

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

The teaching and learning of English as a foreign language is very complex. The skill to write effectively is becoming increasingly important in our global community and instruction in writing is thus assuming an increasing role in both second-and foreign language education. As advances advanced of transportation and technology, allow people from nations and cultures throughout the world to interact with each other, communication across language become ever more essential. According to Cushing (2002), writing has become more important of communicative language teaching, so teaching language as a system of communication rather than as an object of study.

There is no doubt 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. The skills involved in writing are highly complex. The second language writers have to pay attention to higher level skills of planning and organizing as well as lower level skills of spelling, punctuation, word choice, and so on. The difficulty becomes even more pronounced if their language proficiency is weak. Writing is the most crucial skill in learning English. Richards and Renandya (2002) state that there is no doubt that writing is the most difficult skill for the second language learners to master. Learners need to combine a lot of components to compose a good writing, starting from grammar to *commit to user*

cohesion and coherence in writing. These will be difficult points for many students to write. The difficulty lies not only in generating and organizing ideas, but also in translating these ideas into readable text.

In the learning process, writing becomes a problem for the students of the tenth grade of senior high school observed. In SMA N 7 Purworejo, there are some problems that relate to the English writing process. The students have low competency in writing; their understanding about aspects of writing is poor. Their knowledge of grammar, diction, and cohesion and coherence are not used appropriately. Students' sentences often contain a lot of grammatical errors, especially in using tenses. Learners need to improve their knowledge on diction. They have difficulties in taking words to the context when developing sentences, so they cannot compose a good paragraph.

The learning media have high contribution to the teaching and learning process. It can stimulate students' idea when they are developing their writing. The learning media can be visual, audio, audio-visual, and multimedia. However, the use of learning media in writing class in SMA N 7 Purworejo is still rare. This school is an RSBI (*Rintisan Sekolah Bertaraf Internasional*). It has complete media which can be used in the learning process, but the teachers seldom use the computer laboratory. The internet connection is available in that school but it is never used in writing class. The students' motivation in writing English becomes low. The style in teaching is lecturing style which is not interesting for the students. The teacher does not use media like the computer laboratory with internet connection. The students feel bored and not interested in English, especially writing.

In the recent year, the use of media in the teaching and learning process is very famous. Media are an important aspect in the learning process besides learning method. According to Hackbarth (1996) multimedia are the multiple media formats for the explanation of information including texts, graphics, video and audio information. Computer-based interactive multimedia includes hypermedia and hypertext. Hamalik (1994) states that the use of learning media in the learning process can build motivation and stimulus in the class and also give psychology effect to the learners. The students more attracted with the use of media in the classroom. The variation or combination the media gives positive effect toward students' response. Piskurich (2004) states the personal learner advantages of e-learning. They are as follows. 1) Reduced travel time and cost for learners. 2) Convenience of any time and place. 3) Opportunity for repeated practice. 4) Easy of review. All the advantages give the easiness for the students during learning process. According to Reddi and Mishra (2003), media can stimulus our brain to process data from eyes and ears. The students will be more interested with the explanation. A little illustration media is helpful than no media at all. One of the media is Moodle. According to Stanford (2009), Moodle is one of the free or an open source popular VLEs (Virtual Learning Environment) around at the moment. It is also mentioned as an LMS (Learning Management System) or a CMS (Course Management System). According to Hallowell (2011), Moodle is a web-based software package that allows us to create a learning environment in which an educational program can be delivered. It means that Moodle allows us to create course environments where all sorts of education can take place.

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The second media is web-blog. A blog (a contraction of the term "web log") is a type of website, usually maintained by an individual with regular entries of commentary, descriptions of events, or other material such as graphics or video. Entries are commonly displayed in reverse-chronological order. "Blog" can also be used as a verb, meaning to maintain or add content to a web blog. Galien and Bowcher (2010) state that blog is a fairly new tool for written communication and interaction and appear in many different languages. Mynard (2007) also gives a description that a blog (or web log) is a kind of online diary that has been reported to be a useful tool for language learners for a number of reasons. From two descriptions of weblog, it can be concluded that a weblog is an online tool in communication which can be used in learning process freely. Web blog is one of the application of computer network technology that has been utilized besides multimedia, email, electronic journals, database, World Wide Web, chat, audio and video conferencing etc.

The other thing that can influence the student's writing skill comes from other factor besides the teaching media. It is students' creativity. Without creativity the students have no art, no literature, no science, no innovation, no problem solving, and no progress. It is, perhaps, less obvious that creativity has an equally essential role in schools. The processes of creativity parallel those of learning. Recent calls for authentic activities, teaching for understanding, and real-world problem solving all require engaging students with content in flexible and innovative ways. Students who use content in creative ways learn the content well. They also learn strategies for identifying problems, making decisions, and finding solutions both in and out of
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school. According to Linda et al (2011), creativity has been defined as a mental process involving the generation of new ideas or concepts, or new associations between existing ideas or concepts. From a scientific standpoint the products of creative thought are usually considered to have both originality and appropriateness. According to Cremin (2009), a creative approach in teaching English encompasses several core features that enable teachers to make informed decisions, both at the level of planning and in the moment-to-moment interactions in the classroom.

