

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Writing is one way for people to communicate ideas. They can express themselves effectively with written form. For students, at school, writing is a medium to express ways of thinking and feeling. students will improve their ability to think and ideas clearly because they have to organize ideas correctly. it aims to produce and prepare students for critical thinking (Suharni, Mukhaiyar and Radjab, 2013:109).

Writing is an important part of Teaching English. There are several reasons why writing is important. First, writing is a skill that requires students to produce language to communicate in the form of writing. Second, it can support other language skills, such as listening, reading and speaking (Hamdani, Kristiawan and Rahmadhani, 2017:138)

In fact, most students feel that writing is a tiring and difficult activity, and sometimes makes them confused. At that time, they need to think a lot to move their thoughts and ideas into a blank piece of paper and they don't know what they should write on it. Because they have no experience about it and lack of practice, they may find writing something difficult. This condition is more complicated when they are worried about using language, such as spelling, grammar, or even diction. It makes them hesitate to express their ideas. As a result, students feel that writing is a talent not a skill, which is difficult to learn (Kheryadi, 2017:378).

Based on the observation in SMA Islam Jepara, the researcher found some problems. First, they had no idea how to make a sentence in English, especially in developing their idea. Second, they had no idea to make a sentence in English, especially in developing their idea. And the researcher found errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation in their writing.

Although writing skill is important, it is a difficult skill for students. There are many aspects that must be mastered. Writing a text is a complicated activity for them. They need to take attention for punctuation, grammar, vocabulary and also spelling. Students also need to have an idea and generate the idea became a good written text. Besides that, there are a long process in writing activity. The steps are drafting, structuring, reviewing, focusing, generating ideas and evaluation (Harmer, nd.:258). In descriptive text, students can imagine of perception so that readers can hear, feel, smell, see, and feel when they present good words from the subject (Zulaikah, Agustina and Muklas, 2018:17).

To overcome the problem, the writer decided to apply one strategy of teaching writing that can use in class that is Role, Audience, Format, and Topic (RAFT). Umaemah, Latief and Irawati (2017:3) states that RAFT (Role-Audience-Format-Topic) is a system for help students understand the core elements for organizing papers in student writing. According to Fransiska, Rismaya & Luwandi (2015:3) RAFT (Roles, Audiences, Formats, Topics) is a writing strategy that helps students understand their roles as writers and how to effectively communicate their ideas so that readers can easily understand

everything that is written. Furthermore, RAFT helps students focus on the audience they want the address, format for writing, and the topic they will write.

RAFT Strategy is one of the writing strategies that can be applied in teaching writing and can be used to improve students' writing competence. RAFT (Role of the author-Audience-Format- Topic) is a system to help students understand and to organize their writing. According to Abdelqader and Salameh (2015:39), RAFT is a flexible writing strategy that helps students to write. This strategy also gives opportunity for the students to experience in creative and interesting way of writing. RAFT technique can help students understand their role as a writer, to choose audience for their writing, to use a certain writing format and to determine what kind of topic that will write, by using RAFT technique students can explore many ideas to write descriptive text and to use various formats for their writing exercise.

1.2 Reason for Choosing The Topic

Writing descriptive text is a difficult activity when the students do not have any ideas to write. Sometimes students do not check their papers again to identify the mistakes when the teacher corrects and gives the papers back. Students had some difficulties. First, limited vocabulary, they use less English in expressing their writing. Second, the students had some difficulties in organizing the paragraph and grammar. Then, the teacher needs joyful and enjoyable techniques that can interest the students in learning.

From the problem above, the topic “ Increasing The Students Writing Ability in Writing Descriptive Text By Role, Audience, Format, Topic (RAFT) Technique For 10th Grade Students of SMA Islam Jepara” is choose. The technique can help and facilitate the students to more easily to write descriptive text. RAFT is a flexible writing strategy that help students to write descriptive text paragraph. This strategy also gives opportunity for the students to experiece in creative and interesting way of writing.

RAFT is writing technique that is believed to be able to help students understand their role as a writer, communicative their ideas effectively, so that the reader can easily understand the text. role as a writer, to choose audience for their writing , to use a certain writing format and to determine what kind of topic that will write, by using RAFT technique students can explore many ides to write descriptive text and to use various formats for their writing exercise.

1.3 Statement of The Problem

Based of the background of the study above, the research question can be formulated as follows “ how is the significance of using RAFT technique to improve students writing ability in descriptive text at ten grade of SMA Islam Jepara ?

1.4 Objective of the study

Based on the statement above the objective of the study is “ to know the significance of using RAFT technique to improve students writing ability at tenth grade student of SMA Islam Jepara.

1.5 Significance of the study

1.5.1 Theoritically

The finding of the study will give new information about the significant of RAFT Technique to improve students writing ability in descriptive text.

1.5.2 Practically

1. For the student, hopefully this study will help students to learn about writing descriptive text by using RAFT technique.
2. For the teacher, hopefully the teachers are able to create an activate atmosphere in learning. And useful for English teachers at Senior High School level to get information about teaching descriptive writing using RAFT technique.
3. For the reader, hopefully this study will be usefull for the others.

1.5.3 Pedagogically

The result of the study will give information of knowledge about an alternative teaching method that can be used for improving the students writing ability.