

Chapter I

Introduction

This chapter presents the background, identification, limitation, objective, and significance of the research. Also, research problem, population and sample that is related to the study. This chapter act as the introduction of the research before continuing to the next chapter.

1.1. Background of the Study

Learning English is vital in term of fulfilling the need of wider communication, especially this era of globalisation. English is used worldwide as a *lingua franca*, a language that can be used as a bridge to connect people in international range. Therefore, communication should be clear, in avoiding misunderstanding that can cause problem around the world.

There are four skills in English, there are; speaking, reading, writing, and listening. These skills are divided into two categories; receptive and productive. Listening and reading are receptive because these two skills are for receiving, for example in listening, one will listen to the material and then try to comprehend and understand it. In reading, one will read materials and try to comprehend and understand it. While for productive skills, one is required to make something, for example in writing, one will write something, for example, an essay. Then in speaking, one will speak up in order to convey materials in his/her mind.

Writing skill is important for student to express his/her thought in written form. Nowadays, it is essential that one should be able to write well. Writing is

not only about how we write, but also what we write, such as idea of the writing. Aspects of writing, there are contents, form, vocabulary, grammar, and mechanics. According to Richards and Renandya (2002), writing is the most difficult skill for L2 or second language learner to master. The difficulty lies not only in generating and organizing ideas, but also in translating these ideas into readable text. The skills involved in writing are highly complex. L2 writers have to pay attention to higher level skills of planning and organizing as well as lower level skills of spelling, punctuation, word choice, and so on. The difficulty becomes even more pronounced if their language proficiency is weak. Then students may have less interest in learning English itself especially in writing because it is a difficult skill to learn.

One writing skill that students should be able to do is describing, it is how they express their ideas about something. Descriptive text is a kind of text which has purpose to describe someone or something through words. Descriptive text also has entertaining feature, when it makes the reader pay attention to the description or the writer's description about something. Like drawing something with words instead of using drawing tools. Description can be simple as a single line or complex as a complete drawing. It is important for everyone to be able to describe something for communication purposes, it can reveal ideas, perception, or even judgment on something or someone.

There are also some problems in teaching writing, such as what is the suitable teaching model for writing, what are the activities that can stimulate student's interest toward writing itself, what exercise they should do to improve their writing, is their environment good enough for them to make a good writing, what should they write, and so on. There are a lot of problems which may occur

during or before the teaching process. The condition among schools are different, this caused by many factors such as stated above as problems.

Based on a research that was conducted by Sama (2017), the results show how a model of teaching is able to increase students' activity in the classroom and also students score in writing. The model used in the research is Picture Word Inductive Model (PWIM). This research is a success because 79,41% from 34 students were able to surpass the minimum score of success which is 65 after 2 cycles. The target of this research is 75% of students are able to surpass the minimum score of success. From the research we can see that the more suitable teaching method can increase student's learning result. So, learning model is also an issue in teaching, because of the impact given by the model is quite vital for the success of learning process.

To improve student's learning process, the researcher is going to use a new model which is pair checks. Pair checks model encourages students to learn critical thinking by solving problems with pair checking. In this model, students will be more active with their partners, because they check their writing one another.

The researcher interested to improve student's writing skills by using pair checks model. To see the effect of the model towards student writing ability. Therefore, the researcher interested to conduct a research with the title: The Use of Pair Checks Model in Teaching Descriptive Text to Improve Student's Writing Ability at Seventh Grade Junior High School Students of SMP Pasundan 6 Bandung in 2018/2019 Academic Year.

1.2. Identification of Problems

Based on the background, there are some problems that can be taken as examples. First, student's interest toward writing is low, caused by writing is hard. Writing is hard for some student because they do not like to write for producing their ideas, they only write what they told, especially for junior high school students. Second, the suitable model for teaching writing itself. Writing for expressing something is not an easy thing to do for students, so how the teacher going to teach them writing effectively so that their writing exceeds teacher's expectation.

1.3. Limitation of Problems

Based on the problems, the researcher focuses on improving students' writing skill by using pair checks model in teaching descriptive text to improve student's writing ability for seventh grade students of SMP Pasundan 6 Bandung, which is located at Jl. Sumatera No.41, Babakan Ciamis, Sumur Bandung, Kota Bandung, West Java. The descriptive text is only restricted to people, animals, or things, this is based on what the students have learned in the class.

1.4. Research Problems

1. How the pair checks model is implemented in teaching descriptive text to improve student's writing ability for seventh grade students of SMP Pasundan 6 Bandung?
2. What is the teaching equipment of using pair checks model in teaching descriptive text for seventh grade students of SMP Pasundan 6 Bandung?

3. Does the pair checks model improve student's writing ability in writing descriptive text for seventh grade students of SMP Pasundan 6 Bandung?
4. How are the student's responses in learning descriptive text to improve student's writing ability with pair checks model for seventh grade students of SMP Pasundan 6 Bandung?

1.5. Objectives of the Study

Based on the research questions above, the objectives of the study are:

1. To find out how pair checks model is implemented in teaching descriptive text to improve student's ability for seventh grade students of SMP Pasundan 6 Bandung.
2. To know what is the teaching equipment that is used in pair checks model in teaching descriptive text for seventh grade students of SMP Pasundan 6 Bandung.
3. To recognise the result of using pair checks model in teaching descriptive text to improve student's writing ability for seventh grade students of SMP Pasundan 6 Bandung.
4. To know student's responses of seventh grade students of SMP Pasundan 6 Bandung in learning descriptive text to improve their writing ability by using pair checks model.

1.6. Significance of the Study

This study is expected to give benefits which are divided into two aspects. They are theoretical and practical benefits.

1.6.1 Theoretically

The result of the study may give the information in acquiring English skills especially in writing. This research also broadens the horizon of teaching theories, especially in teaching writing. The readers will realize that there are many ways of teaching writing, as using pair checks model for example.

1.6.2 Practically

The result of the study is expected to be as follows:

- a. For the teacher, this study can be used to improve the student's writing ability by using pair checks model in the classroom or outside of the classroom.
- b. For the students, this study can be used to improve their writing ability in practical, because they work in pairs to check each other and it requires teamwork. In improving their writing ability, they should practice it either in the classroom or outside of the classroom.
- c. For future researcher, this study hopefully become a good source of evidence in teaching writing using the pair checks model in junior high school.

1.7 Population and Sample

1.7.1 Population

Margono (2004) claimed that population is all data which become the researcher's attention in a certain place and time. The population of this study is the seventh grade of SMP Pasundan 6 Bandung, the number of all classes are 4 (A, B, C, and D).

1.7.2 Sample

Freankel and Wallen (1993) stated, sample is group in the research on which the information is obtained, preferably selected in such a way that the sample represents the larger group (population) from which it was selected. The sample of this study is the class of the seventh grade of SMP Pasundan 6 Bandung which is class A which consists of 32 students in 2018 – 2019 academic year.