CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This Chapter presents background, research questions, aim of the study, significance of the study, scope of the study, clarification of terms and organization of the paper.

1.1. Background

Writing is the way to express ideas in written form using letters, words, art or media, and it requires mental process in order to express the ideas (Uusen, 2009). Alwaslilah and Alwasilah (2007:42) argued that writing is not easy because the language of writing is not the same as verbal language. In writing, we are not only expressing the ideas, but also hard work. Moreover, Westwood (2008: 56) said that "Written language is perhaps the most difficult of all skills to acquire because its development involves the effective coordination of many different cognitive, linguistic and psychomotor processes". Sturm and Koppenhaver (2000) as cited in Westwood (2008: 56) states that "composing for writing involves complex thinking that must integrate multiple components including the topic or theme, choice of words, organization, purpose, audience, clarity, sequence, cohesion and transcription".

In Indonesian curriculum, students in Junior High School are demanded to write various text types, one of which is Descriptive texts (Depdiknas:2006). Over the

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conduct of the teaching practicum in a Junior High School in Bandung, the researcher found out that some students had difficulties to write a Descriptive text.

To solve the students' problem in writing Descriptive texts, in the literature, one technique that can be used to help students' write is mind mapping as proposed by Buzan (1993). According to Murley (2007), mind mapping can maximize brain's ability in associating number with visual qualities (space, image, color) and as the result, the memory will be able to store more fact.

Some studies have explored the possibility of using mind mapping technique to help students improve their writing ability (Naqbi: 2008; Kusumaningsih :2008; Setiawan:2012). Those studies confirmed that students who have received the treatment related to the mind mapping technique, showed an improvement in terms of ideas development and imagination. Moreover, Simamora (2010), in her previous research, found that statistically mind mapping technique is effective to improve the students' writing ability. Then, Simamora's study (2010) also shown most of the students agreed that mind mapping is able to advance them, improve their vocabulary, expand their ideas, and increase their self confidence in writing.

Based on the explanation above, the research aims to investigate the effectiveness of mind mapping technique to help students' writing ability particularly in writing Descriptive texts and what are students' responses toward the use of mind mapping technique in writing class.

1.2. Research Question

The questions of the research are stated as follows:

1. Can main mapping technique help students improve their writing ability in writing Descriptive texts?

2. What are students' responses toward mind mapping technique in writing classroom?

1.3 Aim of the Study

The purposes of the research are stated as follows:

1. To investigate the effectiveness of mind mapping technique to help students improve their writing ability in writing Descriptive texts

2. To find out the students' responses toward the use of main mapping technique in writing classroom

1.4 Significance of the Study

From theoretical view, the findings are expected to contribute to theories of mind mapping technique in writing Descriptive texts and serve as a base for future studies especially in EFL context.

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As to practical significance, the findings of the research will provide general guidance for teacher to apply mind mapping technique in their classroom especially in EFL context.

1.5 Scope of the study

This research focused on finding out whether the use of main mapping technique can help students improve their writing ability in terms of schematic structure and linguistic features in writing Descriptive texts and investigating how the students responded to the use of mind mapping technique.

1.6 Clarification of Terms

To refrain from misinterpretation, several terms are clarified:

1. Mind Mapping is a diagram that has a function as a way to organize ideas and represent words, tasks, or another linked to an arranged radically around a central keyword by lines and typically it contains words, colors, short phrase and picture (Buzan, 2006).

2. Technique is any of a wide variety of exercises, activities, or tasks used in the language classroom for realizing lesson objectives (Brown, 2001:16).

3. Writing is productive skill in which the language users require the ability to produce language both spoken and written (Harmer, 2000).

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4. Descriptive text is a text that has s function to describe a particular person, place or thing and identifies phenomenon to be described (Gerot and Wignell, 2004).

1.7 Organization of the paper

This paper is designed into five chapters:

Chapter I. Introduction

This Chapter presents background, research questions, aim of the study, significance of the study, scope of the study, clarification of terms and organization of the paper.

Chapter II. Theoretical Foundation

This chapter reviews the theoretical foundation of this research. In detail, this chapter explains some theoretical foundation about writing in general, mind mapping technique, Descriptive text and findings of previous studies.

Chapter III. Research Methodology

This chapter describes the procedures of the research in order to investigate the answers of the two research questions previously stated in chapter one. It includes research design, data collection technique, research procedures, and data analysis.

Chapter IV. Findings and Discussion

This chapter consists of two main parts; namely findings and discussion. The findings are divided into four parts, they are the pilot test score analysis, the pretest and posttest score analysis, the analysis of questionnaire and the research findings of the interview. Those findings are then analyzed and interpreted in the discussion part.

Chapter V. Conclusion and Suggestions

This chapter provides the conclusion of the research and the suggestion addressed for future research in related topic. The conclusion of the study is based on the findings and the discussion in the previous chapter.