

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses about the background of study, statement of problem, objectives of study, the significance of study, scope and limitation of study, and the definition of key terms.

A. Background of Study

Human is social being which cannot live alone without any help from others, they need other people and social environment for their socialization tool, and they use them as a media interaction. In order to make a good socialization easily, they should able to communicate in a good way. The communication tool here called “language”.

Based on Oxford Learner’s Pocket Dictionary, language is a system of communication in speech and writing used by people of a particular country.¹ According Susan Dostert, language can be used to refer to a variety of concepts or things. It means that language is the way people expressing their thought. According to Charles W. Kreidler, language is a system of symbols through which people communicate.² The symbols may be spoken, written, or signed with the hand. In short, language is form of words which used by people in a country area or social group. They used language to communicate

¹ Oxford Learner’s Pocket Dictionary fourth edition (2008), 247

² Keidler Charles W, *Introducing English Semantic* (New York: The Tailor and Francis Group, 1999),

each other in sharing ideas, feeling and information both in written and spoken form.

There are many languages in this world; one of them is English language. English language becomes prime language in the world. And most of citizen use English language as second language to communicate with other people from other country. Mastering in English language can make us easy to communicate with people from different country. Not only that, mastering in English language can help us to continue our study or find a job overseas. So, learning English language is very important in this era. But, some of non-English citizen like Indonesia feels difficult in learning English language, especially in four English basic skills, such as listening, reading, speaking and writing, since they do not use English language as their daily language. In addition, English is used extensively by people who do not use it when speaking or writing to their compatriots.³ It means that, for non-English citizen, English language will be difficult because they are not use English as their daily language.

One of the important English basic skills is writing and it is the one of the productive skill besides speaking skill, it is also the final step in learning English language. Most of people who study English as their foreign language feel difficult in this skill, because writers should think hard in producing words, sentences, even paragraphs at the same time. Jack C. Richard and

³ Sidney Greenbaum, *Oxford English Grammar* (1996), 3

Willy A. Renandya argued that writing is the most difficult skill for second language learners to master. The difficulty lies not only in generating and organizing ideas, but also in translating these ideas into readable text.⁴ They think that mastering writing is not easy; finding the ideas to be written in readable text is difficult. Finding the information that the readers need and make them interested in our writing is also difficult thing in writing.

The explanation above showed why learning English language is important for our life and mastering in English language is not easy for Asian country like Indonesia. So, Indonesia government chooses English as the first foreign language to be taught at the formal school.⁵ Schools have an important role with the students' knowledge. In Indonesia, English language already taught in school from kindergarten by drilling some vocabularies, until senior high school by understanding its structure and context. Teachers also do their best in delivering their knowledge to the students in order to uplift their learning, especially in English language which is important subject. But some students still have difficult in understanding this language and they cannot apply this language in real world.

By those problems, most of schools make their efforts to uplift students' English language skill. Some schools choose to use English language as daily language in speaking or explaining, some of them were

⁴ Jack C. Richard - Willy A. Renandya, *Metodology in Language Teaching: An Anthology of current Practice* (New York, Cambridge University Press:2002), 303

⁵ Ramelan, *Introduction to Linguistic Analysis* (Semarang: IKIP Semarang Press, 1992)

adding more time in English subject and some others make an extracurricular program out of students' daily schedule which focused on English language.

And for MTs Bilingual Pucang, since they are bilingual school, they choose to use English and Arabic language for daily speaking and explaining lesson and also they have an extracurricular program for uplift students' English language ability. Based on Faye Arco, the counselor who started SKATERS program said that "Participation in extracurricular and school club activities increases resiliency in youth by promoting protective factors and reducing risk factors".⁶ It means by Extracurricular can make teenager enjoy their youth by good activity and reduce bad factors. Extracurricular activities may uplift students' abilities outside the class, such as sports, English club, scout, etc. Extracurricular activities can be defined as learners' activities that fall outside the normal curriculum of educational institution⁷. It means that extracurricular is the additional program to uplift students' knowledge about prime subject in normal curriculum of education.

