#### **CHAPTER I**

#### INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents issues related to ability of seventh grade students' of Junior High School (SMP) Bumi Sholawat Sidoarjo in using noun phrase in writing descriptive text. The issues become the rationale of this research as presented in the research background. This chapter also states research questions, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limit of the study, and definition of key terms.

## A. Research Background

Since English is an international language, being able to communicate in English is very important in this globalization era. When people study English, there are four skills that people have to learn that are listening, speaking, writing and reading. By mastering those skills it can help people to make a good communication.

In Indonesia English is a foreign language that is taught to students. It is taught to students since elementary until university. It is expected that students to be able to speak and write in English. English is the most important language. This is because we can understand people around the

world and also gain knowledge from new technologies which most use English as their language manual.

Writing skill is one of four terms of skill in English. This is crucial as it gives the students the opportunity to practice real-life activities in the classroom. As cheated in Syeda, the productive skill is speaking and writing because the students need to articulate words and write to produce language. This means in productive skill the students have to produce words of written and spoken language.

Nunan states that writing is a complex process. Writing competence is frequently accepted as being the last language skill to be acquired. Writing is one of important skill, by writing people can share their opinion, idea, command, give and get information.

In this research, the researcher wants to investigate students' ability in writing noun phrase in writing descriptive text. According to Richard, there is no doubt that writing is the most difficult skill for second language learners to master, the difficulty is not only in generating and organizing ideas, but also in translating these ideas into readable text. This means writing skill is considered as the most difficult skills because when we express the ideas, we must write them systematically to avoid confusing the readers. Besides,

<sup>1</sup> Syeda Dishari Bashrin : Productive Skill Teaching Beginners in English Medium School 2013,

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<sup>(</sup>Bangladesh: BRAC University, 2013),p3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Richard, J.C.&Renandya,W: *Methodology in Language teaching*. (New York. 2002)

writing also has some criteria they are content, organization, vocabulary, grammar, and mechanics. This means to make a good writing, it is needed to consider about those criteria. Moreover, writing is more formal and compact than speaking.

In writing there are several types of text they are: procedure, recount, descriptive, news item, report and narrative. Since descriptive text is first writing lesson which the students get, so this research will focus on writing descriptive text.

Descriptive writing describes a person, place, or thing in a way that enables the reader to visualize it. This means descriptive writing is used to express the ideas by painting a picture so that the reader can visualize it. Besides, the students tend to use noun phrase in writing descriptive text although they still write in reverse order.

When people make a sentence, they have understood about noun. Noun is the most important thing in the sentence, noun is a word that is used in a sentence because one of sentence formation consists of objects, the object is noun. When people write, they have to pay attention to grammar because grammar is the most important point in writing and usually we meet the noun

<sup>3</sup> John Schater, Ph.D. The Master Teacher Series Descriptive Writing, p.5

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Siti Umatul Maghviroh: Students' Competence of Noun Phrase Plus Adjective Phrase Toward Students' Writing Skills, (Salatiga: STAIN Salatiga, 2014),p.15

phrase when write in a sentence. Sometimes students get difficult on how to identify what is called by noun phrase.

According to the interview with Mualafah, from grade eight students in high class of SMP Bumi Sholawat Sidoarjo. She said that in lerning writing text, especially in writing descriptive text, she has problems like: vocabulary, grammar, spelling grammar (Buy "membeli" become By "oleh", Drink "minum" become Dring), noun phrase (I wanna buy mathematics book become I wanna buy book mathematics, I have black car become I have car black).

Based on the explanation above, the researcher chooses seventh grade of SMP Bumi Sholawat Sidoarjo because in this school applies bilingual program, they are English and Arabic. This means the students are accustomed to use English in learning process. However, according to the English teacher of SMP Bumi Sholawat Sidoarjo, most of the students are afraid of making mistake when they are asked to write in English.

The researcher also chooses seventh grade because that grade still learns descriptive writing text. The researcher also wants to know the ability of seventh grade students in writing noun phrase in writing descriptive text. Based on those reasons, the researcher conducts a research entitled

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Based on the Interview, Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> of February 2015

"STUDENTS' ABILITY IN WRITING NOUN PHRASE IN WRITING DESCRIPTIVE TEXT AT SEVENTH GRADE OF SMP BUMI SHOLAWAT SIDOARJO".

#### **B.** Research Questions

From the background above, the researcher decides the problems of this study are:

- 1. How is the students' ability in writing noun phrase in writing descriptive text at seventh grade in SMP Bumi Sholawat Sidoarjo?
- 2. What are the problems faced by the students in writing noun phrase in writing descriptive text at seventh grade in SMP Bumi Sholawat Sidoarjo?

# C. Objective of the Study

According to the research questions above, the objective of the study are:

- To know the students' ability in writing noun phrase in writing descriptive text.
- To find out the problems faced by students in writing noun phrase in writing descriptive text by students of SMP Bumi Sholawat Sidoarjo.

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

The researcher hopes this study has some benefits and will have a good impact for the teacher, students, and the researcher:

- 1. For teacher: it is hoped that the English teacher of seventh grade of SMP Bumi Sholawat Sidoarjo can understand about the problems of students in noun phrase. The teacher could know the students' ability and the problems in writing noun phrase in writing descriptive text. From the problem the teacher also can give the possible solution to improve their students' ability.
- 2. For students: it can help seventh grade students at Bumi Sholawat Junior High School Sidoarjo to understand better the organization of noun phrase in writing descriptive text.
- 3. For readers: it is hoped that the researcher can give information for the readers about howare the seventh grade students at Bumi Sholawat Junior High School ability in writing descriptive text. This study also can give the view to the others who will study about the ability in writing noun phrase in writing descriptive text,

## E. Scope and Limit of the Study

The study researcher about ability in using noun phrase in writing descriptive text by the students seventh grade student of SMP Bumi Sholawat Sidoarjo. The study also focuses on the ability of students' seventh grade in using noun phrase and the problems faced by the students using noun phrase

in writing descriptive text at seventh grade in SMP Bumi Sholawat Sidoarjo. In this school there are three levels class in this school. Those are high, middle and low level class. High level has more special treatment from the school, but for the midle and low level class do not. This study focuses on the seventh grade students of VIIA- VIIF. But the researcher just takes 1 class from total 6 classes.

## F. Definition of Key Terms

The key terms of this study are Noun Phrase, Student Ability, and Writing descriptive text. The researcher will give definition of key terms, they are:

#### 1) Noun Phrase:

Noun phrase is a phrase constructed around a noun. This means, noun phrase is combination of two words which consist of noun and phrase in which students should apply in their writing descriptive text.

#### 2) Student Ability:

According to Collins Cobuild English Dictionary, ability is something which is fact that you can do it.<sup>7</sup> In this research, the researcher want to know the students ability using noun phrase in writing descriptive text.

<sup>6</sup> .....: : A Brief Grammar Euskara The Basque Language. (University of The Basque Country.1996),p.25

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Wiliam Collins: Collins Cobuild English Dictionary. (Great Britain. 1995),p.2

# 3) Writing Descriptive Text:

Writing descriptive text is to write a paragraph that describes the condition, an object, a place, person, or event based on the situational pictures.

