



## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This study focuses on the effectiveness of comic strips as a media in teaching writing in helping students in generating idea to start writing. This chapter focuses on the background of the study, the research question, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and limitation of the study, the hypothesis, the definition of key term, and the report writing organization.

#### **A. Background of the Study**

Writing skill is important. It is important to produce good writing for written communication in order to attain to the clarity of the message. Even, in this era, writing is also an important skill to make a good job application. Due to the importance of writing skills, all students in every level of education in Indonesia from kindergarten, elementary school, junior high school, and senior high school up to university are taught writing. The skills taught range from writing word, writing sentence, writing paragraph, to writing a composition and research report. Because writing skill is important, it is recommended by the Indonesian government to be included in the National Education Curriculum. On the National Education Curriculum, English subject for junior high school is aimed to improve the students' English skill to enable the students to use English



in communication both spoken and written to solve the daily problem.<sup>1</sup> For this reason, English writing is taught in school. Despite the importance and the teaching of writing from the lowest level of education, the students' ability in writing is not good as it is expected. In composition for example, the content is often not relevant to the topic, the ideas are not clearly stated and the ideas and sentences are not well organized. There are also many errors in vocabulary, grammar, and spelling.<sup>2</sup>

There are also other problems in teaching and learning process of writing. In the teaching process, mostly teachers only focus on grammar. Many teachers do not use media in their teaching. While in the learning process, the students often find it difficult to writing because they have to master vocabulary, spelling, and grammar. Also, the students are often asked to write sentences and paragraphs without being previously given some clues related to the topic so that it is difficult for them to express their ideas. Since the writing activities are not interesting, the students commonly have little motivation and are not interested in doing the assignment.<sup>3</sup>

The above problems are common in the teaching and learning English writing. Many junior high school students face those problems in writing,

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<sup>1</sup> Depdiknas, *Kurikulum 2006 Standar Kompetensi Mata Pelajaran Bahasa Inggris* (Jakarta: Depdiknas, 2006).277

<sup>2</sup> University of California Berkeley. *Teaching Reading and Composition Courses; Typical Writing Problems and GSI Strategies*. (<http://gsi.berkeley.edu/teachingguide/readingcomp/writingprobs.html> accessed on June 01, 2013)

<sup>3</sup> Arifah. *The Use of Picture to Write Narrative in Teaching Writing at MA Raudlatul Ulum Klampis Bangkalan*. (Unpublished S1 Thesis English Education Department IAIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. 2009).4



including the students of MTs. At-Taqwa Lamongan. Based on an interview with one of the English teacher at MTs. At-Taqwa in the preliminary study of this research, the students commonly have no ideas what to write when they are asked to start writing in English. The teacher also informed that he usually uses worksheet (Lembar Kerja Siswa/LKS) as a media in teaching English.<sup>4</sup> It seems that the students are asked to write sentences and paragraphs without being given some clues so that it is difficult for them to express their ideas. The LKS does not seem to be an interesting and effective media to stimulate the students to write in English.

It is clear that it is important for teacher the use more interesting media in teaching to make the students motivated and to make the classroom not boring. As Wisnubroto's statement in Arifah's thesis suggests that the teachers' methods, strategies or media used in teaching are some of the factors that affect the students' success in writing. Therefore, teachers are advised to use proper that the media in teaching writing in order to obtain good results. For beginner writer, they need to be forced to write. Using media in teaching writing is very usefull to stimulate the students to write. One of good stimulus to use is picture.<sup>5</sup>

There are several media that can be used in teaching English. They are charts, poster, picture, comic, and others. Most people are visually oriented and

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<sup>4</sup> Based on Interview to the English Teacher at MTs At-Taqwa on 11 May 2013 at 15.00

