

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter will focus on the background of the study, Research Questions, Limitation of The Study, Aims of The Study, Research Method, Significance of Study, and Organization of The Paper.

1. 1 Background of Study

Language learning cannot be separated from four skills which should be mastered by the learners. Writing is one of the basic skills that has important role in mastering language. Unlike speaking, writing is more complicated because it is more than arranging words into sentences but connecting them into meaningful and coherent sentences. Rabideu (1993) assumes that writing is a communicative act with an intended purpose that allows learning opportunities to experiment with the language. In writing, writers should be able to connect the idea and language into paragraphs which can be interpreted by the readers. In addition, D' Angelo (1980: 4) underlines that writing is not only a matter of composing something but it is a form of thinking. He further says that writing facilitates thought and helps us to think critically. Moreover, writing also allows us to perceive relationship, to deepen perception, to solve problems and give order to experience.

Most learners find that developing ideas to be a story is not easy. It occurs because they are not familiar to write a text. Teachers only focus on grammar in teaching English and do not introduce four skills of language –listening, speaking,

reading, and writing. Teachers have to facilitate the students to develop their skills especially writing and help the problem that might be found because writing can be acquired by experiencing with practice.

The use of interesting media can help the learners to develop their idea and writing skill. Most people are visually oriented and visual message is effective to clarify information (Sujdana and Rivai, 2009). The students can use picture or other visual aids as the media. Experts believe that visual aids have opportunity to help the students in writing.

Comic strip is one of visual aids that can be use as the media. It reflects language and culture from the story. Besides, it will lead the learners with mental development; this is related to their ability of imagination and creativity in writing a text.

“A comic strip is a sequence of drawings arranged in interrelated panels to display brief humor or form a narrative, often serialized, with text in balloons and captions” (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comics_strip). Comic strip is found in magazine, newspaper, web, and booklet. The learners use comic strip as a support to write since it could motivate the learners in making composition and bring different situation and new variation of teaching learning activity in the classroom.

Teachers should use appropriate comic strips that will be applied in the classroom. The media must be in the line with the purpose of the learning, pictures and sentences which indicate racial, violence, and sex must be avoided as the media. Besides that, the story in the comic strip should be able to be

developed by students. Developing a story from pictures and text in balloons into a narrative text which has introduction, rising action, climax, and resolution can be interesting activities for students as long as the teachers could guide them.

The researcher was interested in conducting a research dealing with writing narrative using comic strip as the media. The use of comic strip was expected to help students acquire writing skill.

1. 2 Research Questions

This study tried to answer the following questions:

1. Does comic strip improve students' writing narrative ability?
2. What are students' responses toward the using of comic strip in writing narrative text?

1. 3 Limitation of the Study

This study focused on the effectiveness of comic strip as one of media that could be implemented in teaching English in order to help students' writing ability especially narrative.

Besides the effectiveness of comic strip, this research also found the students' perception to the use of comic strip in writing narrative text. Students' responses to the media that was applied in teaching learning process have affected their motivation to learn more.

The research was taken place in a senior high school in Indramayu. The participants involved in this study were an English teacher in the school, a student

of tenth-semester from Indonesia University of Education, and a class (X3) consisted of 28 students, 12 male and 16 female students.

1. 4 Aims of the Study

The aims of this study based on the stated problems are:

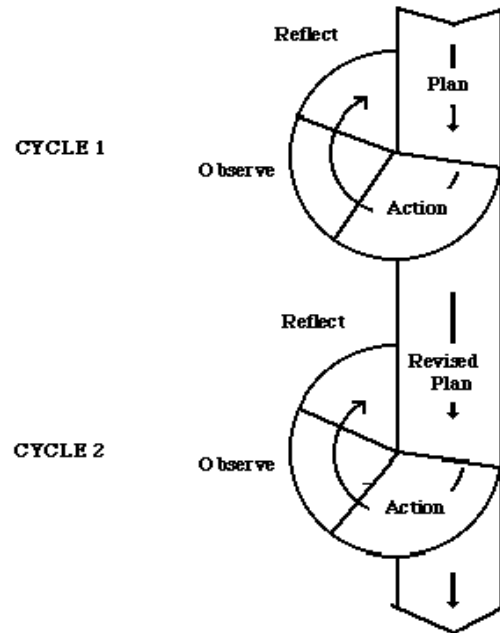
1. To find the effectiveness of comic strip in improving students' writing narrative ability.
2. To find out students' responses toward the using of comic strip in writing narrative.

1. 5 Research Method

Classroom Action Research (CAR) was conducted to solve the problems of this research. CAR is research carried out in a classroom by the teacher with the purpose of solving a problem or improving the teaching learning process (Burns, 2009). The main focus of CAR is the teaching learning process in the classroom, while the main aims of CAR is to identify a problematic situation and how to solve the problem or even bring changes and improvement in practice. Teacher and researcher involved in the school make by their own decisions about what to do in order to improve their teaching learning process.

In this research, the researcher had conducted three cycles and every cycle was divided into four stages, planning an action, implementing the action, observing, and reflecting. The cycles are described as follow:

Figure 1.1 Steps of Classroom Action Research



Adapted from Kemmis and McTaggart (1988, in Burns 2009)

There are some instruments that were used to collect the data related to the research: students' writing test, observation sheet, questionnaires, and interview. Writing test is given to measure the students' writing quality, while observation was used to observe the process of the use of the media. Questionnaires and interview were applied to figure out the students' responses toward the use of media.

The data were analyzed qualitatively supported with quantitative data to answer the research questions.

1. 6 Significance of Study

This research was conducted to find out the effectiveness of comic strip in teaching narrative at X grade. Media is one of important elements in teaching learning process because it helps teacher and students to achieve their goal. Students' perception also will affect how the students learn and motivate their self to gain. That is why this study is important to be researched.

The research and findings will be highly valuable for:

- a. The teacher, in giving an alternative and attractive media to be applied in the classroom.
- b. The students, in developing students writing skill especially in writing narrative.
- c. The researcher, in knowing whether the use of comic strip helps the students and improving their writing skill in order to achieve the objective of teaching learning.

1. 7 Organization of the Paper

The paper of the research is organized as follows:

- Chapter I

This section contains introduction that consists of background, research problem, limitation of the study, aims of the study, research method, significance of study, and organization of the paper.

- Chapter II

This chapter covers theoretical foundation related to the study, namely the use of comic strip in writing narrative for senior high school.

- Chapter III

This chapter deals with Methodology which covers formulation of the problem, research design, data collection, and data analysis

- Chapter IV

This chapter recounts analysis, finding, and discussion of the study.

- Chapter V

This chapter contains conclusions and recommendation related to the present research.

