

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of Research

Learning language is a learning that will be used for communicating. Those purposes are included in the mastery of four language skills, i.e. reading, listening, writing and speaking. They must properly be introduced to the students to reach the goal of language learning.

Among the four skills that have been mentioned above, reading is the most important skill. By reading someone can get some information about science, technology, and other announcement of the world. Through reading someone 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, and broaden our horizon. It means that by reading someone can know something that have been known, seen, and visited before. Of course this way can make someone have good knowledge.

Teaching students to read can be difficult when students struggle and despite all efforts. The common problem faced by the teachers in English reading class deals with the students' low reading comprehension in every activity provided. This condition become since

the students' competence of reading can be a good starting point to students' language mastery.

Based on observation, there were some problems faced by students at X-6 grade of SMA Al hikmah 2 Benda, the students were very low in reading comprehension. This problem occurred 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 content of the text and the teacher did not use technique properly.

One way to help the students' problem in comprehending reading text is using Discussion Technique. Discussion technique is a technique to develop ideas exchange ideas between teacher and the students, students with other students. By discussion technique the students is clever are hoped can help and support the students is passive when they are in group working and they also can share about the material which they do not understand yet. In discussion technique the students discuss about the reading material in group in order that the students can comprehend the content of the text well whereas the teacher control the students.

Based on explanation above, it could be concluded that using discussion Technique can solve students' problem in reading. Thus, this research entitles “ *Improving Students' Reading Comprehension Through Discussion Technique*”.

B. The Reasons for Choosing the Topic

There were some reasons of choosing the topic and doing a research;

Those are

1. Reading is one of the important skills that must be done well to get important information in the text, but there are a lot of students can not understand well the information.
2. Discussion Technique requires students to share their ideas or experience, so they can understand the text easily.

C. The Problem of Research

The problem of this research is “ Is discussion technique able to improve the students’ reading comprehension at the X-6 grade of SMA Al Hikmah 2 Benda ?”

D. The Aim of Research

Based on the problem formulated above, the aim of this research is to know whether Discussion Technique can improve students’ reading comprehension at the X-6 grade of SMA Al – Hikmah 2 Benda in the academic year 2011 / 2012 or not.

E. The Contribution of Research

This research was expected to contribute to the improvement of English teaching process.

1. For teacher

It will enrich the English teaching technique; it will help the teacher in solving the problem about the students’ reading comprehension.

2. For students

The discussion technique will improve their reading comprehension. They will understand about the content of the text by discussion technique, and it will make them get a good achievement in learning English.

3. For researcher

It will improve her performance in teaching activity and her teaching skill.

F. The Clarification of the Terms

1. Improving

Pei in Hidayah (2011: 4) stated that *to improve* means bring to be more desirable or excellent condition, to be better or to increase in value or excellent.

2. Reading Comprehension

a. Reading

According to Tampubolon (1987: 6) reading is a manner to build reasoning power.

b. Comprehension

Revine in Renggo (2011: 6) stated that comprehension is reading for understanding, reading for understanding is reading for meaning, and reading for meaning is comprehension, it means that to comprehend a text the reader should understand what the text about.

Based on that definition, it can be concluded that reading comprehension is a reading activity that the reader or the students have to understand what the text or the author talks about, so that they can answer the exercises well.

3. Discussion Technique

a. Discussion

According to Sunaryo (1989: 128) Discussion is extended communication (often interactive) dealing with some particular topic between two or more individual to exchange the opinions or solve the problems with specific purpose.

b. Technique

Technique is a practical method applied to some particular task.

Based on that definition, it can be concluded that discussion technique is a practical method used in communicative activities dealing with some particular topic that are considered it.