

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

As we enter to a new era which is called information and globalization age, productive and educated citizens require stronger literacy abilities especially in English, not only as global language but also as the language of science, technology and advanced research. As a result, the man with stronger and wider knowledge will be more valuable. This is suitable with Islamic perspective.

Allah suggests to engage in a society. He will rise the degrees of people who believe and who have been granted knowledge as he said in the holy Qur'an Al-Mujadila 58:11 as follow:

يَتَّيِبُهُا اللَّهُ لِّلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِذَا قِيلَ لَكُمْ تَفَسَّحُوا فِي الْمَجَالِسِ فَأَفْسَحُوا يَفْسَحِ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ وَإِذَا قِيلَ اُنشُرُوا فَانشُرُوا يَرْفَعِ اللَّهُ لِّلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا مِنكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ ۗ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ ﴿١١﴾

The contains of the holy Qur'an in the verse al-Mujadila 58:11 are about the promise of Allah that will rise up the ranks of people who believe and have knowledge several degrees. According to this verse, when someone wants to be a person who has high degree in the Allah side, he/she must be a person who believes and has knowledge. Because knowledge is one of the key in the direction of success in life. Consequently, knowledge is important and strategic thing.

In Indonesia, English is known as foreign language with very limited use including the place, time, and environment. However, the age of information growth is likely demands on people's reading ability in English language. It plays an important role in the process of globalization as International language. Indonesian government chooses English as first foreign language to be taught in school. By putting it as one of the subject in the curriculum, hopefully students will have an ability to use it and when they have interested on it, the way for them to get in touch with the International community is widely opened.

The English subject has four skills namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Writing is one of the important skills in English language course and it needs to be taught in the teaching of English as a second or foreign language (ESL/EFL). It is a complex activity since it requires students' comprehensive abilities such as mastering grammar, vocabulary, and punctuation (Styati, 2010).

Writing has many roles in human life. Writing skills are needed in many occasions. People need to use written language when they deal with formal situation like when they are in the work places, schools, universities, and public institutions. In the education field, writing skills are also taught to the students. The students are demanded to write certain kinds of texts in the correct form.

According to Harmer (2004, p. 6), writing is almost the same as speaking. Both two skills have a goal to communicate or share someone's idea to others. Actually, Harmer also said that writing is the only skill that can produce a real product which can be seen for a long time. People have to write in the right form

in order to avoid any confusion when the readers read what they write. It relates to the Holy Qur'an, Al-Qalam 68 : 1 as follows:

بِ الْقَلَمِ وَمَا يَسْطُرُونَ ﴿١﴾

Writing is considered the most difficult skill since it involves several components included contents, vocabularies, grammatical structures, and mechanics, such as punctuation and capitalizations. It means that writing is a complicated skill for the students; they need to know the elements of writing to make a good writing. Therefore, people need to learn writing in English, for occupational or academic purposes. To write well, the students are expected to be able to present their ideas in the written form as writing is a means of communication. However, some think that writing is not only delivering ideas to others but also using a sheer energy to complete the writing process itself: thinking the ideas, preparing the outline, transferring the outline into draft, revising the draft, and finally proofreading the draft to prepare for the final outcome (Styati, 2010). It means that writing takes time and energy. It's a long process. The students usually get difficulties in starting their writing. That will cause many students waste valuable time just for getting started. So it needs to use appropriate technique in teaching writing, in order to produce good writing which is related to the Holy Al-Qur'an, Al-Alaq 96 : 4-5 as follows.

الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ ﴿٤﴾ عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ ﴿٥﴾

Learning writing means learning how to express ideas into sentences and puts into larger unit such as paragraph. The writing activities should be structured in ways that help students learn to produce cohesive and coherent discourse on their way to become self-sponsors of their own writings. Hence, writing is a productive activity by which one can deliver his/her ideas to other in a written form.

Writing has five aspects that should be focused on. These aspects are very important to make a right written form because these aspects affect the understanding of the readers. Those aspects are format, content, organization, language use and mechanics (Oshima and Hogue, 2007, p.106). Therefore, in learning writing students should know how to write well.

Writing is important for a senior school. They need to learn writing not only for academic purpose, but also for occupational purpose. Nevertheless, writing is usually considered as the most frustrating to master for the students who are learning English. It can be caused of the lack of vocabulary or they are confused how to combine words to words, phrases to phrases, and sentences to sentences. Thus, some techniques are needed in teaching-learning process, especially in teaching writing. Technique as superordinate term to refer to various activities that either teacher or listener performs in the classroom. Teacher can vary their teaching by using various techniques that are able to attract, motivate, and help students in the writing activity.

