CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the research discusses the introduction. It covers the background of the problem, the identification of problem, the limitation of the problem, the formulation of the problem, the research questions, the purposes of the research, and the significance of the research and the definition of the key term.

1.1 The Background of the Problem

Many countries use English for many occasions such as social, education, art, etc. Some countries consider English as their native language, however in Indonesian English is considered as a foreign language. Also, English is not normally used as a medium of instruction, but English is used for formal setting, such as school and university. English is divided into four major skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.

Writing skill is one of the capabilities of English (Language skills) that must be possessed by students. A good writing is not always easy and may be a challenge for the students. Writing can be challenge to students to describe ideas. Writing needs hard thinking to produce idea, words, sentences, paragraph and composition. So, Writing is a skill that is required in written communication. It cannot be separated with every learning process experienced by the students as long as they are still in educational process.

Brown (2001, p.336) claims that writing is a thinking process. Furthermore, he states that writing can be planned and given with an unlimited number of revisions before its release. In this writing activity students are required to master grammar, vocabulary and punctuation. Besides that, Harmer (2001, p.79) states

that the students are expected to be able to present their ideas and feeling in the written form. Students learn writing at Junior High School, Senior High School and even at University level.

Based on Competency Standard in 2013 curriculum, teaching writing at Junior High School uses genre approach. In these approach students should know different kinds of text. They are functional text and monolog text. Functional text deals with greeting card, invitation card, short message, etc. and monolog text deals with recount, descriptive, narrative, etc. Greeting card was in point 3.5 in basic competence of lesson plan which is learned by the students' in the first semester. In general, there are two style of greeting card is formal style and informal style. Also there are two kind of greeting card. They are congratulation of greeting card and sympathy of greeting card.

According to the researcher's informal interview to the teacher of the second year students at UPT SMPN 3 Rambatan Kecamatan Rambatan, Batusangkar, Mrs.Yulfaini, S.Pd, at the middle of September and beginning of October 2019, she said that the student often faced problem dealing with writing a part of greeting card (addresses, body, and sender). Other problem occurs in grammar, vocabulary use, and mechanics (spelling, punctuation, and capitalization) writing of greeting card.

From the explanation above, the writer is interested in doing the research entitled 'The Second Year Students' Ability in Writing Greeting Card at UPT SMPN 3 Rambatan Kecamatan Rambatan – Batusangkar'.

1.2 The Identification of the Problem

There students face some problem dealing with writing greeting cards. Some of them deal with the style of greeting cards. There are two styles of greeting card that are formal style and informal style. Also the kinds of greeting card are congratulation and sympathy of greeting card. The researcher chooses to

identification about formal style use congratulation of greeting card. At school as formal place, the students are suggested to use formal style in occasion congratulation of greeting card.

Referring to Competency Standard in 2013 curriculum, students have problem to identify some a kind of text. One of them is functional text especially greeting card. There are several factors that can be problem to the students in writing greeting card. The first one is the students less understands with a part of greeting card especially the body of greeting card and it is difficult to write the a purpose of greeting card. We know that a card containing a message of good wishes, celebration and sympathy. The second is the component of greeting card such as grammar, vocabulary and mechanics. Many students find difficulties to write greeting card. The most important problem about grammar, when they to write the content of greeting card. They cannot understand the correct pattern of the sentences. Sometimes not use correct spelling, punctuation, and capitalization (mechanic) in writing greeting card.

1.3 The Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of the problems above, the researcher limited to focus on students' ability in writing formal style of a congratulation of greeting card. Furthermore, this study also focused on part of greeting cards, addressee, body, and sender.

1.4 The Formulation of the Problem

Concerning with the limitation of the problem above, the formulation of this problem is "How is the second year students' ability in writing greeting card at UPT SMPN 3 Rambatan Kecamatan Rambatan - Batusangkar?"

1.5 The Research Question

Based on the formulation of the problem above, the research questions are as follows:

1. How is the second year students' ability at UPT SMPN 3 Kecamatan Rambatan – Batusangkar in writing the addressee of greeting card?

2. How is the second year students' ability at UPT SMPN 3 Kecamatan Rambatan – Batusangkar in writing the body of greeting card?

3. How is the second year students' ability at UPT SMPN 3 Kecamatan Rambatan – Batusangkar in writing the sender of greeting card?

1.6 The Purpose of the Research

The general purpose of this research is to describe second year students' ability in writing greeting card at UPT SMPN 3 Rambatan Kecamatan Rambatan - Batusangkar. And the specific purposes of this research are:

1. To find out the second year students' ability in writing the addressee of greeting card at UPT SMPN 3 Rambatan Kecamatan Rambatan-Batusangkar?

2. To find out the second year students' ability in writing the body of greeting card at UPT SMPN 3 Rambatan Kecamatan Rambatan-Batusangkar.

3. To find out the second year students' ability in writing the sender of greeting card at UPT SMPN 3 Rambatan Kecamatan Rambatan-Batusangkar.

1.7 The Significance of the Research

This research will be useful for teacher, students and the researcher. For the teacher, they will know their students' ability to write a greeting card. So, the result of this research can be used as consideration for English teacher to improve their teaching quality. For the students, they will know about their own ability in writing greeting card, so they can make improvement in their writing ability.

Finally for the researcher, by doing this research she can improve her knowledge in doing research.

1.8 The Definition of Key Terms

The term related to this study are defined as follow:

1. Writing is process of sharing information, message, ideas, or thoughts in correct sentence.
2. Functional text is a short text to give information using daily life.
3. Greeting card is a kind of letter that is used to congratulate, pray for someone and so on.
4. Ability is students' skill or competence to write greeting card.
5. Addressee is the receiver of greeting card or to whom is the greeting card addressed.
6. Body is the content/purpose of the greeting card.
7. Sender is someone who writes greeting card.