<sup>5</sup> Arifah. *The Use of Picture* .....5



visual message is effective to clarify information. One of the media that can be used to promote students' writing ability is pictures or other visual aids. Picture can be used as educational media because they bring advantages. Pictures can make students interested to learn English and encourage students to find ideas easier. Even it can help students to express themselves. It is also economical, because it can be found easily. At any time, the pictures can be used anytime when needed, so that students can work independently with the use of the pictures. It can be used by individual or in group activity. Then it can be used to introduce or summarizing a material at unit. In addition pictures also help to clarify a misunderstanding.<sup>6</sup>

Comic strips are one of visual media containing pictures that can be used as a media in teaching. Comic strips are comic that are published in mass media, such as newspaper, magazine, bulletin and others. It has series of drawing or cartoon with text in balloons that are interrelated to display a brief humor that used to tell a story.<sup>7</sup> The pictures show the story step by step. This media is useful to be an outline to make students easy to express what they want to write. Comic strips can ease one of the toughest parts of the writing process: finding ideas and getting started.

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<sup>6</sup> Newnue. *The Advantages and Disadvantages of Using Picture as a Media in Englis.* (<http://www.shvoong.com/writing-and-speaking/branded-content/2103882-advantages-disadvantages-using-picture-media/#ixzz2cWWUYFzb>, accessed on August 19, 2013)

<sup>7</sup> Ensiklopedi Nasional Indonesia (Jakarta: PT Cipta Adi Pustaka, 1990).56



Based on above phenomenon this study is aimed to know whether teaching writing using comic strips as a media is more effective in helping students in generating idea to start writing than teaching writing using LKS. To get the answer, the result of the students' writing tests between students who were taught using comic strips as a media and those who were taught using LKS as a media were compared.

### **B. Statement of the Problem**

Based on the background presented earlier, this study is aimed at finding the effectiveness of comic strips as a media in teaching writing. The research question is stated as 'Is teaching writing using comic strips as a media more effective in helping students in generating idea to start writing than teaching writing using LKS as a media?'

### **C. Objective of the Study**

Based on the research above problem, the objective of the study is to know whether teaching writing using comic strips is more effective in helping students in generating idea to start writing than teaching writing using LKS.

### **D. Significance of the Study**

This research was conducted in order to know the effectiveness of using comic strips in increasing student's ability in writing in the eighth grade of junior high school. The result of this study can be used as a reference for the teachers to



use the comic strips as a media in teaching writing to help students to start writing, in several types of writing and some levels of proficiency. It is also expected that this study can help students to use comic strips as a media to help them start writing.

#### **E. Scope and Limitation of the Study**

This study focuses on the effectiveness of using comic strips as a media that could be implemented in teaching writing in order to help students in generating idea to start writing especially in writing recount text.

This study was conducted at the eighth grade of second semester at MTs (Islamic junior high school) At-Taqwa Kalanganyar, Lamongan in the academic year of 2012/2013.

#### **F. Hypothesis**

Hypothesis is statement of the researcher expectation toward a relationship between variable within the problem.<sup>8</sup> In this study, the hypothesis was that teaching writing using comic strips as a media is more effective in helping students in generating idea to start writing than teaching writing using LKS.

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<sup>8</sup> Sugiyono, *Statistika untuk Penelitian* (Bandung: Alfabeta Bandung, 2010). 84



## **G. Definition of Key Terms**

1. More effective means the test scores of the experimental group who were taught using comic strips as a media in teaching writing are higher than the control group who were taught using LKS as a media in teaching writing.
2. Comic strips are series of picture that have sequence stories published in mass media within little text in balloons that is interrelated to display a brief humor.<sup>9</sup>
3. Writing in this research is to develop ideas related to a topic or information by using appropriate language use, grammar and appropriate ideas organization in composition.<sup>10</sup> Since this research focuses on recount text, so the organization of ideas follows the “orientation-events-reorientation” structure.

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<sup>9</sup> Cambridge Advance Learner’s Dictionary

<sup>10</sup> University of California Berkeley. *Teaching Reading* .....accessed on June 01, 2013)