Clustering technique is one of techniques in teaching writing. It is also known as *Mind Mapping*. Rico and Clagget in Peregoy and Boyle (2005, p. 234) stated that clustering assists writers in developing vocabulary and preparing for writing. This technique is hoped to solve the problem because usually students get difficulties to develop their idea in writing activity because they are lack of vocabulary and grammar.

In the previous study that is done by Andriansyah (2011, p. 9) which entitles "*The Effect Of Using Mind Mapping In Teaching Recount Text To The Students' Writing Ability At Eighth Grade Of SMP 2 Ngadiluwih Academic Year 2015/2016*" the writer concludes that mind mapping strategy is effective to be used to teach writing.

Based on the observation of the researcher in MAN 3 BANJAR, the researcher found that many students have difficulties in writing descriptive paragraph. They were confused how they should start writing. They had problem in putting their ideas into paragraph and they did not understand how to explore their ideas well. Consequently, the researcher tends to conduct a study entitled "**THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CLUSTERING TECHNIQUE IN TEACHING WRITING DESCRIPTIVE PARAGRAPH ON TENTH GRADE AT MAN 3 BANJAR ACADEMIC YEAR 2016/2017**" on teaching writing descriptive paragraph by using clustering technique. Then, this research is focus on whether or not clustering technique would give improvement to the students' achievement in writing descriptive text.

B. Statement of the Problem

The main problem of this research is:

1. What is the result of the students' writing achievement who are taught writing descriptive paragraph by using clustering technique?
2. What is the result of the students' writing achievement who are taught writing descriptive paragraph without using clustering technique?
3. Is there any significant improvement in the students' writing achievement between those who are taught writing descriptive paragraph by using clustering technique and those who are taught without using clustering technique in the tenth grade of MAN 3 Banjar academic year 2016/2017?

C. Objective of the Study

There are three purposes of this study:

1. To find out the result of teaching-learning process in experimental class.
2. To find out the result of teaching-learning process in controlling class.
3. To find out whether there is any significant improvement in students' achievement in writing descriptive paragraph between students who are taught by using clustering technique and those who are taught without using clustering technique in the tenth grade of MAN 3 Banjar academic year 2016/2017.

D. Scope of Study

1. The subject of this research is the tenth grade students of MAN 3 Banjar academic year 2016/2017.
2. This research is focused on the students' achievement in writing descriptive paragraph by using clustering technique on tenth grade students of MAN 3 Banjar academic year 2016/2017..

E. Significance of the Study

1. The result of this research is expected to be useful for the teachers. The teacher can use this technique in teaching writing.
2. It can give input to the students to improve their ability and competence in writing skill. The students will also learn how to write easily by using clustering technique.
3. It can be a reference for the researchers who are intend to conduct the research in the same field.

F. Hypothesis

There are two hypotheses in this research:

1. Null Hypothesis (Ho)

There is no significant improvement in students' achievement in writing descriptive paragraph between students who are taught by using clustering

technique and those who are taught without using clustering technique in the tenth grade of MAN 3 Banjar academic year 2016/2017.

2. Alternative Hypothesis (Ha)

There is a significant improvement in students' achievement in writing descriptive paragraph between students who are taught by using clustering technique and those who are taught without using clustering technique in the tenth grade of MAN 3 Banjar academic year 2016/2017.

G. Definition of Key Term

1. Writing is the way of communicating to convey a message to the readers. Writing is an act of putting letters, symbols, numbers, or words on paper or a computer screen which is used to express and explain ideas (Styati, 2010)
2. Teaching writing is teaching the students how to write well and teach the students how to explore their ideas into paragraph. to guide and teaches students how to do so well and appropriately (Brown, 2001)
3. Writing descriptive paragraph is writing a text which says what a person or a thing is like. Its purpose is to describe and reveal a particular person, place, or thing. Therefore, descriptive text is kind of text which describes how person or thing look like (Martin and Rose, 2008)

4. Clustering technique is one of the prewriting techniques that can be used to generate material for a paper, it is another strategy that can be used to generate material for a paper by using lines, boxes, arrows, and circles to show the relationship among the ideas and details that occur (Langan, 2001, p. 29)
5. MAN 3 Banjar is a name of school in South Kalimantan, it is located at Jalan Ahmad Yani No.23, Banua Hanyar, Gambut, Banjar, Kalimantan Selatan 70652, Indonesia