

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Research

There are many ways to get information, and one way is through reading. Reading has a main role in human being life. Through reading, readers can get the information of science, technology, and others that they do not have before.

Reading is interesting if readers are able to understand what they read. Reading is very important also for the students because reading supports the success of the student's study, and most learning processes are associated with reading skill.

As an effective learning can be done by reading, the students can understand the material that they read because most of books are written in English. Wallace in Nunan (1991: 72) says that reading is purposeful as it can help us to achieve things.

From reading, readers can improve their knowledge and get new information which can explore their competence. Reading becomes the core of teaching-learning process and the final test of English at Junior High School and Senior High School focus on reading comprehension test.

That is why reading comprehension has to be studied, and the students read the book about science, technology, art and culture written in

English. If students do not have ability needed in reading, they will face difficulties in developing their knowledge.

In a reading class, many students have problems in understanding the passage, especially in finding main idea, reference, inference and vocabulary, so that they get difficulties and low marks in reading test.

Based on a pre – observation, conducted in Eighth Year students of MTs Negeri Model Purwokerto, it showed that the students had problems in reading comprehension. When the teacher gave a reading text and some questions based on it, most of the students had problems to answer the questions. The teacher said that most of her students had problems in reading and they had low interest in reading. She told that her students got difficulties in knowing the meaning of the words, and getting specific information of the texts, so they could not answer the questions based on the texts and they got bad score.

From those descriptions, the writer wants to explore more about the students' problems in reading comprehension of the eighth grade of MTs Negeri Model Purwokerto, in a research *A Study On the Problems of Reading Comprehension ( A Descriptive Study at the Eighth Year Students of MTs Negeri Model Purwokerto in Academic Year 2012/2013)*.

## **B. Reason for Choosing the Topic**

The writer chooses this topic because

1. a lot of students have problems in reading comprehension,

2. most of the teaching-learning materials for students of senior high school are in the form of reading text, and
3. the writer wants to know the problems of reading comprehension faced by the eighth year students of MTs Negeri Model Purwokerto.

### **C. Problems of the Research**

Based on the background of study, the problems in this research will be formulated as follows:

1. What is the students' competence in reading comprehension at the eighth year students of MTs Negeri Model Purwokerto?
2. What are the problems of the students in learning reading comprehension?

### **D. Aims of the Research**

Based on the problems of the research, the aim of the research is to describe problems which are faced by the students in reading comprehension mastery.

The aims can be described as follows:

1. To know the students' competence in reading comprehension at MTs Negeri Model Purwokerto.
2. To know the problems that the eighth year students of MTs Negeri Model Purwokerto have.

## **E. Significances of the Research**

The significances of this research are:

### **1. For the English Teachers**

By the description of the problems in reading comprehension, it will be an important input for the teachers in doing their work in guiding the students in teaching-learning process. From this information, the teacher can give the reinforcement in teaching reading comprehension to the aspects of the problems, which have the highest percentage. So the teacher can increase the effectiveness and the efficiency of the process of teaching and learning that they do to solve the limited effective time to get the target of curriculum.

### **2. For the Students**

By the information of the research, students can develop their skill of reading comprehension in the classroom, and they will find it easier in comprehending English written materials.

### **3. For the Educational Reseachers**

The reseachers, particulary in reading subject, can put the result of this research as an input to conduct further research, especially in reading comprehension problems.

### **4. For the Teaching-Learning Process**

By the information of the result of the research, the teaching-learning process actually in reading class will be more effective.

## **F. Clarification of the Terms**

In supporting the research, the researcher uses several terms that need to be clearly defined in order to avoid misunderstanding, misinterpreting, or ambiguity. The definition of the terms in this research are:

### **1. Problems**

Problem is a situation or something which uncertain and difficult to understand, problems or statement which need solving, or something that should be solved (Aziez, 2009: 236)

### **2. Reading Comprehension**

According to Grellet (1988: 3), reading comprehension means understanding information from written materials as efficiently as possible. In this research, it is defined as an ability to comprehend the message and information from printed or written material.

### **3. The Eighth Year Students of MTs Negeri Model Purwokerto**

Students is ones who enroll or attend class at a school, college, or university. In other words, students are the one who study something.

In this research, the meaning of “ the students at the eighth year students of MTs Negeri Model Purwokerto” is the students who are in the eighthgrade of MTs Negeri Model Purwokerto Junior High School in the academic year 2012/2013.