

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

English has 4 skills to be mastered. Those are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. It means that when the students learn about English, they have to master all of those skills. It is because those skills are related to the daily activities of the students. For examples when talking to someone, speaking and listening skill are involved. Then, when reading newspaper or writing a message to someone. All of those 4 skills are involved in our daily activities.

According to Hdi (2015), writing is one of the most important and challenging skills that students need to acquire. It is called important because the students can express their ideas into the written text. They also can send some information by writing. So that, good writing skill needed in order to make the reader understand or get the information. Then, it is challenging because it requires the students to stimulate their minds and develop the ideas and make it into words or sentences. The reader will understand the information if they can develop their ideas well.

Even though it is very important for students, writing also is not an easy thing to be mastered. According to Crestiani (2015), writing is assumed into the most difficult skill to be learned by the students. It is because there are several aspects should be mastered, such as grammar, vocabulary, organization, punctuation, etc. This thing becomes a problem for the students when they want to

write something. Most of them have low knowledge in one of those aspects. Then, they also do not know how to develop their ideas. It makes their writing becomes poor because they cannot express their ideas into words.

Based on the interview that has been done with one of the teacher in some school, that problem also happens there. The students are difficult to develop the topic given by the teacher and organize their ideas into words. Then, they also spend much time when given a narrow topic. They are still confuse when thinking the topic which is narrow because they do not know how to find the ideas from that narrow topic. It is so difficult for them to organize the ideas if the topic is narrow or specific. However, general topics also do not make their writing better. When given general topics, they often express their ideas which are not focus on one point. They just put different points in one paragraph where it makes the result of the writing is not clear in explaining the topic, because their ideas are not strict to one point only. So, the students need something to help them in developing and organizing the topics.

In avoiding that problem, there are some ways that can be used to help the students in developing their ideas. One of them is using *iMindMap*, one of the applications to make electronic mind map. This application can be operated on the smartphome and can be downloaded at play store. It is very easy to use for the students because contains many features which can help them in making electronic mind map. So that they do not need to write it down on the blank paper. Furthermore, it can make their mind map well-seen.

This application is made based on the mind mapping technique invented by Tony Buzan in 1960s. This technique was introduced for the first time by Tony Buzan as to make our brains become active and productive. According to Buzan (2005), mind mapping is a thinking tool or a concept which illustrates other. It has lines, symbols, words, and pictures. It contains the title of the topic, then lines will be made to link between the topic and the sub-topic. It can be made colorful to increase our interest in reading it. It can generate learners mind while taking note by focusing on key ideas written down by the students' own words, and then looking for connections related to the key ideas, in which colors, images, symbols, and curved lines are used, the students are able to map their knowledge in a manner which can help them understand and remember new information (Suseno & Setyawan, 2014).

Mind mapping technique also can increase students' ability and motivation to write. It can teach them how to organize ideas to construct good pieces of writing. According to Crestiani (2015) , mind mapping combine left and right brain at the same time. By mind mapping, they do not just see the words but they also have to make the sentences which relate to the topic or core word through colored curve line, pictures and symbol in each branch. So, it will help and encourage the students in developing their ideas to write a paragraph.

Considering the usefulness of mind mapping technique in developing students' ideas in writing skill, some researchers have conducted researches to find out the usefulness of mind mapping technique. Crestiani (2015) has conducted a quasi-experimental research to find out whether mind mapping can improve students' descriptive writing ability or not. Then, it was found that mind mapping

can effectively improve students' writing ability in descriptive text. There is also Hdi (2015) who found that mind mapping technique performed better than conventional method in improving students writing ability especially at the level of the organization of paragraphs and providing the thesis statement. Even though the students still have problems related to the use of vocabulary, spelling, grammar and punctuation.

