CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Reading is an important skill in English. Through reading, the English learners can improve their knowledge and get more information. As it is said by Ramelan (1990: 1):

“Reading plays very important part in your life. Through reading, we can explore the world, countries that have never been visited before and minds or ideas of great people in the past, all of which will enrich our experience and knowledge”.

Reading is like providing the mind with nourishment because through reading we can get knowledge. Knowledge is the food for the mind and the soul. Apart from giving us the basic information about the world around us, it also provides us the food for thought. It encourages us to think and increase our hunger for knowledge and our thirst to learn more.

There is problem faced by students when they have to read a passage, in general the problem is that the students still have low reading comprehension in every activity provided.

This case also happens to the students of SMP N 7 Purwokerto. When the writer did an observation there at 5 February 2011, from the observation, it can be related some problems related to reading, the problem are:
1. The students still got difficulty in understanding the content of the text. That was why the students could not answer the question from reading the text.

2. The students could not find the main idea in each paragraph easily

3. The students lacked vocabulary and they seldom brought dictionary, when the teacher asked them to translate a sentence from reading text, they cannot translate it well.

After interviewing the English Teacher there, the writer got an explanation that this problem caused due to the method that she used in the class, Teacher only ask students to read the text and answer the question. So, the students felt confused about content of the text. Based on the facts above, the writer is inspired to conduct a Classroom Action Research (CAR) using Group Investigation method this method is an appropriate method to improve the student’s reading comprehension.

Group Investigation method is a direct instructional model involves the students to study actively or working in small groups together to perform tasks by investigating, discussing, presenting, and not much different from that of a cooperative learning and learning model that involves student active learning and working in small groups in a collaborative, recruited from 4 to 6 children, with group structure is heterogeneous.
Each group will compete positively in completing tasks more quickly and competitively for the discussion, presenting and reporting the results of their discussion. They always want to finish the work quickly, do the task, submit the results of the work, and wants better than your friends or other groups.

Applying the technique of investigation in the process of group learning activities will greatly assist students in the process of development of intelligence, attitude and emotional. Given the stage of child development is everything as a whole (holistic). Students always want to know by asking questions, expressing opinions, observing, feeling, imitating, trying, and want to have everything that is seen and learned.

The use of group investigation method in the activities of the learning process is expected will increase the students’ learning outcome to an average above the minimum achievement (KKM) namely 66.00. Improving student academic learning outcomes will be reached in a maximum in line with expectations and ideals, especially for students, citizens of the school, parents / guardians, students and society in general.

Based on the description above, the writer is very interested in doing innovative learning through Classroom Action Research (CAR) in the learning of reading comprehension using the technique of investigation group in SMPN 7 Purwokerto.
B. Reasons for choosing the topic
The writer has some reasons to choose the topic, those are:

1. Reading competence needed to be improved of the students of class VII E SMP Negeri 7 Purwokerto, because their reading comprehension competence are still low.

2. Group Investigation is an interesting way to make the students to be more active in classroom and they can comprehend the reading materials easily.

C. The Problem of Research
The problems of this research is stated by question “can Group Investigation (GI) improve students reading comprehension at VIII E students of SMP N 7 Purwokerto, in Academic year 2010/2011.

D. The Aim of the Research
The aim of the research is to improve the students reading in English teaching using Group Investigation (GI).
E. Clarification of the Terms

To understand the topic more easily, essential term of this research classified as follows:

1. Improving

Become or make something better, to achieve or produce something of a better standard or quality that something else (Hornby, 1995: 598).

2. Reading Comprehension

Reading is the process of understanding written language (Rumelhart in Leu, 1987: 9). The concept of reading in this research is the students will learn about types of the text (genre), and it focuses on narrative and recount text. In the students will be able to read the various text (genre) systematically.

3. Group Investigation

Model of group investigation method of learning is one form of cooperative learning teaching model that emphasizes student participation and activity to seek their own information on the lessons will be learned through the materials available, such as textbooks, library books, newspapers, magazines. And/or the Internet. Group Investigation method requires students to have good skills in communicating and in skilled process of group discussion (Lie: 2007).
F. Contributions of the Research

The contribution of this research are:

1. For the English Teacher

   The writer hopes this method will help teacher in motivating students in order to increase their achievement and it can be an alternative method for teacher to apply in the classroom especially using Group Investigation (GI).

2. For the Students

   The writer hopes that research will make the students feel interested in the lesson. So, as result, their ability in classroom activities will be increased.