CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

English is the essential language in the world. Most countries use English as a means of communication. In Indonesia although English is not the first language, it is learnt from kindergarten until university. According to Tarigan (1950: 1), “English language skill has four components, i.e.; listening, speaking, reading and writing skills”. From those four skills, writing is the most complex because it is not also necessary the grammar point, but also other factors which influence it.

Heaton in Sagita (2009: 1) stated that, “The writing composition is a task which involves the students in manipulating words in grammatically correct sentence from a piece of continuous writing which successfully communicate the contents through any ideas on a certain topic”. It means that the students need idea to make composition and it must be based on grammatically correct sentence.

In every school, writing is considered difficult by many students. They get difficulty to arrange a paragraph based on their own idea. Besides, they get difficulty in making sentence which are grammatical correct. Therefore, some do not like writing. They feel bored when the teacher asks them to write composition. Based on the researcher investigation, the students get difficulty in writing descriptive text. It is because descriptive text has particular features which are difficult to be mastered by the students, especially on the generic structure. Also based on the researcher
observation, the teacher did not use any media when she asked the students to write a paragraph so most of them still got difficulties in writing descriptive text. Therefore, it is important for the teacher to create many ways in order to solve the students’ difficulty in writing descriptive text. One of the ways is by using media because it can stimulate the students in making idea. According to Danim (2008: 7), ”Media is a tool or complement that is used by the teachers or educators to communicate with the students”. It means that, media can support and help the teachers in their teaching.

There are many media used by the teacher in teaching writing descriptive text for example picture series, real object, short video, etc. However, in this study the researcher uses short video. Video is the technology that captures moving images electronically. Those moving images are really just a series of still images that change so fast that it looks like the image is moving (http://online.4-
hcurriculum.org/uploadedFiles/CURRICULUM/FILMMAKING/Resources/IntroductionVideo_01.pdf). In the previous research that is done by Nunun Indrasari (2010) who conducted study entitled “IMPROVING STUDENTS’ WRITING SKILL OF NARRATIVE TEXTS BY USING SHORT VIDEOS” found that there are positive improvements in either students’ writing skill or the class situation during the teaching learning process. By watching the videos, the students get the stimulus about certain topics so that they can easily construct and generate the ideas into a narrative story based on the video given. They can also arrange better paragraphs based on the generic structure of narrative text. Besides that, the students were more motivated in joining the writing class because the videos present the attractive moving pictures and sounds so that they got feeling of relax before they wrote their story, they paid much
attention when the videos were played, they were also more confident when they were asked to write individually. Based on these results, it can be concluded that short video is effective to be used in narrative writing. Considering the results above, the researcher wants to apply the same media but in other text type that is descriptive text. The researcher wants to know whether or not short video can improve the students’ skill in writing descriptive text.

The explanation above is the reason why the researcher wants to study about “IMPROVING THE ABILITY OF SECOND YEAR STUDENTS IN WRITING DESCRIPTIVE TEXT THROUGH THE SHORT VIDEO AT SMP PGRI 01 KROMENGAN MALANG”.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Does a short video improve the ability of the second year students in writing descriptive text at SMP PGRI 01 Kromengan Malang?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

To know whether short video can improve the ability of the second year students in writing descriptive text at SMP PGRI 01 Kromengan Malang.

1.4 Hypothesis

Hi: Short video can improve the ability of the second year students in writing descriptive text at SMP PGRI 01 Kromengan Malang.
Ho: Short video cannot improve the ability of the second year students in writing descriptive text at SMP PGRI 01 Kromengan Malang.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The result of this research is expected to give benefits to English teacher to enlarge their knowledge in using appropriate media. Besides, this study can give inspiration and reference for researcher who has the similar topic. Also for the students who have difficulty in mastery writing descriptive text, it can be used as reference to solve their problem. The last but not the least for the other readers, it can give feedback to the curriculum designers to design the curriculum.

1.6 Scope and Limitation

It is necessary to limit the scope of the study. The scope of the study is using video as media in improving the students’ ability in writing descriptive text. The researcher also limits this study at the second year students of SMP PGRI 1 Kromengan.

1.7 Definition of Key Term

To avoid the misunderstanding, it is important to define the key terms.

1. **Writing:** Writing is an act of forming graphic symbol—that is letters or combinations of letters—that have to be arranged according to certain conventions to form words, and these words have to be arranged to form sentence. (Byrne, 1979-1)
2. **Descriptive text**: Descriptive text aims at giving vivid details of how something or someone looks. (Priyanto 2009).

3. **Video**: Video is the technology that captures moving images electronically. Those moving images are really just a series of still images that change so fast that it looks like the image is moving (http://online.4-hcurriculum.org/uploadedFiles/CURRICULUM/FILMMAKING/Resources/IntroductionVideo_01.pdf).