From the result of the researches above, the researcher found that many researchers conducted researches on the use of mind mapping technique in teaching writing manually and it gave significant effects. It makes the researcher interested in conducting a research, entitled "The Effect of Using Electronic Mind Map (Imindmap) on Students' Writing Competency at SMK Negeri 1 Sukasada", in order to examine whether electronic mind map can help the students at SMK N 1 Sukasada in developing their ideas in writing a text considering this technique is never implemented in the vocational school especially at SMK N 1 Sukasada.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Learning English is a must for the students in elementary school until senior high school. The teacher should make sure that the learners are able to speak English. It is not only for speaking, but also writing. Writing is one of important skills in learning English. Through writing, our ideas in mind can be expressed. When the information cannot be shared in spoken way, making it in written way is the solution. So that the information still can be shared. To make a good writing,

the ideas must be developed and organized well. That is why organization and development of ideas is very important in writing.

In fact, the students, especially in SMK N 1 Sukasada are very difficult in organizing their ideas. They need much time when doing that. It will make them out of the time that is given by the teacher. They are also difficult to think about the topic and express it into written way. Once they get the idea of the topic, it is still difficult for them to make that idea become a good sentence or paragraph. Arranging the words also cannot be done easily by the students. Sometimes, the students only put their sentences without considering whether the sentences have correlation or not with the previous sentences. It is because they do not know how to develop and organize their ideas. So that, they just make it randomly. That is why the teachers have to help them in develop their ideas.

Mind map is a technique which can help the students in developing their ideas when writing a paragraph or a text. It can help them in organizing the idea before starting to write. It will help and encourage the students develop their ideas to write a paragraph (Crestiani, 2015). So, it will make the writing of the students better. Sasongko (2017) has conducted a classroom action research at SMP Negeri 2 Geneng. The result was found that mind mapping technique has a positive impact in improving the capability and student learning outcomes in writing descriptive texts. The results show increasing score of each students. Khoiriyah (2014) also conducted a research about mind mapping technique. The subjects were 44 students of the first year students of English department at Nusantara PGRI Kediri University. The obtained data showed that mind mapping technique could improve the students writing skill.

Based on the problem and the previous researches above, a research has been conducted to investigate the effect of mind mapping technique on students' writing competency at SMK N 1 Sukasada. In this research, electronic mind map which can be operated on the smartphone was used.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

Writing is a broad subject to be studied, so that the scope of the research was limited. The limitation of the problem was only to investigate the effect of using electronic mind map on students' writing competency about Descriptive Text.

1.4 Research Question

As what has been explained above about the problem, a research has been conducted and stated a research question as "Is there any significant difference between the students who are taught by E-mind map and the students who are taught by conventional technique on the writing competency?"

1.5 Objectives of the Study

This research was conducted in order to investigate the effect of using electronic mind map on EFL Vocational School students at SMK N 1 Sukasada in writing competency about Descriptive Text.

1.6 Significance of the Study

1.6.1 Theoretical benefit

This research was expected to be able to make the readers know more about electronic mind map and the impact of it in helping the students in organizing and developing their ideas in writing skill.

1.6.2 Practical Benefit

This research can be used for the EFL teachers who teach vocational school students as a reference in teaching writing using mind mapping technique to help the students in developing and organizing ideas.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

1.7.1 Writing Competency

1.7.1.1 Conceptual Definition

Writing competency is the skill or knowledge in expressing feelings, ideas, and thoughts in written way in order to make the reader understand the meaning conveyed. According to Reichlet (2005), writing competency is a mean of developing, reinforcing, and testing students' target language communicative abilities, grammatical accuracy, and the use of vocabulary.

1.7.1.2 Operational Definition

In this research, writing competency is a knowledge or skill of tenth grade students of SMK N 1 Sukasada in developing and organizing the ideas to make a descriptive text which was assessed by the aspects of content, organization, grammar, vocabulary, and mechanics.

1.7.2 Electronic Mind Map

1.7.2.1 Conceptual Definition

Electronic mind map is the same as the other mind map. The difference is just the way it made. Electronic mind map is a mind map that is made on the smartphone using an application. It is a technique using diagram to express the ideas which are connected to any other ideas and classified based on the sub-topics. It contains symbol, line, pictures, etc. It can help the learners in generating and classifying their ideas, solving their problem, and memorizing the material easily

1.7.2.2 Operational Definition

Electronic mind map is a teaching technique applied in teaching writing. It is an individual technique which means the students work individually in making electronic mind map during the lesson. The students made electronic mind map on their smartphone as guidance before they start writing the text.

