

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### **A. Background of the Study**

Reading is one of four skills that needed to be mastered by the students as the way for making success the learning process. It also has big effect and some roles to comprehend the text. To make the reader easy in their understanding, not just textual meaning but also essential meaning of the text, the reader must be aware their goals. Thus, they must have good reading comprehension.

Having good reading comprehension is not easy. It happens not only on comprehending the second language (L2) text but also on comprehending the first language (L1) text. To help the reader from misunderstanding of the text that using L2 in written text, some previous study showed that using reading strategy could make the reader successful on their comprehension.

Reading strategy can support reader's comprehension to get the high score of understanding. It means that reading strategy can help the reader to make a progress, which is useful in learning process. Michael Pressley (2000) said, there are some strategies to enhance reader's comprehension. Those are vocabulary mastery, predictions include inference, building the prior knowledge, think-aloud, visual representations, summarizing and questioning (Stephanie, 2014). Its statement was similar with Mariotti's statement (2010) which indicated some techniques that can help the reader comprehend. Those are focus on background and related it with the reader's prior knowledge and experience, vocabulary mastery, providing sufficient time for reading and writing in the classroom,

granting students the opportunity to discuss and using reading strategy (Stephanie, 2014).

Both of the researchers agree that vocabulary mastery is one of important element that effect reader comprehension. Vocabulary mastery has high score, which enhances reader understanding. Verhoeven (2003) strengthened Pressley and Mariotti's study in his recent study. He noticed that vocabulary mastery has strong effect on L2 reading ability (William, 2009). On the contrary, some studies showed that mental translation supports reader's comprehension. Kern (2000) investigated that mental translation can make accurate understanding of the text. Mental translation is one of reading strategies that can influence reading comprehension (William, 2009).

To know whether vocabulary mastery or reading strategy has direct and indirect effect on reading comprehension, the author is conducted the study in State Islamic Institute of Kediri (IAIN Kediri). The object of the study is giving the evidence that show "The Effect of Vocabulary Mastery on Students' Reading Comprehension with Reading Strategy as Intervening Variable.

## **B. Research Problems**

Based on what has been described on the background of study, the researcher states the problem of the study as follow:

1. Does vocabulary mastery have direct influence on reading strategy?
2. Does vocabulary mastery have direct effect on reading comprehension?
3. Does reading strategy have direct influence on reading comprehension?

### **C. The objectives of the Study**

Based on the problems of the study above, the purposes of this study as follows:

1. To investigate the direct influence of vocabulary mastery on reading strategy.
2. To investigate the direct influence of vocabulary mastery on reading comprehension.
3. To investigate the direct influence of reading strategy on reading comprehension.

### **D. Significance of the Study**

It is expected that this study will give contribution to the writer which obtained the relation among vocabulary mastery and reading strategy on reading comprehension. It shows the direct and indirect effect among independent variable, dependent variable and intervening variable.

1. Theoretically, this study examined a theoretical model hypothesizing that reading strategy mediates the effect of vocabulary mastery on reading comprehension. It means that vocabulary can give direct effect on reading comprehension which is supported by Pressley, Mariotti, and Varhoeven theory that echoed the effect of vocabulary mastery contribute high score on reading comprehension.

2. Practically, this study can show the relation between direct and indirect effect of vocabulary mastery and reading strategy as the intervening variable on reading comprehension by path diagram.
3. Developmentally, the result of the study will give more information about the effect of vocabulary mastery and reading strategy on supporting reading comprehension.

#### **E. The Scope and Limitation**

The scope of this study is focused on reading comprehension which is tested the effect of vocabulary mastery as independent variable and reading strategy as intervening variable. The study is limited to English department students of IAIN Kediri who is the fourth semester especially the students who take extensive reading as their course. It is also limited on intervening variable (reading strategy) which can use more than one variable and independent variable (vocabulary mastery) which can involve another independent's variable. Another limitation is from the test of vocabulary aspects which just include meaning (antonym, synonym, and denotation), usage (idiom and lexical word), part of speech (transitive and intransitive verb), word family (affixation) and collocation (phrasal verb). The theme that is observed by the researcher is based on extensive reading of English students' on the fourth semester in IAIN Kediri.

## **F. Definition of Key Terms**

The terms in this investigation is used to avoid the misunderstanding among the readers. To make it quite clear in comprehending the study, therefore there are some key terms of vocabulary mastery, reading strategy, reading comprehension and intervening variable

### **1. Vocabulary Mastery**

Vocabulary mastery is from two words. The first is vocabulary, which refers to the words or list of words that used in speaking or writing text as the way to communication. The second is mastery, which is defined as something known based on the experience and it is used on communication. Thus, vocabulary mastery refers to how many list of words that are recognized and used by the people in the writing text or communication.

### **2. Reading Strategy**

Reading strategy is a planning that consist of some steps to help the readers in understanding the text as textual and context easily. Reading strategy makes the reader more effective in manage the time for drawing the information and getting the comprehension. The effect of using reading strategy is the reader can control the reading process more efficient, motivated, and interesting.

### **3. Reading Comprehension**

Reading comprehension is a process of reading that has goal for drawing information or catching the idea of the text that involves the ability to finding main idea, specific information and word meaning. Reading comprehension does not just get the general information of the text, but it also takes the essential information of the text.

### **4. Intervening Variable**

Intervening variable is a variable that has a function as mediator between independent variable and dependent variable. It effects the process from the affectivities of independent variable, as direct-indirect effect on dependent variable. It mediates the effect among the independent variable and dependent variable. The contribution of intervening variable can probably increase as significant of dependent variable result.