

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Writing is one of language skills in English. It is a skill to express the idea into the sentences or paragraphs. The competence in writing skill is that the students are able to develop their ideas in writing (Dumanauw, 2018). Based on Curriculum 2013 students of Junior High School can write short and simple texts (interpersonal, functional, and transactional texts), tell various meanings in written short and simple text, and use good grammar.

The biggest challenge to teaching writing in classroom is how to engage the students to write, because of the difficulties of writing. Sometime writing tasks make students feel worried to make mistakes which causes them not to master the elements of writing. The elements of writing are such as grammatical function, vocabulary, contents, and the mechanics (like punctuation, capitalization, and spelling) (Wardani, 2014). For students, writing needs a long process from brainstorming until writing the content. Writing and speaking are productive skills where the students should produce a language themselves (Harmer, 2007). Unfortunately, some students do not master writing (Yulianti, 2014).

Based on the result of the test and observation, several problems of students in SMP Negeri 1 Sukodono are lacking vocabulary, inability in constructing grammar, and being lazy in writing practice. It means that the students have difficulties to develop the ideas into sentences and paragraphs. The meaningless sentences are produced by students when they lack of vocabulary and feel lazy. The researcher's opinion is that the teacher has to find learning strategies or media to solve this problem. One of solutions that can be applied in technology is such as social media.

One of the most popular social media is WhatsApp media. WhatsApp users can make voice and video call, send text messages, images, video, documents, and audio media massages. This application uses internet to connect with people around the world. The chatting program in this mobile phone has become popular and available in smartphone (Ri'aeni & Linda, 2018).

The chat text is easy to use (Dudeney & Hockly, 2007). It is because some learners may be familiar with text chat, especially WhatsApp. WhatsApp can improve students' writing skill (Embi & Izyani, 2016). To teach with WhatsApp, teacher can send a topic on WhatsApp and the students write comments and responses. By using WhatsApp, the researcher is bringing current technology into the classroom learning process.

WhatsApp has become a platform to take an active part in academic assignments (Ri'aeni & Linda, 2018). This application is the recent media used to communicate with other friends. The researcher chose WhatsApp, because students were more interested in their phones and made chat, status, or comment than studying writing. The students usually used WhatsApp to chat with their friends and make status or comment. Therefore, the researcher wanted to use WhatsApp to teach writing in the learning process. WhatsApp can upload photo, video, or file when the students have done their activities. The students can also chat anything with their friends and write status or comment by using English.

Based on the background above, the researcher conducted a research entitled: "The Effectiveness of Using WhatsApp Media on the Writing Achievement of Students in 8th Grade at SMP Negeri 1 Sukodono".

B. Limitation of the Study

The limitation of this study was using WhatsApp as media to teach writing and its effect on students' writing achievement of writing greeting card in 8th grade at SMP Negeri 1 Sukodono.

C. Statement of the Problem

Writing is one of four most difficult skills in English learning. For students, writing was difficult because they could not explore the ideas in paragraphs, especially to write greeting card. The researcher tried to find solution to this problem by using WhatsApp as media to teach writing. Based on the problem, there was a research question "Is there any effectiveness of using WhatsApp on the writing achievement of students in 8th grade at SMP Negeri 1 Sukodono?"

D. Purpose of the Study

Based on the statement, the purpose of this study was to prove the effectiveness of using WhatsApp on the students' writing achievement, especially for students in 8th grade at SMP Negeri 1 Sukodono.

E. Significance of the Study

Based on the purpose of this study, there are significances of the study for students, teachers, and researchers;

1. For the students' :

Students felt enjoyable and more serious when they study writing. They will get new vocabulary and get better on tenses. After all, the students can develop their ideas into paragraphs and make creative writing.

2. For the teachers :

The result of this study can add teacher's knowledge and give information to use WhatsApp in teaching writing. It is hoped that they will apply WhatsApp in teaching and learning process.

3. For researchers :

The result of this research can add researchers' knowledge and give information about teaching writing using WhatsApp. It is hoped that they will use the study to conduct research in different aspects, for example listening, speaking, and reading. Furthermore, there are aspects in writing, such as grammar and vocabulary that the researcher can explore more of it.