

## CHAPTER K

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. The Background of the Research

In general, the aim of learning reading is to develop student's reading skill, so that they can read English texts effectively and efficiently. Readers should have a particular purpose in their mind before they interact with the text to be able to read effectively and efficiently. By reading, students are hoped to get process of understanding discourse, particularly in written form.

Based on the curriculum supplement on English language of Junior High School, some objectives of the teaching and learning reading in Junior High School are: (first) to get certain piece of information, (second) to identify the general idea and get main idea both explicitly and implicitly, (third) to understand meanings in simple essay of the text, (fourth) to respond meanings of simple short functional written discourses accurately, fluently, acceptably related to surrounding environment.

Reading is a great way to review and remember English words. By reading newspapers, text book, and magazines, students will remember what they learn in a long period of time after they have completed an English learning class. Reading is an interesting activity that can be enjoyed by all ages. However, sometimes it is very difficult to understand a reading text particularly for reading comprehension activity. One's reading skill quality will increase along with amount of people time to

spend to read. Thorndike (1967:217) in his book *Law of Exercise* explains that the more practices one has, the better his or her reading skill in gaining detailed information from the passage will be. In other words, it is like a knife that is frequently sharpened, it will become sharper.

Reading is a lesson material that makes students get bored if it is not given in effective and efficient ways. Many students at any levels from elementary to university have the problem in reading, particularly reading comprehension. Comprehension is the ultimate goal of reading. Chair (2002:64) suggests that reading comprehension is the process of simultaneously extracting and constructing meaning through interaction and involvement with written language. However, there are a number of factors which may interfere with an individual's ability to comprehend text material. For instance, students cannot understand a passage, which is followed by questions, as a result, they get low marks in English. In addition, students do not like English reading activities in class which causes them to have deficiency in reading comprehension.

From those problems mentioned previously, there are several factors which caused them. Kurniawati (2005:45) states several problems of students in learning reading comprehension which can be influenced by several factors are:

a. Pronunciation

It occurred because there are differences of pronunciation system between student's native language and English as the target language.

b. Vocabulary

The lack of vocabulary mastery causes the students are difficult to study and understand the passage.

c. Grammar

The arrangement of English sentences is difficult to be understood particularly for students of Junior High School.

Futhermore, Kurniawati (2005:47) also lists eight factors which cause the problems of students in learning reading comprehension, they are:

1) Intelligence

The students cannot read correctly and understand the passage in a short period of time.

2) Interest

The students do not like English articles and reading activities in class, which mean they do not have any interest in English reading activities.

3) Family support

There are not one can master English language. One disables to learn a new language when he gets supports and motivation from relatives or his family.

4) Aptitude

It is difficult for students to recall new vocabulary.

5) Media

The teacher lacks using media when he teaches reading material.

6) Attitude

The students are not confident enough to ask some questions if they have difficulties.

7) Motivation

The students do not have motivation to learn English seriously.

8) School environment

The school lacks media to support reading teaching learning process.

Based on the pre - observation, the method used by the teacher in teaching reading comprehension in one of Junior High School in Banjarnegara is grammar translation method. The method requires students to translate whole texts word for word and memorize numerous grammatical rules and exceptions as well as enormous vocabulary lists. Moreover, students who bring a dictionary are less than seven students in each class. During teaching and learning process, the students are asked to read loudly and translate each of the English sentences in reading book or student's worksheet. If there was a problem in reading, for example mispronunciation, the teacher corrected directly once students made mistakes.

From the explanation mentioned previously, the research will be done to find out the problems of learning reading comprehension faced by second grade students at SMP N 2 Banjarnegara and factors which cause those problems.

## **B. The Statement of the Problem**

The problems in this research are:

1. What are the problems of the students in learning reading comprehension?
2. What are the factors that cause the problems in learning reading comprehension?

## **C. The Reason for Choosing Topic**

In this research, there are several reasons why the problems of learning reading comprehension of the second grade students of SMP N 2 Banjarnegara in academic year 2012/2013 will be investigated:

1. Reading is one of an important skill especially for Indonesian students because reading is a bridge to enrich the knowledge and technology.
2. Reading is very interesting but problematic. This is an interesting activity, but almost all the people in Indonesia do not like reading, especially reading comprehensive. Because of that, the writer would like to analyze something causing the problem in learning reading comprehension.
3. Reading is very important for teacher and students to know the factors, which can influence the students in learning reading comprehension. Through it, the teacher can determine the method of teaching reading comprehension as good as possible.

#### **D. The Aim of the Research**

The aims of the research are:

1. To know the problems of students in learning reading comprehension.
2. To know the factors that cause the problems in learning reading comprehension.

#### **E. Clarification of the Terms**

##### 1. Problems of Learning in Reading Comprehension

Benjamin and Virginia (2000:62) define that reading problem is a learning problem that involves significant impairment of reading accuracy, speed, or comprehension to the extent that the impairment interferes with academic achievement or activities of daily life. Reading problem is a learning disorder characterized by a significant disparity between an individual's general intelligence and his or her reading skills.

##### 2. Learning Process

Kimble (1961, p.6) defines learning as a relatively permanent change in behavioral potentiality that occurs as a result of reinforced practice. Learning is an integrated, ongoing process occurring within the individual, enabling students to meet specific aims, fulfill student's needs and interests, and cope with the living process.

##### 3. Reading Comprehension

Reading is way of getting the meaning or knowledge from the printed page such as textbooks, newspaper, magazines, and novels.

Nowadays, the scope of reading media enlarged not only to printed media but also by using internet. Time of five (2006:89).

Tampubolon (1987:6) argues that reading comprehension give two knowledge for readers, such as new information and the way to present some ideas in the text. So, human beings can enrich knowledge and increase an intellectual achievement. He also says that reading comprehension is cognitive process that includes braining activity and memorizing.

