

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Manivannan, 2006 a language is the written and spoken method of combining words to create meaning used by a particular group of people. Language is something specific to humans, that is to say, it is one of the most important characteristics of the human beings which distinguishes them from all other living beings. Language therefore, remains potentially a communicative medium capable of expressing ideas and concepts as well as moods, feelings and attitudes.

For the dominant language today, English became the dominant one, English is used in education, politics, business dealings and everyday life. Many people are finding it hard to get without knowing English. This global language is found in many places and ways, TV programs, books, the internet and daily life that make people have to know more about English language. Many technical terms are used in English. Besides, English becomes more popular that shows someone is capable in mastering knowledge.

In learning English, many aspects should be developed and mastered by learners. One of them is writing. Writing well is a major cognitive challenge, because it is at once a test of memory, language, and thinking ability. It demands

rapid retrieval of domain-specific knowledge about the topic from long-term memory (Kellogg,2001).

As a second language, English becomes the common language in many schools until university. In every level of education, there is some kind of English lesson based on the level and students' ability.

Not many countries ago, writing was a skill that was the exclusive domain of scribes and scholars in educational or religious institutions. Almost every aspect of everyday life for “common” people was carried out orally. Business transactions, records, legal documents, political and military agreements-all were written by specialists whose vocation it was to render language into the written word. Today, the ability to write is no longer the province of a special elite class of people.

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 important in writing. The function of writing also as a way to express the ideas, thoughts, feelings or opinions to give information to other and it can help the students in learning process. Because of this importance, Allah said in the Holy Qur'an Surat Al-Alaq verse 4-5 as follows:

الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ ۖ عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ ﴿٤﴾

That is, it is a great favor of Allah that starting man's creation from a most insignificant state, He made him possessor of knowledge which is the noblest attribute of creation, and He made him not only possessor of knowledge but also taught him the art of writing by the use of pen, which became the means of propagation, progress, dissemination and preservation of knowledge on a large scale. Had He not given man the knowledge of the art of pen and writing (by inspiration) his intellectual faculty would have stagnated, and it would have had no opportunity to develop, expand and become a means of transmission of knowledge from one generation to the next and make future progress.

Writing process needs all aspects of thoughts because when it has done, the students must really concentrate and gather all the data into one interesting reading. In the process of writing, the students apply their knowledge about grammar, vocabulary, and mechanics from tests (Jerry, 1996, p.230). Writing also becomes important skill in English lesson, besides understanding the theory that have learned, students are hoped to pour their ideas into good writing.

There are many problems in writing a paragraph or sentences : from spelling, capitalization problem, punctuation problem, Inexplicitness/Fuzziness, grammatical, vocabulary and so on. Besides, whenever writing performance is elicited under time constraints, some learners may exhibit greater fluency in writing, as measured by the number of words written in a certain time period. It is important to note that such written fluency does not entail sophistication of

content or accuracy of forms, but is simply “a measure of the sheer number of words or structural units a writer is able to include in their writing within a particular period of time” (Wolfe- Quintero, Inagaki, & Kim, 1998, p. 14).

To build a good writing, students has to understand the process to write from paragraph to paragraph. From that transition signals are connecting words or phrases that act like bridges between parts of your writing. They link your sentences and paragraphs together smoothly so that there are no abrupt jumps or breaks between ideas.

Because transition signals have many kinds of connecting, the writer to focus on connectors to show opposite idea and exception, to introduce additional idea, and to show contrast, cause, and effect.

In this research the writer evaluates by three parts of task. Students write good sentences but still have difficulty in combining sentences logically and cohesion. Therefore, it is important for students practice to present their ideas or their arguments logically. It is also important to help students connect their ideas and promote unity in their writings. This activities help students develop logical thinking to organize random sentences in a logical sequence, show the relationship ideas by using the appropriate link.

This research want to knows students ability in writing using connecting or transition signal in making sentences, fill in the blank, and putt the connecting word in the paragraph. And this school help the researcher to facilitate my research. And the researcher reason choosing this school and this class because

the syllabus study about conjunction in first semester of ninth grade. And this school is located in Jl. Laksana Intan Banjarmasin.

Based on the case above, the writer is interested in doing a the systematic research entitled : “THE STUDENTS’ ABILITY IN USING TRANSITION SIGNALS OF THE NINTH GRADE AT STATE ISLAMIC JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL BANJAR SELATAN 2 BANJARMASIN ACADEMIC YEAR 2015/2016”

B. Statement of Problems

Based on the background above, the problems can be formulated as follows :

1. How is the students’ ability in using transition signals of the ninth grade at MTsN Banjar Selatan 2 Banjarmasin academic year 2015/2016?
2. What is the most difficult transition signal faced by of the ninth grade students’ at MTsN Banjar Selatan 2 Banjarmasin academic year 2015/2016?

C. Objectives of Study

1. To know the students' ability in using transition signals of the ninth grade at MTsN Banjar Selatan 2 Banjarmasin academic year 2015/2016
2. To know the most difficult transition signal faced by the ninth grade at MTsN Banjar Selatan 2 Banjarmasin academic year 2015/2016

D. Significance of Study

The researcher intends this research would give contribution as follows:

1. For the teachers

By knowing their students' writing ability in using transition signals, they can create the instructional process better, especially in writing skill.

2. For the students

By doing this research, the students can take some effect and information to identify their problems in writing skill (making paragraph). Furthermore, they can also increase their writing skill.

3. For the writer

By doing this research, the writer hopes that she can study and get more information about the students' ability in using transition signals. Besides the writer will get new experience and knowledge for the future of her life.

4. For the readers

It is expected by reading this research the reader will not find any difficulties in improving students writing skill. And sharing the field research experience to the next researcher especially to those who want to continue and develop their similar research.

E. Definition of Key Terms

To avoid any misinterpretation toward the title, the writer explains some terms in the title as follows:

1. Ability: means *kecakapan, bakat, kemampuan* (Echol and Shadily, 2003, p. 2). The physical or mental power or skill needed to do something. The writer defines it as aptitude, capability, capacity, competency, comprehension, dexterity, endowment, facility, faculty, intelligence, might, potentiality, resourcefulness, skill, strength, talent, understanding. In this research "ability" means how good their writing skill is in making

sentences, fill in the blank in two sentences, and fill in blank in paragraph by using transition signals.

2. Transition signals : the connecting words within and between paragraphs. Transition signals are linking words or phrases that connect ideas and add cohesion to the writing. It is a word that connecting connects sentences to make a good sentences or a paragraph. They may be single words or phrases. In this research the writer takes the single words of transition signal.
3. MTsN : is the basic level of formal education in Indonesia , the equivalent of junior high school , which is managed by the minister of religion. After within 3 years , ranging from grade 7 to grade 9 . It is a school for students ages 11–15 — older than elementary school. The researcher take the ninth grade students of MTsN Banjar Selatan 2 Banjarmasin.