

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the background of the study, research question, purpose of the study, scope of the study, and the significance of the study. The explanation of these parts are represented below;

1.1 Background

Writing skills have become one of the most important things in this globalization era. As stated in National Writing Project and Nagin (2006), writing skills play important roles in supporting a person's achievement in various aspects of life. For instance, In educational areas, Writing skills can be major criteria towards better academic position and greater educational success. There maybe students with a high degree of knowledge and they may know the answer of a question of an essay test, but conversely obtain a low mark from that test because they cannot express their knowledge as the result of writing weakness (Hosseini et al., 2013). Therefore, someone who is proficient in writing tends to be more successful in their life than someone who has poor writing skills.

Writing skills are not a skill that only had the educated, but has become an important part to be mastered by all people from various backgrounds of global society (Weigle, 2002). There are some reason regarding with the urgency of mastering writing skills. As one of the productive skills, writing facilitates people to share their insight and views. It is also importat to learn English, specifically

English writing skills since it is considered as a pre request to master other language skills and for any subject of study (Al-Shourafa, 2012; Hosseini et al., 2013).

Despite of its prominence, however, many Indonesian schools lack its concern for language skills (Alwasilah, 2001; Aydin, 2010; Williams, 2005). Student learning still rarely emphasizes the importance of writing activities. In many cases, it is often found that students are given little opportunity to write. In fact, writing skills can be a powerful tool to support student success, both in learning activities or in student life in general (National Writing Project and Nagin, 2006). (Al-Kataybeh & Al-Shourafa,2011) mentioned that The growing importance of English as an international language is observed in all countries of the world among them Jordan where the government recognized the growing importance of teaching English, so it is taught in all stages as a basic subject from the kindergarten to university level .

Writing is a comprehensive ability involving grammar, vocabulary, conception, rhetoric, and other parts of the language (Zhang & Chen, 1989). The purpose of teaching writing as one of the four language skills is to facilitate students' learning, career, and their daily communication. Bello in 1997 stated that writing enhances language acquisition as learners experiment with words, sentences, and other elements of writing to communicate their idea effectively, and to reinforce the grammar and vocabulary they are learning in class. It can be conclude that if someone cannot write well they would have difficulty to communicate with others which also affected to they ability to learn the other sciences and their career in the future.

As an effort to improve the quality of education, including language teaching and learning, since 2013, the Government of the Republic of Indonesia through the Ministry of Education and Culture has implemented a new curriculum called Curriculum 2013. Related to English language learning, as well as English, the approach used is genre-based approach. Through this approach, students are directed to be better in mastering all aspects of language skills, specifically writing. Learning activities are carried out through four stages, namely building knowledge / context, analyzing models, conducting guided training, and conducting independent performance (Emilia, 2011: 25-26).

In addition to the four stages of learning, what is important to understand is that in a genre-based approach, students are actively involved in capturing and composing meaning based on various type of texts. In general, the types of texts taught in Indonesian schools, especially in junior high schools and senior high schools are recount, descriptive, report, narrative, procedure, exposition, discussion, explanation, and news items (Emilia, 2011: 74). Through these various types of texts, students are trained to capture the meanings contained in certain types of texts and arrange meanings based on the text model. After reading descriptive text, for instance, students are expected to be able to write descriptive text. Likewise with other types of text.

Based on the syllabus of English learning for High School in the 2013, one type of text that required to be studied is exposition text. Exposition is a text that is evaluative-critical of an idea (Emilia, 2011: 104). Through this text, students practice expressing arguments on an issue and giving reasons for justification. In

previous language learning approaches, this type of text is usually categorized into argumentative texts (See Alwasilah and Alwasilah, 2005; Kinneavy and Warriner, 1998; Tompkins, 2008). In everyday life, exposition texts are usually found in essays, editorials, political debates, or comments (Emilia, 2011: 104). Writing an exposition text is important to be mastered by the students. It is because in this era all people have their freedom to show their opinions and arguments. By learning analytical an exposition text the students can learn how to write their argument about a topic or an issue. They can be able to show their opinions and arguments in written form. Those arguments can be used to persuade the readers to support their opinion about a topic or an issue (Nurjanah, 2018).

As individuals entering adulthood, high school students should be equipped with the ability to convey ideas in a logical manner. Reasoning implies that in conveying ideas, students are able to use their common sense so that statements made are logical and acceptable to others (Badudu and Zain, 1994; KBBI V, 2016). With this ability to reason, students are expected to become active citizens in developing democratic behavior, one of which can be formed through the delivery of opinions or ideas that are responsible in society.

As a text that aims to train students to be able to express arguments on an issue and provide reasons for justification (Emilia, 2011: 104), exposition text is considered to be able to bridge students to have the skills to convey ideas in a logical manner. In this connection, this type of text is an important text to empower students, especially in relation to their academic abilities (Bizzell in Emilia, 2005:

59). This means assigning students to write exposition texts to help them develop their academic competence.

A study conducted by Nurjanah (2018) examined a research on analytical exposition texts in order to find out students' difficulties in writing an analytical exposition text in the generic structure and in the language feature. The participants of this study were 28 students of XI IPA 2 graders of SMA N 3 Bengkulu Tengah. The study shows that the students have difficulties to write an analytical exposition text in the argument and in the language feature correctly and appropriately.

As the Capital of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, Jakarta is a benchmark for the progress of other regions in Indonesia, including in the field of education. Progress in Jakarta is a model for other regions to perform the same in order to improve the progress of the region. One aspect of education that is important to know and has become a national reference is the field of language teaching and learning, including English.

This study is built upon Nurjanah (2018) that focused on finding out students' difficulties in writing an analytical exposition text in the generic structure and in the language feature. The present study is done in 11th graders of high school student in Jakarta to see students' performance level in writing an analytical exposition text.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the description above, the problem that will be answered through this research is "What is the students' performance level in writing English exposition text in SMAN 13 Jakarta?" the next research question specifically stated as follows :

1. What is the students' performance level in writing English exposition text in SMAN 13 Jakarta?
 - a. To what extent do the students' writing state properly purpose of the exposition text?
 - b. To what extent do the students' writing state properly structure of the exposition text?
 - c. To what extent do the students' writing state properly text organisation of the exposition text?
 - d. To what extent do the students' writing state properly language feature of the exposition text?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to find out what is the level of students' performance in writing English exposition text of high school students in Jakarta. The researcher hope that through this research, a general picture (profile) of high school students' English writing skills in Jakarta can be obtained and used as further reference material for organizing English language teaching and learning

development programs, particularly in relation to the skills of exposition text writing in English.

1.4 Scope of the Study

The study focuses on the English exposition text writing skills of SMAN 13 Jakarta.

The study will be conducted in SMAN 13 Jakarta. The participants are students of 11th graders in the Natural Sciences Program (*IPA*) and Social Sciences Program (*IPS*).

1.5 Significance of the Study

There are several benefits of this research. First, this study provides information to school parties that are used as research samples about the general picture (profile) of students' skills in writing English exposition texts. Through this information, the school can find out what aspects are related to writing English that have been or have not been mastered by students that can be used as reference material for teachers to organize students' English development programs in the future.

Secondly, this research is also expected to be useful for the local DKI Jakarta Education Agency to find out how is the ability of high school students in Jakarta to write English exposition texts. This can be used as a reference material by the local government in making policies related to the field of education and teaching English.