

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents an introduction to the study. This chapter consists of seven sections: background of the study, research questions, aims of the research, scope of the research, significance of the study, clarification of terms, and organization of paper.

1.1 Background of the study

Writing plays an important role for students who are in the process of learning a language. In language learning, writing is one of important skills because it is the most effective way to show someone's English proficiency, include the ability and difficulties (Ren, et al, 2009).

In Indonesian school, students are required to learn to write different text types. According to Indonesian Curricula (2004), there are some types of text that should be learned by tenth graders in English subject, they are Recount, Narrative, Procedural, News Item and Descriptive. In this research, the text type will focus on Descriptive text.

One way that can be used to find out students' knowledge about English is by analyzing the students' text/writing. Analyzing students' text is very important to do because it can help English teacher to find out the students' ability and difficulties in writing (Lock, 1996). Further, Emilia (2005) stated that research

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about analyzing students' text is very important to do because by knowing the students' difficulties, it can lead the teacher to solve the students' problems.

Research about students' ability and difficulties is important to do to help both teachers and students. However, in Indonesia, research about students' ability and difficulties in writing each of type text is not many. So, in this research the researcher has a desire to find out the students' ability and difficulties in writing, especially in Descriptive text.

From the elaboration above, this research is intended to find out tenth graders' ability and difficulties in writing descriptive text by analyzing the students' text in terms of schematic structure and linguistic features using Systemic Functional Linguistics, and then classifying the possible measures that can be used by the teachers to help the students minimize the errors based on the difficulties they face in writing descriptive text. The results of the study are expected to give contribution for language learning in theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this study is expected to give a real portrait about Indonesian students' ability and difficulties in writing Descriptive text in English subject. Practically, this research is expected to give much information about students' difficulties, so in the future the students will be more careful in writing Descriptive Text, and English teachers can help the students to solve the difficulties they face.

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1.2 Research questions

In this research, the research questions are formulated into two:

- a. How is the tenth graders ability in writing Descriptive Texts?
- b. What difficulties are reflected in the tenth graders texts?

1.3 Aims of the study

The aims of the research are:

- a. To find out the students' ability in writing Descriptive Text.
- b. To find out the students' difficulties in writing Descriptive Text.

1.4 Scope of the study

This study concerns the students' ability and difficulties in writing descriptive text. The students' ability and difficulties can be seen through the schematic structure and Linguistics features of the text.

1.5 Significance of the study

This study is expected to give contribution for both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this research is expected to enrich the literature about the application of SFL in analyzing students' texts, and this research can be used as a reference.

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Practically, this research is expected to give much help for both students and teachers. This research gives some information about how to identify students' ability and difficulties in writing Descriptive Text.

1.6 Clarification of Terms

1. Descriptive Text

Descriptive text is a text which is intended to describe a particular person, place or thing, stated by Gerot & Wignell (1995); Derewianka (1990); Nafisah & Kurniawan (2007). The schematic structure of descriptive text is divided into two: 1) Identification, which explains about the meaning or definition of the topic that will be described in the text. It can be person, place, animal, event, etc. 2) Description, which contains information about the description of the topic. It can be the appearance, habit, etc. (Derewianka, 1990; Nafisah & Kurniawan, 2007; Gerot & Wignell, 1995; Butt, et al, 2000).

2. Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL)

Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) is a new approach to learn grammar which has been developed by Halliday in 1960s. Systemic functional Linguistics is an approach which sees language not only as a rule, but also as a resource for making meaning (Lock, 1996; Halliday, 1994; Gerot & Wignell 1994:4).

1.7 Organization of Paper

This paper was organized using a standardized pattern as follows:

CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION. In this chapter, it provides: background of the study, research questions, aims of the research, scope of the research, significance of the research, and organization of paper.

CHAPTER II : THEORETICAL FOUNDATION. This chapter includes theoretical frameworks which are relevant to this study.

CHAPTER III : RESEARCH METHODOLOGY. This chapter describes all the procedures and stages in conducting the research.

CHAPTER IV : FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION. This chapter describes the data of the research. It includes collecting, analyzing and interpreting all the data got from the participant, then discussing the data to get the result or finding.

CHAPTER V : CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION. This chapter presents the conclusion of the research based on the analysis that has been done in chapter four. It includes the result, process and data interpretation also the strengths and weaknesses of the research. It also includes the suggestion for further research.