

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

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

Globalization's effects are becoming more apparent in every aspect of people's lives. Modern communication and technological advancements are becoming more sophisticated, moving from the ordinary to the spectacular, which has an impact on today's globalization. Globalization entails borderless nations, faster travel and trade, connection, and interdependence between nations and their people. For instance, people can travel, trade, study abroad, and socialize with individuals worldwide. Because of this, interaction between people worldwide depends on communication. This impact affects all sectors of life, one of which is communication, where we are free to communicate with anyone, from anywhere, and at any time. To build good and effective communication, we must use language, be it spoken, written, or body language, that can be understood by the other person. The language set to be the unifying language or international language is English. This requires us to be able to speak English so that we are free to communicate with anyone.

The influence of globalization also has an impact on the education sector, where students are required to learn English. In learning English, students must learn how to read, write, speak, and listen properly and correctly in English. Unknowingly, we learn the culture of the British, namely English. However, as

foreigners who study English, of course, before we understand other people's language culture, we must have intercultural communication competence so that misunderstandings do not occur in communication.

Proficiency in intercultural communication is essential for navigating the present wave of globalization. Intercultural competence, according to Murtiningsih (2017), is the capacity for acceptable and successful communication with individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds. Cultural differences cover language, ethnicity, values, norms, attitudes, and others. Michael (2001) mentions that the components of intercultural competence are knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values that are expressed by being part of a social group and being part of a particular community. By paying attention to these things in the process of interacting and communicating, conflicts will be differentiated and reduced. The importance of intercultural communication competence can improve our language skills. As Alfariy (2021) stated, intercultural communication competence, which he views as the ability to support the four more obvious language skills, can be more easily measured as a benchmark. Reading, writing, speaking, and listening are the language abilities needed. Students from different cultural backgrounds study different subjects at school. Of course, the role of intercultural communication competence is very important for students in learning. Ramadhani (2023) states that when teaching English, the level of intercultural communication skills is very helpful in understanding and improving learners' English skills. When we as teachers raise our students' awareness of the cultural aspects of the language, they gain a deeper insight into the English language. Language learning, such as

writing, listening, speaking, and reading are basic skill that learners must acquire. This is similar to learning English, where students first have to recognize and write letters, words, and phrases. The English teacher's role is to help students deal with the fears that may arise when dealing with foreigners.

Teachers should also encourage students to generalize their experiences when exposed to the foreign culture from which they are learning the language. Pandarangga (2021) claims that when teaching and studying English in a classroom, intercultural communicative competence, a concept that integrates knowledge of both the local and target cultures, must be emphasized in addition to language proficiency. It is crucial that individuals learning English as a communication language, such as students, are also aware of cultural distinctions, especially while learning the language for academic purposes. In this way, the students acquire a solid grasp of cultures and proficiency in English as a communication language.

Several studies conducted by Prayoga (2019), Pandarangga (2021), and Ramadhani (2023) state that intercultural communication competence has an impact on language learning, and also the importance of students' intercultural competence in learning English. The researcher wants to gain a deeper understanding of how capable the students are in intercultural communication competence. How big is the ability of students' English writing skills? and is there a significant correlation between students' intercultural communication with their English writing skills? These three points are the formulation of the problem that the author wants to explore in more detail to find answers that can prove whether there is students' intercultural communication competence, students' English

writing ability, and also a correlation between intercultural communication competence and students' writing ability. The SMA Negeri 1 Amfoang Selatan tenth-grade students were selected by the author to serve as the study's sample.

### **B. Problem formulation**

As for the formulation of the problem that will serve as the basis for this research, namely:

1. What is the average level of intercultural communication competency among students at SMA Negeri 1 Amfoang Selatan's tenth grade?
2. What is the mean writing proficiency of SMA Negeri 1 Amfoang Selatan tenth graders?
3. Does the intercultural communication competency of tenth-grade students at SMA Negeri 1 Amfoang Selatan significantly correlate with their writing proficiency?

### **C. Research purposes**

The following is the study's stated objective:

1. To ascertain the mean level of intercultural communication competency among SMA Negeri 1 AMfoang Selatan tenth-grade students.
2. To ascertain SMA Negeri 1 Amfoang Selatan tenth-grade students' average writing proficiency.
3. To determine whether the writing proficiency of SMA Negeri 1 Amfoang Selatan tenth-grade students and intercultural communication competency are significantly correlated.

## **D. Research Significances**

### **1. Theoretical Significances**

- a) Learning materials that support English learning activities, especially to help students learn to read and write.
- b) Reference material for flipboard media in literacy activities.
- c) Serve as a reference for creating harmony and unity;

### **2. Practical Significances**

#### **1. Benefits for Students:**

- a) Students can recognize the importance of intercultural communication.
- b) Students should be able to learn English (reading) correctly.

#### **2. Benefits for Teachers:** Teachers can create a harmonious classroom atmosphere through intercultural communication and teach students to read and write.

#### **3. Benefits for Readers:** Readers know how important intercultural communication competence is when learning a language.

#### **4. Benefits for Researchers:**

- a) Gain experience in conducting research;
- b) The results of this study are expected to provide ideas and input to authors for further research.