

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses about the background of the study, the problem of the study, the objective of the study, the limitation of the study, the significant of the study, the hypothesis, and the definition of key terms

A. Background of the Study

Basically, studying language is how people can communicate and interact each other effectively. By the language, people can state their opinion and their feeling easily both written and spoken. English is a foreign language that is taught in every grade of schools especially in Indonesia. In learning English, there are four skills that is studied, those four skills are listening, speaking, reading and writing. So reading is one of the language skills that should be mastered by the foreign language students.

Reading is a fluent process of readers combining information from a text and their own background knowledge to build meaning, and the goal of reading is comprehension.¹ Reading is an essential skill for learners of English as a second language. Reading is also the most important skill to master in order to ensure success not only in learning English, but also in learning any content class where

¹ David Nunan, *Practical English Language Teaching* (New York: Mc Graw Hill, 2003), 68

reading in English is required. With strengthened reading skills, learners will make greater progress and development in all other areas of learning.²

Nowadays, many students have less motivation in reading. The main cause of this matter is indicated that the teaching – learning method that is used by the teachers is not accurate, less variety of the reading materials, the reading materials are not related to the students' life, less integration of reading skill and other skill. Teaching reading that is not included writing causes the students face difficulties in writing and memorizing new vocabulary that is in text. This also causes a difficulty when students are facing UAN, where many of the questions are in a text form or reading comprehension form. Students have to analyze the main idea and the information from the text.

English Teaching – learning method that is used by the teachers especially about reading and writing skill is not too effective yet. Teachers use expository learning, where the teacher gives more explanation by reading the text and translate the text. Sometimes, teachers read the text and students repeat after the teacher, and then the students asked to translate and answer questions about the text. Writing skill is seems separate out with reading, whereas the language skills can be integrated in one skill. So that way, the researcher wants to apply Cooperative Integrated Reading and Composition (CIRC) learning method to teach reading to improve the achievement of reading comprehension.

²Ibid 69

The writer hopes the students can cooperate in their groups of learning, because CIRC is one of cooperative learning form. The usage of CIRC in English teaching – learning process is the independent variable, as for the students' achievement in reading comprehension is the dependent variable. So, by doing this research, the researcher wants students have a better ability in mastering English, especially in reading comprehension.

B. The Problem of Study

Based on the illustration above, the researcher formulates the research problem, "Do the students taught by using CIRC get better reading comprehension achievement than those taught using non CIRC technique?"

C. Objective of the Study

The purpose of this study is to know the achievement of students' reading comprehension after treatment.

D. Significant of the study

This study is expected to be significant for:

1. The students

It can help the student to cooperate and be responsible on the task given by the teacher.

2. The teachers

The teacher can use this learning method as an additional reference to make and to vary the learning-teaching process.

E. The hypothesis

There is a significant increase to the students' achievement in reading comprehension after using CIRC in teaching – learning process.

F. Limitation of the Study

In this study, the researcher concerns only on CIRC use in teaching reading comprehension of grade VIII at SMP GUPPI Kunjang 2013 – 2014.

G. The Key Terms of the Study

1. CIRC ->Cooperative Integrated Reading and Composition, a teaching – learning method that is used to teach English especially for teaching reading comprehension.

2. Students' achievement in reading ->the students' score got from reading text given by the researecher after treatment.