CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

English is one of the international languages that are used by many people in the world and in many areas of everyday life. Therefore, using English is the easiest way to communicate with people from other countries about many aspects in humanlife such as technology, economy, social, and politics.

Language is also the God's gift for human. He created different languages, as written in the Holy Qur'an in Ar-Rum Verse 22, as follows:

وَمِنْ ءَايَـٰتِهِۦ خَلْقُ ٱلسَّمَـٰوَٰتِ وَٱلْأَرْضِ وَٱخْتِلَـٰفُ أَلْسِنَتِكُمْ وَأَلْوَٰنِكُمْ ۚ إِنَّ فِى ذَٰلِكَ لَءَايَـٰتٍ

لِّلْعَـٰلِمِينَ ﴿٢٢﴾

The verse above explains that God created many languages in this world. One of the important languages that are used in learned by most people in the world is English and learn English has four skills, namely listening, reading, speaking, and writing. So, that will be discussed here is the writing skill.

And also in the Holy Qur'an Al-Qalam verse 1 and Al-Alaq verse 3 and 4:

نٓ ۚ وَٱلۡقَلَمِ وَمَا يَسۡطُرُونَ ١

ٱقۡرَأۡ وَرَبُّكَ ٱلۡأَكۡرَمُ ٢ ٱلَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِٱلۡقَلَمِ ٤

Writing is a means of communication when the other person is not right here in front of us. According to Cohen and Reil (1989, p. 2), writing is a communicative act, a way of sharing observation, information, thoughts, or ideas with ourselves and others. Writing is usually directed to others for a specific purpose. For students, it can provide the opportunity to express themselves through a written form. Writing can also develop the researcher's understanding of an issue by organizing their ideas on a piece of paper.

Writing may well be considered the most of difficult of the language skills. People are flattered when a foreigner tries to speak their language, and they tend to tolerate a light accent and occasional awkward expressions with good grace. The speaker's personality makes a greater impression than the accuracy of his or her spoken language. But a letter is judged more severely on its purely linguistic merits. Errors in spelling and grammar are not easily excused, even if the meaning is clear and the handwriting is attractive and legible.

In spite of the fact that writing is very important, especially for Indonesian students as it belongs to four language skills that have to be mastered since elementary school, writing skill is considered difficult assignment. There are

many reasons why they considered it difficult. They had very poor performances in arranging sentences in logical order and fair in forming a good paragraph structure.

According to Byrne (1984, p. 4-5) there are three problems that may handicap the students to develop their writing skill. They are psychological, linguistics, and cognitive problems. In addition, the researcher adds the fourth problem dealing with the teaching - learning problem. The followings are the elaborations of each problem.

The first one is psychological problem. As everyone knows, speech is the natural and normal medium of communication for us in most circumstances and it accustoms us both to having someone physically present when we use language and to getting feedback of some kind. Writing, on the other hand, is essentially an individual activity and in fact that the researcher is required to write on his or her own, without the possibility of direct interaction or the benefit of direct feedback from others. As the result, it makes the act of writing difficult.

The second is linguistic problem. Speech is normally spontaneously, it means that the speakers have little time to pay attention to organizing the sentence structure, to connecting the sentences and also to choosing the most appropriate words. They repeat, backtrack, expand, and so forth depending on how people react to what we say, while incomplete and even ungrammatical utterances are tolerated. In writing, the researcher has to be able to compensate the absences of

good linguistic features such as correct sentence, structure, appropriate transitional words, cohesion and so forth.

The next is cognitive problem. Writing is learned through a process of instructions. It means that the learners have to master the written form of language and to learn certain structures that are less used in speech, but which are important for effective communication in writing. The learners also have to learn how to organize the ideas in such a way that the writing or the text can be understood by a reader who is not present and perhaps by a reader who is not known to the researcher himself. The next is the problem in the term of content- what to say. Being at loss for ideas is a familiar experience to most of the learners when they are obliged to write.

The last one is teaching- learning problem. In spite of the fact that, for most students, writing is probably considered the most difficult among four skills, up to now English teaching and learning model practiced in the classroom has not given significant proportion to writing yet. Most of the teachers have not given a lot of opportunities to the students to practice and develop writing skill and have not given correct treatment to the students' writing problem. The teachers also have not found yet appropriate method and technique to teach writing effectively.

Another study was conducted by Riyanto (2001, p. 3), who found that most of the students' problems in writing were due to some factors: lack of vocabulary, lack of understanding of English grammar, and lack of practice. They did not have the ability to express their ideas in written form.

Students' skills in writing were low. The first factor dealt with the lack of audience's awareness. The second factor dealt with their inability in increasing unity and coherence in their essays.

The students found that writing was difficult and at the same time stressing. They did not feel confident in their writing and did not encourage themselves to develop their ability in writing. Hence, they did not frequently practice this skill unless the teacher asked them to.

The most serious writing problems arise when the student tries to transform a native language sentence word for word into a foreign language equivalent. At the early levels the teacher can combat this tendency by providing leading questions and cues in the target language. Assigning a written resume or a free composition before students are ready to handle it can lead to frustration and negative learning.

The problems faced above are not solely caused by the inability of the students to write, but also by the inappropriate strategy implemented by the teacher in the teaching and learning process.

One of the kinds of the text of writing that is taught in senior high school is narrative text. As the tenth grade English teacher in SMAN 1 Angkinang said that the tenth grade students in this school still get struggle when they are asked to write a narrative text, it can be seen in the text that the students produced, they can not write the text in the correct sentence structure, they can not write in the correct

word order. The biggest problem is the students can not arrange the text based on the correct generic structure.

