

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter will focus on explanations related to the background of the research, identification of the problems, limitation of the problems, formulation of the problems, objectives of the research, and significance of the research.

A. Background of the Research

A language is a tool used to communicate with humans in social life (Ika Rizka Dulhijjah, 2016). This is in line with the understanding of language according to Ota, N.N. Padmadewi, and MH Santoso (2018) Language is the most important medium of human communication and it cannot be separated from human daily life. This shows the critical role of language in human life. Without language humans cannot live with one another, they cannot communicate with each other, convey information, and get to know each other. However each country has its own, Each country has its language, but allows them to learn foreign languages from different countries. One of the languages studied in many countries is English.

English is a foreign language that is learned by many people in various countries. Used as the language of international communication, English is considered important and needs to be learned by many people in other countries. English is a language that is widely studied in many countries and is important in several fields, such as economics, international trade, education, and communication. Related to this, many people are now competing to be proficient in mastering English.

In Indonesia, English lessons have started to be taught from elementary school to university. English is very important to be taught in Indonesia because it is considered a learner's password to communicate with others. English is the first foreign language lesson that is widely taught because almost all technology and information from various foreign countries mostly use English. So students as a generation who have an important role and a big contribution to the country are required to be able to master English.

In addition to the demands in the world of education, in the world of work, English is also one of the criteria that prospective workers must possess. Therefore, English must be taught to prepare qualified job candidates. This is in line with the importance of mastering English for vocational high school students. They are taught how to use English in the world of work through various field practices as well as learning in class.

There are four English skills, namely writing, reading, listening, and speaking. Some students have difficulty mastering these four abilities. This is following the results of observations that I made at SMKN 2 Pacitan, some students stated that mastering these four abilities was very difficult, and required a long process. Most students think that writing is a very difficult and challenging skill. Because writing is an ability that is obtained slowly, with an orderly process. Writing is not only related to mastering vocabulary selection, mastering grammar, and compiling sentences into a perfect paragraph but also relating to the content of a piece of writing. Most students have problems determining ideas and themes in writing. Writing skill is an

ability that is obtained because the process is repeated and requires a long time because sometimes more time is spent thinking before writing the initial draft to be written. This is in line with the statements of Sri Sulastri, Anshari Shafar and Budi (2014) stating that in writing it is not only how to use the right vocabulary, grammar, and spelling, but how they find ideas and turn it into readable text.

Jeane Priscilla Kaengke, Ferry Rita, and Nadrun (2018) state that writing is a difficult skill because so the writer can convey his message to readers in a way that is clear and easy to understand, they must know the rules of how to use mechanics in writing. This shows that most students have difficulty with the rules of writing such as finding ideas in writing, the purpose of writing, the choice of words, and how the writer expresses the contents of the text so that readers can understand it. According to the results of my observation at SMKN 2 Pacitan that some students in grade 10 had difficulty in writing. They have difficulties in finding ideas and developing sentences, so they prefer to take sample text on Google. Based on this, it can be concluded that writing is not only how to generate ideas, but how to develop them into a complete piece of writing by generating ideas, writing an outline, compiling them into a draft, revising the draft, and finally developing the draft. It becomes a reading material as the final result (Nia FatmaKurniawan, 2013:3).

The problem of students' writing ability is not only caused by a lack of student's ability to process ideas, but learning activities in the classroom also

greatly affect students' writing abilities. Alwasilah and Alwasilah (2005) in Vina Agustina (2017: 90) state that students' writing problems arise in class due to inappropriate teaching methods used by teachers. This is following Emilia (2010) who states that a teacher must have a specific strategy or method in teaching to support the success of learning objectives. But what happens in the field teachers lack strategies, methods, and creativity in teaching in the classroom. Most of them only focused on the material in the book. The teacher delivers material in front of the class and the students sit on the bench listening to what the teacher is saying even though sometimes they don't know what the teacher is saying. Students are asked to read a text and interpret it together. Teachers do not create an interesting learning atmosphere and make students channel the ideas in their heads onto a sheet of paper.

Based on the problem indicators above, choosing the right method is very important. Many methods can be used to help students make it easier and more precise. One method that can be applied is the four-square writing method (FSWM). According to Nia Fatma Kurniawan (2013:4), FSWM is a method for improving basic writing skills that can be applied at several grade levels and across curricula. The four square writing method can facilitate students in compiling the purpose of writing the type of text, namely the generic structure and linguistic elements used. Besides that, it also helps students in making paragraph unity and developing it into a text (Felci Triana Sauhan, 2020:236).

