

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **A. Background of the Research**

Writing skill is the process of delivering ideas, messages, opinions and information from the author to the reader. This skill is used to carry out written communication using language with other people. Hook and Evans (2004) stated that writing is a tool for communication and, therefore can be both a skill and a means of self-expression. In addition, it is of indirect communication activities that occurs between writers and readers.

Writing skill is classified as a productive skill where the author produces a written work. On other hand, writing skill is one of the indicators which can be used to measure students English skills. This idea is further supported by Kingston et al (2002:3) who stated that the achievement of students while learning English is measured by the productive skills, particularly their writing performance. Marhaeni (2005) stated that writing is seen as a cognitive process and a creative process. As a cognitive process, writing aims to express ideas created by the author's mind, a process that occurs in a complex manner in the human brain that cannot be observed. The cognitive process is reflected in the quality of ideas, idea development, and organization. Meanwhile, the creative process involves analysis of goals, imaginative ideas, and critical evaluation. It is a complex process that includes several sub-skills ranging from basic things such as spelling, writing grammar, punctuation and so on. Then, useful means that the writing product shows how effective the writer is at writing and how good the quality of the writing.

One type of writing is argumentative essay writing. It opens minds the writers and displays their creativity. An argumentative essay writing is defined as a debatable issue in which the author, in essence, is asked to write an essay containing his responses, opinions, and positions on these issues (Oktaviani, 2016). It is like arguing, but in written form. Argumentative essay writing is what has a difference from creative and personal writing that emphasizes informality. Writing in this of essay requires a writer to express an opinion/argument formally and objectively that is supported by evidence. Argumentative essay writing is as scientific paper That contains arguments, explanations, proofs, or reasons. Generally, in an argumentative essay, there is an objective review or information followed by examples, analogies, and cause and effect relationship (Housden, 2013).

Based on the preliminary observation conducted at grade X IPA of SMA N 3 HALMAHERA TENGAH, it indicated that students have many difficulties in writing. There were several aspects to be fulfilled by students, such as vocabulary, grammar, and organization. However, in fact students were still not able to fulfill these requirements. Students can not develop their argument in essay writing. and their writing does not reflect a cohesive and coherent essay.

Due to the problem emerged in the teaching and learning process of writing, it is clear that there is an urgent need of an instructional model which could overcome this problem. Hence, the researcher noticed that the use of Problem based Learning in the English instructional process has become more popular and taken into account recently. There were several studies which suggest that Problem Based

Learning enhances teaching and learning process. Problem Based Learning is believed to be able to increase students higher order thinking skills (Fragoulis; 2009). It potentially enhances students motivation towards the taching and learning process and it also works well for the classroom with mixed-skills students which enables the students to share ideas and thoughts to one another (Stoller; 2002; Phillips; 1999). Related to these matters, the researcher figured out that there might be a possibility to improve the writing skill of students by employing Problem Based Learning.

Based on the explanation above and the factors which contributed to students writing difficulties at SMA N 3 HALTENG, the researcher will conduct a study with the title **Improving Students' Argumentative Essay Writing Through Problem Based Learning At SMA N 3 Halmahera Tengah.**

## **B. Scope of The Research**

The researcher delimits the study focusing on improving students argumentative essay writing skill at grade X IPA of SMA N 3 Halmahera tengah.

## **C. Statement of the Problem**

Does the use of problem based learning model significantly improve students' argumentative essay writing at grade X IPA of SMA N 3 Halmahera Tengah, in the academic year of 2021/2022?

Hypothesis of the research:

$H_a$  = The use of problem based learning model significantly improves the students argumentative essay writing at grade X IPA of SMA N 3 Halmahera Tengah.

$H_0$  = The use of problem based learning models does not significantly improve students argumentative essay writing at grade X IPA of SMA N 3 Halmahera Tengah

#### **D. Objectives of the Research**

The objective of this research is to know the extent to which students' argumentative essay writing significantly improve through the use of Problem Based Learning model at grade X IPA of SMA N 3 Halmahera Tengah, in the academic year 2022/2023

#### **E. Significance of the Research**

This research is expected to benefit, the following:

##### 1. Theoretical Significance

This research is expected to be useful for the development of knowledge problem based learning models and increased Argumentative essay writing skills.

##### 2. Practical significance

- a. This study will help students to improve their skills to write argumentative essay.
- b. For teachers, this becomes one of the references for teachers in applying the problem-based learning model to improve their skills to teach argumentative essays writing.
- c. For researchers, this study is expected to provide additional reference for the prospective researchers. Then, it is hoped the result of this study give the valuable information for the next researchers in conducting the study using problem based learning