

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

There are four skills in English namely speaking, reading, listening and writing. Among the four skills above, reading is very important and becomes more important in this modern world, when the development in every life aspect occurs very quickly. As a part of language skill, reading plays an important role for the success of language learning. In reading activity, the students do not only read the text, but also try to understand what they read. Reading enables students to find out more information and improve their knowledge. It is also necessary for learners to increase their language, get new vocabularies, and learn grammatical rules.

Ideally, in reading instruction students need more than just recognizing the meaning of word by word. They have to comprehend the content of the text in order to be able to get what the author's message in the text. It is strengthen by Nunan (1994: 125) who said that reading was a dynamic case most particularly with the readers' knowledge of the experimental content of the text. It means, if the students are able to comprehend the content of the text, they will be able to recognize the author's message.

Based on the observation, there were some problems faced by VIII D students at SMP Muhammadiyah Sumbang, the students were low in reading comprehension. This problem occured because of some reasons. They had

low motivation when the teacher asked them to read the text related to the material, the students still found difficulties in understanding the message and new information in the text and the teacher did not use technique properly, the reading teaching and learning activities is more teacher-centered and the students only required to answer questions without any sharing ideas or discussion with their pairs or groups.

Based on the problem above, the alternative is needed to improve students' reading comprehension and the alternative is Think Pair Share technique. Think Pair Share is a strategy developed by Lyman and associates (1985) to provide students with "food of thought" on given topic, enabling them to formulate individual ideas and share their ideas with another students.

Think Pair Share is selected because it has some advantages for learning reading comprehension. By using TPS, the students are able to think individually to understand the content of the text. The students can think critically based on what the students read. After understanding the content of the text, then the students discuss it with the pair and explain the ideas or opinions about the answer in pair. The students can give opinion with the partner, can be attentively partner. After discussing, the students discuss the appropriate answer, and then share it to the class. The students are able to give opinion confidently in front of the class. It can be seen that TPS can improve the students' comprehension in reading

Based on the explanation above, that is why it is interesting to conduct a research in improving students' reading comprehension through Think Pair

Share at the second grade students of SMP Muhammadiyah Sumbang in academic year 2012/2013.

B. Reason for Choosing the Topic

Teaching a foreign language especially English is not easy as teaching the first language. Usually teaching reading is difficult for the teachers. The students are not interested in learning reading skill because they find difficulty learning reading especially in comprehending the text. The teachers never use an appropriate technique in teaching reading, and it makes the teaching learning activity is not effective and efficient. Considering the important of reading skill, the teachers need an innovation in teaching reading to improve students' reading comprehension. Think Pair Share as the additional technique is needed in English teaching learning process that can give motivation to the students in learning English particularly in reading comprehension.

C. Problem of the Research

From the background above, the researcher formulates the problem of this research as follow "Can Think Pair Share (TPS) improve students' reading comprehension?"

D. Aim of the Research

The aim of the research is to improve students' reading comprehension of the second grade students of SMP Muhammadiyah Sumbang.

E. Contribution of the Research

It is expected by doing this research, it will give several contributions that will increase teachers' creativities and teaching qualities in elaborating the teaching technique. It also expected to enhance students' activeness, motivation, and participation in class because the teacher will try new things so that they will feel interested in joining the class, and it is a good way to make the students are able to comprehend the text easily. Finally, this research is also expected to give several contribution to curriculum that teachers will help the school to develop their curriculum in terms of learning materials development.