Students' creativity plays the important role in writing skill. Students with high creativity are likely less to feel embrrased or afraid when they write text. Meanwhile students with low creativity tend to be afraid doing it.

Since students' creativity and the media of teaching applied by the teachers are important factors in teaching writing, the writer is interested in conducting a research entitled: "The Effectiveness of Moodle to Teach Writing Viewed from Students' Creativity" (An Experimental Study at the Tenth Grade Students of SMA N 7 Purworejo in the Academic Year of 2012/2013)

B. Identification of the Problems

From the interviews and observation conduct prior to the research activity, the researcher collects some information about the problems in the English teaching-learning process in that school. The problems relate to the students' writing skills, students' interest toward writing, teachers' style in teaching, the role of media and the utilization of internet laboratory.

The first problem relates to the writing skills. The students' skills in writing seem to be improved. They do not understand the components of writing. The content, organization, cohesion, register, vocabulary and grammar of their writing are poor. The teachers have to help the students from all the writing problems.

The second problem relates to the motivation. Students' moods are important in the writing process. Writing is built from the ideas in the students' mind. During the learning process, students are not interested in writing. They feel bored and do not follow the lesson well. A new innovation in learning process is needed to develop students' interest in writing. Building their interest is a good way in teaching writing. The students have to love writing.

The third problem relates to the teaching style. Teaching the writing skills to the learners is very important. The teachers' style in teaching gives effect to the students' understanding about materials. The teacher does not have variation in teaching. The teacher's teaching style is lecturing, so the teachers talk too much in front of the class. It makes bored the students during the learning process. The students do not pay attention to the teachers. They do not pay attention to what teacher said.

The fourth problem relates to the media. The role of media in teaching process is very important. The media can help the students to understand the materials. The teachers are seldom to use media because the teachers' knowledge about media is low. The teachers are afraid to use the media such as computer. That factor also causes the learning process of the writing activity. The students enjoy the learning process with the use of media.

The last problem relates to the function of media. The internet connection provides a lot of sources to develop the materials. The internet laboratory is a good media for the students in writing activity. It needs more knowledge for the teachers in using that media. The teachers do not utilize it because their weakness in using technology.

C. Limitation of the Problem

Based on the problems, the researcher focuses on the significance effect of Moodle to teach writing viewed from students' creativity because this problem is feasible for the researcher and will be very helpful for the teacher and students to improve teaching and learning process. The researcher uses the Moodle media in the writing process on the first semester. The researcher has two reasons for the use of Moodle media. The first, Moodle is a communicative media for writing process. By giving Moodle activities, the students can be more enthusiastic in the writing class. The second, the efforts that are done in this research are limited by physical factors such as the time. The researcher does not have enough time to handle all of the problems in this school because only has one semester to do this research. Related to these reasons, these efforts in this research are limited to improve Grade X students' writing skill at SMA N 7 Purworejo.

D. Problem Statements

From the identification above, it can be seen that there are many areas that can be investigated. The researcher formulates the problem as follows:

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1. In general, is there any differences writing competence between Moodle and web-blog to teach writing to the tenth grade students of SMA N 7 Purworejo in the academic year of 2012/2013? If there is a difference, which group of students has a better achievement?
2. In general, is there any difference in writing competence between students who have high creativity and have low creativity? If there is a difference, which group of students has a better achievement?
3. Is there an interaction between media and students' creativity to teach writing to the tenth grade students of SMA N 7 Purworejo in the academic year of 2012/2013?

E. Significance of the Study

The result of this research is expected to give advantages theoretically and practically.

1. Theoretical Advantage

This research is to give insight to improve students' writing skill in learning English for the first grade students of SMA N 7 Purworejo. The result of this research can be used as the additional source for the other relevance research. The findings on this research provide several bases for similar research support.

2. Practical Advantages

a. For the researcher

The research can provide a practice in developing her knowledge and skill in using writing media. The result of this research shows that Moodle can be used as *commit to user*

one of the writing media. The findings reveal several facts that students need new media for their teaching and learning process. The research can be developed to reach the wider goals in teaching process.

b. For the English teachers in SMA N 7 Purworejo

The research can be used a source of information about ways to improve the students' writing skill. The result of this research shows that Moodle is effective to be used as a media in teaching and learning process especially for teaching writing. The media can be applied in the classroom and the teacher is very helped in developing media in the classroom.

c. For the principal of SMA N 7 Purworejo

The research helps him to improve his understanding about EFL learning processes. Such understanding encourages him to facilitate any efforts to improve the EFL learning processes in the school. The use of media in that school gives good contribution toward teaching and learning process.

d. For SMA N 7 Purworejo students

The research makes them more interested and motivated to learn and to write English. The media is used as a place to share their writing because it provides a lot of space for storing the students' writing. Moodle is very easy to be used. That is why the students feel comfort when join the writing class.

e. For other researchers

The research gives general knowledge of how to improve students' writing skill. The research also can be used as the foundation for the next research. The media can be developed into the best one according to the other researcher. Moodle

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is very easy to be modified. That is why the other researcher can build it more to find the best way in the learning media.

