To know the errors that students make at eleventh grade of Natural Science Program 1 at MAN Negara in writing application letter.

2. To know the application of the instructional model “cooperative learning STAD” by the teacher.
3. To know whether instructional model “Cooperative Learning STAD” can minimize the errors in writing application letter.

#### **E. Significance of the Research**

1. As one input for students to minimize their errors in writing, especially writing application letter.
2. As an information and input for the teacher, especially English teachers at MAN Negara to develop English learning process.
3. As an information and a comparison for the next researchers who like to do their research on the same topic.
4. Add a treasury of Antasari State Institute for Islamic Studies library.

#### **F. Organization of the Content**

The study of this research is divided into five chapters, as follows:

The first chapter is introduction which consists of rationale, formulation of problem, reasons for choosing the title, purposes of the research, significance of the research, and organization of the content.

The second chapter contains theoretical review which consists of the definition of writing skill, form of writing, the definition of application letter, component of application letter, common errors in writing letter, definition of cooperative learning, characteristics of cooperative learning, stages in cooperative learning, definition of Student Team Achievement Division (STAD), components

of student team achievement division and the applying of instructional model “Cooperative Learning STAD” in writing application letter.

The third chapter contains of subject and object of the research, data, sources of data and techniques of data collecting, design measurement, techniques of data processing and analysis, and research procedure.

The fourth chapter is report of the research result which consists of general description about the object of the research, data presentation, and data analysis.

The fifth chapter is closure, which consists of conclusion and suggestions.