

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses background of the research, research problem, research objective, significance of the research, scope and limitation of the research, and definition of key terms.

A. Research Background

Reading is an important intellectual activity in everyday life. Good reading skills not only provide access to information, but also contribute to cognitive development, understanding of the world, and communication skills. In an educational context, good reading skills are the main foundation for academic success. Snow (2013) states that “reading is essential to success in our society. The ability to read is highly valued and important for social and educational progress. According to Chastain (1976), in learning to read, students are required to understand the text to obtain information. They are not required to understand every part of the sentence or paragraph, but they must understand the message the author wants to convey.

One of the important language skills is reading. Reading is not only looking at writing, it is not only identifying the words that are in front of a reader, but reading also requires learning how a word is used and how to implement grammatical rules, understanding ideas and acquiring new words, as well as gaining knowledge or information and messages that you want to convey in written form are important elements in reading that you need to know. by students. Because the main purpose of reading is to find

out the thoughts conveyed through writing. Therefore, Esti (2018) said that reading with comprehension is only a way for the students to arrive at what they want to know from the reading material, however the problem is how to make the comprehension. In this case the author chose news texts in his research. News item text is a kind of genre used to inform readers about the events or something happen of the day. The event is considered newsworthy or important.

In Senior High School, students are expected to be able to develop the ability to read and understand news texts effectively. However, in practice, many students experience difficulty in understanding news texts. Based on observations, the challenges faced by students in understanding news texts can vary. This may include the use of specialized vocabulary, finding the main idea, complex sentence structures, and the need to infer context from limited information. Moreover, English is not the first language for students. Nuttal (1983:78) states that there are 5 problems that students usually face when they read not in their first language, especially when they try to understand texts. These problems are in the form of alphabet codes or symbols, vocabulary and sentence structures, cohesive devices and discourse markers, problems beyond understanding and concepts. All of these problems are most likely caused by the form, sound, vocabulary and structure of Indonesian students' first language being different from English. The research results show that the factors causing students' difficulties in understanding English news texts are lack of vocabulary mastery, students' lack of ability to recognize grammar or structure and

students' passive responses to reading or understanding news texts in English.

There are three previous studies related to difficulties in understanding news item text. The first previous study is from Adriyani Adinda (2020). This study focuses on difficulty and ability to reading English. The research finding showed that students have several difficulties in grammatical confusion, in understanding vocabulary, were unable to translate foreign sentences, and analyzed the paragraphs in each sentence they read. The second previous study is from Larasati Dwi (2019). This study focused on difficulties in comprehending English reading text. The research finding showed that there are students experiencing problem in finding main ideas, understanding vocabulary, making inferences and detailing information. And the last previous study is from Prayitno eko, Sartika Dewi, & Asmara Rekha (2021). This study focused on difficulties in comprehending recount text. The research finding showed that students have problems in six aspects of reading recount text, namely the generic structure of the text, understanding vocabulary, determining the main idea, determining detailed information, finding references, and finding the purpose of the text. It was happened because of several factors such as materials, vocabulary, learners' background, and environment.

Ideally, today High School students must also master the ability to read and understand English, this is because by reading, they will get more information. All kinds of information can be found when students read and understand what they read. Researchers want to know in depth about students' difficulties in understanding news item text which is the reading

material faced by students at SMAN 8 Kota Kediri. This research is entitled "Analysis of Students' Difficulties in Understanding News Item Text at SMAN 8 Kota Kediri." with the hope that the results of this research can be used by students and teachers in improving the process of teaching and learning English, especially in understanding news item text.

B. Research Problem

Based on the background of the study, the writer has formulated the research problems are:

1. What difficulties do students experience in understanding news item text in Senior High School?
2. What are the factors that influence students' difficulties in understanding news item text?

C. Research Objective

According to the formulation of the problem, the objectives to be achieved in this research are:

1. To identify the main difficulties faced by students in understanding news item texts in senior high school.
2. To analyze the factors that influence students' difficulties in understanding news texts.

D. Significance of The Research

1. For teacher

Theoretically, in the future teachers or educators will add various concepts to students' reading learning strategies. Practically, teachers can motivate students to improve their English reading skills.

2. For student

Theoretically, students can understand various learning strategies to speed up and improve reading skills. Practically, students can practice reading learning strategy ideas that are appropriate to education and everyday life.

3. For the next researcher

This research can be used as a supporting reference to equip themselves in reading. Apart from that, it can also be used as additional information in research.

E. Scope and Limitation of The Research

This research focuses on analyzing students' difficulties in understanding news item texts, which includes identifying specific challenges, supporting factors, educational implications, and proposed pedagogical strategies. However, this approach acknowledges limitations, including the potential specificity of geographic and cultural contexts, limited sample size, time constraints, focus on English, the influence of external factors, and the absence of actual implementation and evaluation of the proposed strategies in educational settings. Despite these limitations, this research aims to provide valuable insights in improving news text comprehension among students.

F. Definition of Key Terms

1. Reading

Reading is the activity of somebody who has reads. Reading is a verbal process interrelated with thinking and with all other

communication abilities-listening, speaking, and writing. Specifically, reading is the process of reconstructing from the printed patterns on the page the ideas and information intended by the author.

2. Reading Difficulties

Difficulties is a problem or thing or situation that causes a problem. Reading difficulties is a particular difficulty in acquiring literacy skills (the ability to read, write and spell) so that they have great difficulty in reading, writing and spelling accurately and fluently.

3. News item text

News item text is an English text that tells an important incident or event in a form that resembles news, or is worthy of being made into news to convey information to readers, viewers or listeners, news that is interesting and worthy of being news and in a way that invites public attention.