

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents and discusses about the background of the study, reasons for choosing to topic, statement of problem, the objective of the study, hypothesis significances of the study.

#### **1.1 Background**

As an International language, English is very important in our daily life. It is as one of subjects in school that has an important role because English is a foreign language used in communication by people in most countries in the world. In Indonesia, English is one of subjects that is taught since in elementary school until university and examined in the national examination to determine the students' graduation. In learning English, there are four main skills to master. Those are reading, speaking, listening and writing. One of the English skills taught to the students is writing. In addition, writing is one of difficult and important skills to learn.

Marista, Pusparini (2016) states that writing is one of the most difficult skills to learn by the students because students also should know about grammar, spelling, vocabulary, language features and other aspects related to the writing to make their writing understandable. Writing is a process of transforming what the writer is thinking, expressing minds, feeling, ideas and opinions in the written form and persuades someone to response it. It means that the writers should make the readers understand the real meaning of the product. However, most of the students find difficulty in expressing their ideas to produce a text.

Writing has become problem for to the students in Junior High School. Some of the problems that are faced by the students are less of developing idea and vocabulary. So the students get difficulties to develop their ideas what they want to write and they do not know the vocabulary that refers to the topic of writing that they want to make (L Natalia, 2016). Students assume that writing is difficult and make them bored in writing class. Therefore, it has become a

challenge for the teachers how to make students think that writing activity is fun.

There are some kinds writing text material. One of the materials is descriptive text. According to Gerot and Wignel (1994:208-9) descriptive text is a text that describes someone or something. The purpose of descriptive text is to describe and reveal a particular person, place, or thing and help the readers to understand more with something (Elvira, Ardi 2014:2). However, in writing descriptive text the students get a problem and difficulties in writing. The biggest problem faced by the students is vocabulary mastery, less developing idea, confused in starting to describe something. The students strategies to overcome the problem are using the dictionary two language and the student practice writing in English and express their idea prefer to use the basic knowledge they have. To make students be more creative to write and do not feel bored in the classroom, teacher can apply an appropriate method in teaching learning process. One of methods that can be used is Project-Based Learning method.

Project-Based Learning method is one of the teaching learning models, which are suggested in the curriculum of 2013 (Departemen Pendidikan Nasional, 2013). This model is potentially challenging, and motivating for students because it offers an interesting teaching and learning process through a project development. This method is believed that it can be used to help the students in writing (Marista, Pusparini, 2016)

Project-Based Learning method is a learning method that uses projects or activities as a media. Students learn by doing research, exploration, interpretation and act by themselves using their abilities creatively. In developing the project the students, find information from the teacher explanations about the materials and then students can identify what the teacher explanation and make or produce text based on the theme that is given the teacher.

Based on the facts above, therefore the writer has decided to make a final project entitled “The Effectiveness of Project-Based Learning Method to

Improve Students' Writing Skill of Descriptive Text". It is hoped that students can be more active in joining learning process, and then students can get the good result in writing.

## **1.2 Problem Identification**

The researcher will do the study in MTsN 1 Jepara at the eighth grade. Based on the observation that writing is difficult lesson to learn by the students because the students less of vocabulary that they know and difficult to develop their idea into writing. So to overcome this problem the teacher should used some effective and interesting method to teach and make the students enjoyable and understand in writing skills. Through project-based learning method, the students will be easy to get information about descriptive text and easy to write the descriptive text.

## **1.3 Problem Statement**

Based on the background of the study, the problem statement of this research is" How is the effectiveness of using Project-Based Learning method to improve students' writing skill of descriptive text" at eight grade students of MTsN 1 Jepara?

## **1.3 Objective of the Study**

Based on the statement above the objective of the study is "To find the effectiveness of using Project-Based Learning method to improve students' writing skill of descriptive text" at eighth grade students of MTsN 1 Jepara.

## **1.4 Significance of the study**

There are three significance of the study in this research to teaching and learning English.

### **1. Practically**

- a. For the teacher

Hopefully this research can help and give idea to the teachers to use and apply various and interesting methods during teaching and learning process.

b. For the students

This research is expected to improve students writing skills by using Project-Based Learning method. Then the students can write descriptive text or other English text. It is also hoped that they will be more active and creative, so that the teaching learning process can be more fun.

c. For the readers

Hopefully this research can be useful for the readers. Therefore, the readers can know that teaching learning process will be more active if we can use the appropriate method such as Project-Based Learning method.

## 2. Theoretically

In this research is expected to be used to develop and increase the researcher's knowledge about various learning method and add the references that Project-based learning method can be used to improve students' writing skills.

