

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The first chapter in this research is an introduction. This chapter explains the background of the study, research problem, objectives of the study, the significance of study, the scope and limitation, and the definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of Study

Language is the basic component of communication. Most people use it to talk about everything. Without language, we can not do a communication with others to share more information, knowledge, education, and many things around the world. In this era, English is important for us. In language teaching methods we have the terms language skills and language components in English. There are familiar as four skills such as listening, speaking, writing, and reading. However, among all of these skills reading is the most important skill in learning English. Reading is a crucial skill for English students as a second language. It is the most important skill to make sure success in learning everything. With mastering reading skills, the students can make great progress in another area while learning process in the class. Therefore, the learners should be able to read the text more effectively and efficiently.

Reading is one of the skills that enable one to understand the information clearly. While the reading activity begins, the students should concentrate on the text or their book. Reading is a process of the readers that combines some information from a text and the background of knowledge to get a meaning. And comprehension is a goal of reading activity (Nunan, Practical English Language Teaching, 2003). The aspects of reading comprehension are determined the main idea, find a specific information, making inferences, identify

references, and understanding the meaning. Reading should be optimal to improve students' ability in learning a language. Simanjuntak (2003;4) in (Wahyuni, 2018) stated that reading comprehension is not just reading a text with an aloud voice, but reading is an activity to understand the meaning of word, sentence, and paragraph as well as sense relationship among the ideas.

Reading is important activity. The students' success in the study depends on their ability to read and understand the content. If their reading skill is low, they are difficult to make a progress in their study. On the other hand, if their reading ability is good they are easy to accept more knowledge from any sources. It means reading comprehension is an ability to read a text and process in understanding the meaning of the text.

Reading comprehension needs some strategies and abilities. Then, the students can understand how to find factual information, find the topic and main idea, vocabulary context, and reference words to get information from the text. As we know, most of the students feel difficulty in comprehending the reading text. For some students reading is a difficult activity because it was boring. Exactly, the main problem is they do not understand what they have read before. They also do not have much vocabulary in their background knowledge, and they are confused about what should they do and the meaning of the text. The students are lazy to read the long text in English, and they still lack interest in learning English because they have an opinion that it is the new language to them. They feel difficult to get the point and message from the text and it makes them fail to answer the questions correctly. In this situation, teachers should have a strategy in teaching and learning process more interesting and effective.

Several studies were investigated by Yolanda Melandita in her research entitled “Students’ Difficulties in Comprehending the English Reading Text at the Second Semester of the Eight Grade of SMP Darul Falah Bandar Lampung in the Academic Year of 2018/2019”. The result showed that motivation may be the first obstacle affecting reading comprehension, the second is background of knowledge and then lack of reading strategies. Then, Sri Wahyuni in her thesis entitled “The Students’ Difficulties In Reading Comprehension At Second Grade At Islamic Senior High School Laboratorium Jambi” the result of her study showed that most of students are not understand about content of the text and they less of vocabulary mastery, grammar, and reading interest (Wahyuni, 2018). Another research study was done by Inkholisatun Nafsiah entitled “An Analysis of Students’ Difficulties in Reading Comprehension on Narrative Text” the result showed that 75% of students got difficulty on finding inference meaning. Then, the most difficult aspect of reading comprehension encountered by the students is finding inference meaning.

In this research, the researcher choose the seventh grade students’ of MTsN 1 Kabupaten Kediri as the participants because based on the short interview with the English teacher, the students’ have difficulties in comprehending English descriptive text. It happened because they do not comprehend the text. In this case, the researcher decided to focus on the cemprehending the descriptive text. Because, descriptive text is the material in second semester of the students who attended at seventh grade of Junior High School.

Based on the problem and the statement above, most of students’ have different difficulties in comprehending English descriptive text. This condition becomes a problem because some students said they do not know how to learn English. However, knowing the difficulties in comprehending the reading text is important because it can help teachers to

find the problems faced by students during comprehending the reading text. Dealing with this problem, the researcher interested to find out the difficulty faced by the students. By knowing the difficulties it helps teacher to find an appropriate method to teach the students in comprehending the reading text, especially in descriptive text. Based on the explanation above, the researcher conducted this research entitled “Analysis Of Students’ Difficulties in Comprehending English Descriptive Text at the Seventh Grade Students of Mtsn 1 Kediri.”

1.2 Research Problem

Based on the background study above, the formulation of the problem in this research is :

1. What are the difficult aspects in comprehending English descriptive text faced by the 7th grade students of MTsN 1 Kediri?
2. What are the factors causing the students’ difficulties in comprehending English descriptive text by the 7th grade students of MTsN 1 Kediri?

1.3 The Objectives of the study

Based on the research problem, the objectives of study answered the research problem:

1. To describe the difficult aspects in comprehending English descriptive text faced by the 7th grade students of MTsN 1 Kediri.
2. To know the factors causing the students’ difficulties in comprehending English descriptive text by the 7th grade students of MTsN 1 Kediri.

1.4 The significance of the study

1. The researcher

This research helps the researcher to improve knowledge about it and can give a solution for the problems.

2. For teacher

The result of this result should be a contribution for the English teachers of junior high school to attend teaching and learning practice especially in reading skills in their classroom.

3. For a student

The researcher hopes that this research will give some benefits and be useful for students during reading activities. Students can understand the strategies in doing reading the activity and practice the concept to be a good learner.

4. Further researcher

This research can be used for further information in another study.

1.5 The scope and Limitation

In this research, the researcher focused on the difficulties aspects of the students' in comprehending English descriptive text and the factors causing students' difficulties in comprehending English descriptive text. The participant of this research only the students of VII-H in MTsN 1 Kediri.

1.6 The definition of key terms

The terms that are used in this research are as follows :

1. Student's Difficulties

Students' difficulties are a condition when the students feel difficult to understand the content of the reading text because they do not have enough knowledge and never do practice for developing reading efficiency.

2. Reading Comprehension

Reading comprehension is an activity to get information and understand the meaning of the text. It involves higher-order thinking skills and is much more complex decoding specific words (Nunan, Practical English Language Teaching, 2003). This skill should be mastered because we can get complex information and get ideas more quickly.