

## **Chapter 1**

### **Introduction**

This chapter presents basic consideration, the aims of research, research questions, reasons for choosing the topic, the scope of study, basic assumption and significances of the study.

#### **Basic Consideration**

Writing is one of the four skills of language. Meyer (2005, p. 2) explains that writing is partly a talent, but it is mostly a skill, and like any other skills, it improves with practice. Writing skill is very important for students. This skill needs to be mastered by them because by mastering writing skill, students are able to communicate and express their ideas. However, for some students writing is a difficult thing to do because the students have to learn all the rules in writing. It means that students must understand the procedures that support to facilitate them to express their ideas, thought and expression.

Writing is not easy to do because all its assessment elements should be based on the rules of writing. Heaton (1989, p. 135) states that, the writing skill is complex and sometimes its difficult for the teacher to require mastery not only of grammatical and theoretical devides but also of conceptual and judgment elements. In addition, Tarigan (1994, p. 4) states that people who are educated could be recognized by their writing skill. As language skill, writing are extremely important to be mastered by students.

In teaching writing skill, there are some kinds of text that should be taught which, have been recommended in the English Curriculum of Senior High School. The second grade students of senior high school are asked to have the ability to compose a conversation from certain descriptive text. They are description, argumentation, narration and exposition.

Based on the statement above, the teacher should teach the students how to compose a good conversation from descriptive text. On the other hand, the students still got the difficulties in composing conversation. For some students, the ability in composing conversation is more difficult because they do not know how to compose a conversation, for example how to choose the topic of conversation, how to make the opening conversation and closing conversation.

In composing conversation, of course all aspects of conversation should be known by the students. For that reason, the students' knowledge about how to compose a good conversation is very necessary in order to make a good conversation. Related to the explanation above, one important aspect in conversation is language that must be communicative in order to make conversation understandable. Furthermore, the students' ability in composing the dialogue depends on how they can use the English.

Therefore, based on the statement above, the objective of this research is to find out the students' ability in composing conversation. This research is very important because based on this research the students' ability in composing conversation can be measured. This research is conducted with the title A Study on the Students' Ability in Composing Conversation of Descriptive Text. A study conducted at XI (language class of SMAN Tilamuta).

## **The Aims of Study**

The aims of this research is to find out the students' ability in composing conversation of descriptive text.

## **Research Questions**

Based on the basic consideration above, the research question are formulated as:

- a. How is the students' ability in composing conversation of descriptive text?
- b. What are the factors that lead to the problems?

## **Reasons for choosing the Topic**

There are some reasons why the topic is chosen, they are: (a) composing conversation based on descriptive text is one skill that has to be mastered by the students. (b) conversation is one of the students' daily activities. (c) conversation is one of the material being taught in senior high school.

## **The Scope of Study**

The research is limited to the study on the students' ability in composing conversation in this case the conversation based on the descriptive text.

## **Basic Assumption**

In this research, the basic assumption is that the students' have different ability in composing conversation based on the descriptive text.

## **Significances of Study**

The research is expected to be useful information for the English teachers in increasing the students' ability in composing conversation. For the students, it can give a description about their ability in composing conversation. This research is expected to become the reference for the school in order to improve the teaching quality. This research is also expected to be a useful experience, in other word this research become a basic information when the researcher teaches English in the future.