MTs Bilingual Pucang has an extracurricular program named Language Improvement which has many activities that can uplift students' ability in English language, especially in 4 Basic English skills. Between those four skills, most of students find many difficulties in their writing

⁶ Iowa College Students Aid Commission, *The Importance of Extracurricular Activities for Teens*. (<https://goo.gl/TjluYg>, 2009, Accessed on January 7, 2016)

⁷ H. Campbell, *Extracurricular Foreign Language Activities*. American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (New York, 1973)

activities. But many practices make perfect, by understanding and practicing much, we can make it easier. Some students argued that by joining this program, they start to enjoy writing activity.

The seventh grade is the fresh students which come from different school and also different ability, especially in English language skill. Many students must come from state elementary school which is not focus on language and they have different comprehension and skill level towards English language. They will face the difficulties with English language. And in this MTs Bilingual Pucang, they should speak and understand the lesson by bilingual; English and Arabic. Therefore, this school has an extracurricular to uplift students' language skill. And hoped this program will uplift students' comprehension about English language.

Based on background above, the writer conducted a research for seventh grade students. To know whether the implementation of language improvement program can uplift the students' writing ability or not and also the implementation of language improvement program in uplifting students' writing ability, the writer puts the research under the title "The Implementation of Language Improvement Program to Uplift Students' Writing Ability".

B. Statement of Problem

Based on background above, the research problems that will be observed in this study are:

1. How is the implementation of language improvement program to uplift students' writing ability?
2. Does language improvement program uplift students' writing ability?

C. Objectives of Study

Based on the problem study above, the objective of this study are:

1. To know the implementation of language improvement program in uplifting students' writing ability.
2. To know whether the language improvement program uplift students' writing ability or not.

D. Significance of Study

The writer hopes this study will have good benefits to all who were a part of education institution.

1. For teacher

The writer hopes this study may give information to teachers that there are many activities and techniques which can uplift students' English language skill easily. And also this research may motivate teachers to find more innovation about teaching and learning activities to uplift students' English language ability.

2. For students

Extracurricular activities make students' were not bored in learning process. The result of this study expected to motivate students to practice more in writing through language improvement program especially in writing activities.

3. For readers

This research was expected to be able to uplift the knowledge and information about uplifting English skills. And this research may be used as reference for further research about teaching English, especially writing.

E. Scope and Limitation of Study

The scope and limitation in this research is the writing activity in Language Improvement program. And the respondent of this research is seventh grade students of MTs Bilingual Pucang at the first semester 2015/2016 academic year. There are three classes of seventh grade; those are 7.1, 7.2, and 7.3. This study focuses on the writing activities which held in language improvement program especially for seventh grade students.

F. Definition of Key Terms

1. Implementation

Implementation is the act of accomplishing some aim or executing some order.⁸ The writer wants to know the execution of language improvement program in MTs Bilingual Pucang.

2. Language Improvement Program

Language improvement program is the compulsory extracurricular in MTs Bilingual Pucang which already included in daily learning schedule and has an hour meeting on Monday until Thursday. Language Improvement program held to help students' in mastering English and Arabic language.

3. Uplifting

Uplifting is an acting to raise moral, spiritual cultural, level, etc.⁹ Level is the appropriate thing that should be raised in this research, because in this research focused on uplift or raise students' writing ability.

4. Writing Ability

Writing is the act or process of producing and recording words in a form that can be read and understood.¹⁰ Ability is a skill, talent or capacity.¹¹

This research focuses on writing skill which has many its conventions to start. Every student has their own level ability, but in this research, the

⁸ <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/implementation> (Accessed on March 10th 2016)

⁹ <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/uplifting> (Accessed on July 20th 2016)

¹⁰ <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/writing> (Accessed on March 10th 2016)

¹¹ <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/ability> (Accessed on March 10th 2016)

ability focused on one of four skills in English language, and it is writing ability.

