

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents the research background, questions, purposes, significance, and terminology.

#### **1.1. Research Background**

Writing is one of the essential skills in learning English as a Foreign Language. This skill is used to express and elaborate the student's ideas to develop the main idea and form the phrases, sentences, and paragraphs to make the readers understand the message in their written language. Writing can be incorporated into a more significant activity focusing on something else, like language practice, acting out, or speaking. In this case, the focus of writing activities is written expressions. Based on the 2013 curriculum, the written expressions that should be taught in Junior High Schools at Kembayan sub-district are Expressions of Asking and Giving Attention, Expressions of Checking for Understanding, Expressions Appreciating Others, and Expressions of Asking and Giving Opinions. These expressions are learned in the first chapter of the first semester. However, writing is complex because it needs some aspects to be mastered, such as vocabulary, grammar, and structure. Hence, the teachers' decisions in selecting appropriate strategies and tools should be equivalent to the topics and skills taught in the class.

English teachers play a crucial role in the development of writing skills among students, as writing is an important aspect of the English language. Based on the observations, the strategies used by teachers in teaching English

depend on the type of lesson and the topic being taught. In teaching English, the teachers in Junior High Schools in Kembayan Sub-district often used the conditions and backgrounds of the students as a basis for considering teachers choose the teaching strategy. Junior High School students are at an age where they are developing their writing skills, and the strategies used by their teachers can have a significant impact on their writing development. For this reason, teaching strategies are ways for the teacher to deliver subject matter with activities that provide experiences for students to make it easier to understand the lessons. Therefore, the teacher should choose the strategies that suit the needs of students. In this case, the quality of teaching depends on selecting appropriate strategies for developing the creativity and innovative attitudes of the students.

The curriculum used in Junior High Schools at Kembayan sub-district is the 2013 curriculum. The instructions and objectives to be achieved by the Junior High School students depend on what is stated in the curriculum. In this case, the teachers should be able to find teaching strategies that suit the lesson material and support the implementation of the 2013 curriculum in the teaching and learning process. Thus, teachers should design and choose teaching strategies effectively to improve students' motivation to learn writing. It will make the students participate actively in the classroom activity and reach the learning objectives.

The researcher has come across some previous studies as references in conducting this research. The research of Sinaga, Hutabarat, Panjaitan, and

Saragih (2022) showed that the strategies used by teachers are group discussion, looking at dictionaries, and diary writing. These strategies make teaching and learning less boring, active, and enthusiastic. In addition, another research was conducted by Damanik, Hutasoit, Sitorus, and Saragih (2022). The research finding showed that the English teacher used group discussion, mind mapping and looking up the dictionary in teaching writing. These previous studies focused on the teaching strategies by the English teacher in teaching writing without any specific activities or topic. Meanwhile, this research focuses on teaching strategies for writing activities for several expressions: Expressions of Asking and Giving Attention, Expressions of Checking for Understanding, Expressions Appreciating Others, and Expressions of Asking and Giving Opinions.

The researcher chooses teacher strategies in writing activities to be discussed in this research because the strategies involve setting the learning objectives, determining actions to achieve the objectives, and mobilizing resources to execute the actions. The strategies used by English teachers play a crucial role in developing students' writing skills. By examining the strategies teachers use, the researcher can gain insight into the best practices for teaching and identify the strategies that impact students' writing development. Thus, the researcher intends to know the strategies used by the English teacher in Junior High School, especially in the eighth grade, and how the teachers implement the strategies. In this research, the researcher proposed to use qualitative research with a descriptive design. This background motivated the researcher to

research English Teacher Strategies in Writing Activities at the Eighth Grade of Junior High Schools at Kembayan sub-district.

### **1.2. Research Questions**

The questions of this research are formulated as follows:

- 1.2.1. What strategies does the English teacher use in writing activities in the eighth grade of Junior High Schools in Kembayan sub-district?
- 1.2.2. How does the English teacher implement the strategies in writing activities in the eighth grade of Junior High Schools in Kembayan sub-district?

### **1.3. Research Purposes**

The purposes of this research are formulated as follows:

- 1.3.1. To find out the strategies the English teachers use in writing activities in the eighth grade of Junior High Schools in Kembayan sub-district.
- 1.3.2. To find out how the English teachers implement the strategies in writing activities in the eighth grade of Junior High Schools in Kembayan sub-district.

### **1.4. Research Significances**

The significances of this research are as follows:

#### **1.4.1. Theoretical Significance**

This research expects to be the source of information for other researchers to conduct research in English Language Teaching and Learning. This research will also contribute to the existing writing activities and English language education knowledge.

#### 1.4.2. Practical Significances

This research will expect to be helpful for the following:

##### 1.4.2.1. The Researcher

This research can be beneficial to improve the knowledge and experiences of the researcher in terms of writing activities. It also can be a reference for other researchers who intend to study further similar research, which mainly focuses on strategies in writing activities.

##### 1.4.2.2. The Teachers

This research will help the teachers regarding an appropriate writing strategy and improve their teaching strategy. By exploring the strategies used by English teachers, this research will provide a deeper understanding of the challenges teachers face in teaching and the methods they use to overcome these challenges.

##### 1.4.2.3. The Students

This research can be beneficial for learning English, especially for writing activities. The students could choose which teacher's strategy they might be more comfortable with learning writing.

### **1.5. Terminology**

To avoid misunderstanding the terms used in this research, the researcher explains several terminologies as follows:

#### 1.5.1. Teaching Strategy

Teaching strategy is an activity created by the teacher to teach the students to improve their skills and achieve the learning objectives. A teaching strategy aims to help students actively engage with the material and acquire knowledge and skills in a meaningful way.

#### 1.5.2. Writing Activity

A writing activity is a task or assignment that requires the students to engage in the process of writing. Writing activities can be used to help students develop their writing skills, express their ideas and creativity, and communicate effectively.

#### 1.5.3. Junior High Schools at Kembayan Sub-district

The Junior High Schools in Kembayan Sub-district are SMP Negeri 1 Kembayan, SMP Negeri 2 Kembayan, SMP Negeri 3 Kembayan, SMP Negeri 4 Satu Atap Kembayan, and SMP Negeri 5 SATAP Kembayan.