The four-square writing method improves writing skills by making four cities with one box in the middle. Using this method through several stages, namely: first, write the topic to be discussed in one box in the middle: then write the main idea in the four squares sequentially (according to the order of the box numbers); the final step is to develop the sentence into a more detailed paragraph on the sheet provided.

Based on the explanation above, the authors argue that this method can be applied in teaching descriptive text to students of grade 10 Accounting 4 at SMKN 2 Pacitan. Because this method has several advantages, the visuals in this method make it easier for students to write concepts, understand, and make discourse. Besides that, this method can also be applied to several types of text: narrative text, recount text, procedure text, and descriptive text. FSWM also helps students determine the general idea of the text to be written, thereby preventing students from including irrelevant content or writing that is not important. Finally, the information written in the four-square writing method is provided clearly, so that students will not be confused about what they are going to write. Based on these reasons, the researcher is interested in conducting research with the title "Improving Writing Skills by Using the Four Square Writing Method of the Tenth-Grade Accounting Students of SMKN 2 Pacitan Academic Years 2022/2023".

B. Identification of the Problems

Based on the explanation above, several problems can be identified:

1. Lack of students' writing skills in the tenth-grade students' of SMKN 2 Pacitan.
2. Difficulties in finding ideas and developing sentences of the tenth-grade students' at SMKN 2 Pacitan.
3. The lack of various methods used by teachers in teaching descriptive texts to the tenth-grade students of SMKN 2 Pacitan

C. Limitation of the Problems

Based on the explanation of the background above, the focus is on improving students' writing skills in descriptive text using the four square writing method of Accounting 4 students of tenth-grade students at SMKN 2 Pacitan in the academic year 2022/2023. First, the reason why this research is focused on descriptive text is that descriptive text is the text that is intended to explain something in detail. besides that in writing descriptive text starting from general to specific descriptions, compiling the four square writing method makes it easy for students to compose explanations by filling in the first box as a general statement, the second to fourth boxes as explanations arranged from general to specific.

The second reason why this study uses the four square writing method as a method to improve students' writing skills is that this method makes it easier for students to draft what will be written so that students do not experience difficulties when compiling a complete piece of writing.

Then the reason for the 10th-grade students of accounting at SMKN 2 Pacitan as the object of this study was because there were obstacles related to

the writing ability of 10th-grade students of SMKN 2 Pacitan during the observation. Students have difficulty finding ideas and composing good paragraphs. Most students prefer to copy descriptive text from Google rather than write their thoughts.

D. Formulation of the Problems

This study aims to overcome the problems of learning to write and improve students' writing skills with the right method. then, based on these objectives the formulation of the problems are:

1. How is the process of applying the four-square writing method in improving students' writing skills of the tenth-grade students' SMKN 2 Pacitan academic year 2022/20223?
2. Can applying the four-square writing method improve students' writing skills in the tenth-grade students SMKN 2 Pacitan academic year 2022/2023?
3. Can the application of the four-square writing method increase student enthusiasm during teaching-learning in the tenth-grade students' at SMKN 2 Pacitan for the academic year 2022/2023?

E. Objectives of the Research

Based on the questions above, it was found that the objectives of this research were:

1. To find out the process of applying the four-square writing method in improving student's writing skills of the tenth-grade students' at SMKN 2 Pacitan for the academic year 2022/2023.
2. To find out that applying the four-square writing method can improve students' writing skills of the tenth-grade students' SMKN 2 Pacitan for the academic year 2022/2023.
3. To find out that the application of the four-square writing method can increase students' enthusiasm during teaching and learning in the tenth-grade students at SMKN 2 Pacitan for the academic year 2022/2023.

F. Significances of the Research

Based on its implementation, this research has theoretical and practical benefits.

1. Theoretically

Theoretically, this research is expected to be able to build students' ability to improve writing skills and is also expected to be able to build students' activeness in learning in the classroom. In addition, this research can also be used as a reference for further research.

2. Practically

Practically this research is expected to provide benefits to students, teachers, schools, and other researchers.

a. Students

Can help students in writing the purpose of a text (generic structure and language features) and how to write using the four-square writing method. Able to be a solution to students' writing problems when it is difficult to develop general ideas into a perfect set of paragraphs, especially when writing descriptive text.

b. Teachers

Teachers can apply the four square writing method to the student's ability to write, especially descriptive text so that the teacher can provide solutions to students' difficulties in writing.

c. For institutions

This research is expected to be a source of school information to improve teaching skills and can be used as a reference for teaching and learning techniques, especially in improving students' writing skills.

d. Other researchers

This research is expected to be a reference material for future researchers in improving students' writing skills, especially in finding ideas and arranging sentences into complete and appropriate paragraphs. This research can also be used as evidence that the use of the four-square writing method can improve students' writing skills.