These conditions also happened in the SMAN 1 ANGKINANG. Every time the students of that school are asked to make writing assignment, they feel reluctant to do that. Their results of writing English assignment are not as good as other English language skills results. One of the problems is caused by the using of a conventional technique of teaching; it is a without media when teaching process that make situation in class to be bored. This technique can not increase the students' interested for learning that is why they feel boring and do not have any spirit to join the learning activity. Therefore, the teachers as the facilitators should attempt to find the solution of the problem. They should change and develop their teaching strategy in writing, so satisfaction from teaching and learning activities can be obtained and students' skill can be increased.

There are some ways to cope the problems that make students unable to write. According to the researcher, the first thing to do is to improve the teaching and learning process. The teacher should make a new strategy for the students in writing by giving some suggestions, corrections, and rewards if they made a good writing. Then the teacher can select and apply the appropriate method and technique in teaching language, which is suitable with the condition of students of SMAN 1 ANGKINANG.

The reason why the researcher would like to conduct this research, because the researcher has already observed the method that used by teacher at

SMAN 1 ANGKINANG is traditional method. In fact, the education this day force the teacher to use recent methods. Based on the problems that researcher found, it's important to complete this research especially on writing, because the succesful of education can be measured by students' writing skill.

According to the researcher, the method that is appropriate to the characteristics of the students SMAN 1 ANGKINANG is using picture series in teaching writing skill. Picture series is very simple and it is very interesting. The researcher believes that students will interested with this picture series media and picture series can be used to visualize the students' idea to be written, therefore writing lesson becomes easier. Based on the explanation above, the researcher conduct a research in tittle THE EFFECTIVENESS OF USING PICTURE SERIES TO IMPROVE THE STUDENTS' WRITING SKILL IN THE TENTH GRADE OF SMAN 1 ANGKINANG ACADEMIC YEAR 2015/2016. By using picture series, it is hoped that the students will increase their writing skill in the teaching and learning process.

B. Problem Statement

Based on the identification of the problems and problem limitation mentioned above, the researcher stated the problems to be researched as follows:

1. How is the effect of the application of writing using picture series of the tenth grade at SMAN 1 ANGKINANG in the academic year 2015/2016?
2. How is the effect of the application of writing without picture series of the tenth grade at SMAN 1 ANGKINANG in the academic year 2015/2016?

3. Is the picture series more effective than without picture series in teaching writing for the tenth grade at SMAN 1 ANGKINANG in the academic year 2015/2016?
4. Is there any significant difference in students' writing skill between using picture series and without picture series?

C. Objectives of Research

Based on the problems above, the purpose of this research are:

1. To know how the effect of the application of writing using picture series of the tenth grade at SMAN 1 ANGKINANG in the academic year 2015/2016.
2. To know how the effect of the application of writing without picture series of the tenth grade at SMAN 1 ANGKINANG in the academic year 2015/2016.
3. To know is the picture series more effective than without picture series in teaching writing for the tenth grade at SMAN 1 ANGKINANG in the academic year 2015/2016.
4. To know there is any significant difference in students' writing skill between using picture series and without picture series in the tenth grade at SMAN 1 ANGKINANG in the academic year 2015/2016.

D. Definition of Key Terms

In this study, the research needs to define some key terms to avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation. The definition of terms in provided as follow:

1. Effectiveness is a noun from the adjective ‘effective’ which means producing result that is wanted or intended (Hornby, 1995, p. 143)
2. Writing skill are specific abilities which help researchers put their thoughts into words in a meaningful form and to mentally interact with the message communication with other in a verbal way. Writing is also an action a process of discovering and organizing your idea, putting them on paper and reshaping and revising them. Writing is one of the important skills in teaching English.
3. Picture series is a picture is an illustration of picture that can be used as two dimensional representation of person, place or thing (Rivai and Sudjana, 1991, p. 12). It means that picture is one of the media of communication that can show people, place and thing that are far from us. Picture series is one of visual instructional media that is going to be used in this research. Picture series are some pictures related to the previous picture or sequence. In this research, a class is using picture series and the others without picture series.

E. Significance of Reserach

The result of this research is expected to have benefit, such as:

1. The result of study can be used as an additional reference by other researchers to arrange further research related to observe in different point of view.
2. The benefits of the research is to explore and prove whether the picture series technique is effective to be applied in teaching writing so that the students can improve their English writing skill optimally. It can motivate teachers to find a new method or technique which is appropriate in teaching writing. It also encourages the teachers to develop their creativity to improve teaching learning process. In addition, the teacher's capability to conduct the teaching and learning activity is improved as a result the teaching and learning activity can run well.
3. The benefits of the research for other schools can be use as information of the result in SMAN 1 Angkinang about their students' writing skill and to know that picture series can increase the students' achievement and it can develop learning strategies which stimulate students' creativity in writing. It can be seen when the English teacher using picture series to teach in the class. So, the school can facilitate learning, especially in the media.

F. Assumption

The researcher that there is a difference in students' writing skill between using pictute series and without picture series in tenth grade students of SMAN 1 ANGKINANG. Based on some opinions of the some students like using picture series in English learning and the other way some students like without using picture series in English learning.

G. Hypothesis

Hypothesis is usually considered as the principal instrument in research. It's main function is to suggest new experiments and observations. Hypothesis testing helps to decide on the basis of a sample data, wheter a hypothesis about the population is likely to be true or false (Kothahari, 2004, p.195)

Based on the explanation above, the write make two temporary hypotheses about this research as follows:

Ho : there is no significant difference in students' writing skill between using picture series and without picture series in the tenth grade students of SMAN 1 ANGKINANG in the academic year 2015/2016.

Ha : there is significant difference in students' writing skill between using picture series and without picture series in the tenth grade students of SMAN 1 ANGKINANG in the academic year 2015/2016.