

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

Reading is a process of conveying and acquiring a message graphically from the writer to the readers which involves ability of the reader in getting meaning from the message which is conveyed by the writer through the words or symbol to be understood and interpreted. Reading is very important and essential for the people. In principal, reading is a process to understand the message available in the text. Lado (1964:131) describes that reading is as an activity to understand whole sentences from the part of identification based on their written representation.

According to Finochiaro in Tarigan (1994:8) reading is changing meaning to and getting meaning from printed or written material. It means that understanding a written text means extracting the required information from it as efficient as possible. The reader looks at and understands what is written. The key here is “Understand”. Reading does not mean the foreign learners (or indeed any reader) need to understand everything in the texts.

Ramelan (1990:2) stated that even after leaving school, reading will be useful for the students. By reading magazines, newspaper, and books on some kinds of subject, their mind will increase in maturity. Moreover they have to remember that there is no journey to educate them.

It can be concluded that reading is very important for students either at school or after they graduate from their study.

In fact, many students have some problems in understanding reading text. Based on pre-observation, conducted at Eighth Grade students of SMP Muhammadiyah 3 Randudongkal it was found that the students felt bored and they were not interested in reading activity. The students have low reading comprehension, which is caused their lack vocabulary.

Based on the situation above, the researcher and the teacher as the collaborator discussed how to improve students' reading comprehension and considered that Round table technique is the way or an appropriate technique.

This technique is one of cooperative learning models. It refers to a variety of teaching methods in which students work in small group to help one another learn academic content. This technique is one of teaching techniques where the teacher gives the text and divided the students into groups consist of 4-5 students. The groups are divided in heterogeneous and it is considered based on the score before. In this discussion, all of members in the group are given opportunity to share their ideas or answer the question based on the text and listen to the other members' ideas so there is no student who be passive.

Round table technique is the scientific deliberation that contains ideas exchange, opinion exchange carried out by several people who gather in the group to find out the truth. It means that in this technique, all of students share their ideas or opinion based on the text in with their groups and it will be found the conclusion of the content of the text. This interaction with group mate encourages students to restructure their idea. For instance, they might need to summarize, elaborate, defend, and explain their ideas, Tarmuji (1982:70). According to Lom (2012) state that Round Table in teaching reading can make the students report out with the most creative answer and contributing to a discussion simultaneously. It has benefit for students to develop their ability.

Based on the description above, the researcher and the teacher used Classroom Action Research (CAR) to solve those problems through conducting a research. The researcher is interested in doing a research entitled “ An Effort to Improve Reading Comprehension through Round Table Technique (A classroom Action Research at Eight Grade Students of SMP Muhammadiyah 3 Randudongkal in the Academic Year 2015/2016).

A. Reason for Choosing the topic

There are some reasons why the writer is interested in choosing the topic:

1. Students had low reading comprehension and low interest in following the reading lesson.
2. Round Table Technique can Improve students reading comprehension.
3. Through Round Table Technique Students will get a good achievement in reading.

B. Problem of Research

The problem of this research is “Can roundtable techniques improve students’ reading comprehension of Eight Grade student of SMP Muhammadiyah 3 Randudongkal?”

C. Aim of the Research

The aim of this research is to improve the students’ reading comprehension through Round Table technique at VIII A of SMP Muhammadiyah 3 Randudongkal .

D. Clarification of the Terms

In order to be able to understand the topic more clearly the researcher wants to clarify to key of the terms as follows:

1. Reading Comprehension

a. Reading

Nunan (1991: 72), reading is usually conceived of a solitary activity in which the reader interacts with the text in isolation.

b. Comprehension

Sidjiono (2009: 50) stated that reading comprehension is an ability of someone to understand or comprehend something. The students can be said that she or he is able to comprehend something if she or he can answer the question that is given by the teacher based on the text or material.

Furthermore, reading comprehension is the process of understanding of the text. In comprehending the reading material, the most important thing that is needed to be considered is the components of reading it self.

It can be concluded that reading comprehension is a process of someone to know or understand about the content of the text that they read.

2. Roundtable Technique

Isjoni (2010: 79) stated that Roundtable discussion is one of teaching techniques where the teacher gives the text and divided the students into groups consisting of 4-5 students. The are divided in heterogeneous way and it is considered based on the score before, because it will make combination between the highest and the lowest students. It means that the clever students can help the others students who are low. In this discussion, all of members in the groups are

given the opportunity to share their ideas or answer the questions based on the text and listen to the other members' ideas so there is no student who be passive.

When students become actively engaged in discovering information for themselves, they would be able to solve problems and learn on their own. By doing this technique it will help the students to comprehend the text easily.

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E. Contribution of the Research

By doing this research, it is expected that the results of this research give contribution for the English teacher, for the students and also for the other researcher.

1. For students:
 - a. Students experience in learning English by using *Round Table* technique to teach reading.
 - b. Students can improve their reading comprehension, so they will enjoy reading activity.
2. For teacher:
 - a. Teacher gets information using of *Round Table* technique to teach reading.
 - b. It can be a good alternative to teach reading more interested.
3. For researcher:

- a. It will improve her performance in teaching activity and skill.
- b. It can be used as a new teaching style for reading comprehension.

