

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Research

Teaching was not only transferring the knowledge to the students, and learning was not merely the activities done by the students based on the teacher's instruction. Without students' participation, classroom activity would be passive. Students should take part in class, such as doing the instruction correctly, making an interaction between students and teacher continuously, so the teacher would know whether their material was delivered successfully or not.

However, as we know that there was lack of students' involvement in classroom activity. Students' roles commonly were just sitting on the chairs, listening to the teacher and doing the teacher's instruction moreover in reading class. They were not serious in following the class. They were not interested in following the reading class because most students did not give their attention in reading class.

Reading was one of the most important skills that should be acquired by the students. Reading could be a stepping stone for them in order to succeed in their study and in their life. Without the ability to read effectively, students would lose lots of opportunities in their education and in their real life situation in the future. The ability to read would lead students to gain new knowledge and enjoy the beauty of literature. For example, reading

newspapers, magazines, novels, maps, manual instructions and so on. Furthermore, by reading people would not only get new information from the texts but also get the knowledge of the language used in the texts. Reading could help students to increase their language knowledge, such as new vocabularies, phrases, idioms, and many more when they read various kinds of books.

Students' participation in reading class was less than the other skill. Students' participation in reading class required a good interaction and communication not only between students and teachers but also students and students. The communication between students and students could improve students' participation in reading class.

As I know in the class VII of Junior High School Muhammadiyah Maos when taking the data of pre-activity, there was 0 or no students who asked questions. All students were not confident to ask questions even they did not understand. They just kept silent. And there were only 9.09% or three students in answering the questions. There were only 6.06% or two students in giving opinions. And the last, there were only 15.15% or five students in correcting the students' answers. In short, the participation in that class was low. The class was needed a treatment to increase the participation in the class.

Students' participation in learning was essential for creating active, creative, and fun learning. According to Tannuenbaun & Hahn in Sukidin (2002:159) participation is a level of how far the members of group involves themselves in activity and contribute their power and ideas in the

implementation of the activity. The use of appropriate strategies and methods would determine the success of teaching and learning activities.

Considering to the stated above, the researcher could use round table discussion to solve this problem. According to Taniredja (2011: 23) discussion is a process of seeing two or more individuals interacting with each other verbally and mutually beneficial then goals or targets has been determined by way of exchange of information, or problems. The method in questioning was the way of presentation lesson material where the teacher gave students opportunities (groups of students) to hold a scientific discussion to collect opinion, make conclusions, or arrange various alternatives over a problem. Discussion was an effective way to facilitate learning. Discussion could provide teacher with an opportunity to assess student understanding of course material. In addition students could explore their ideas. Most importantly, discussion allowed students to participate actively in the learning process.

Discussion would be more effective when there were some techniques applied within it. One of the appropriate techniques was Round Table. Round table was cooperative learning technique which needed the students to work together in a small group by taking turns in a round table. According to Kagan (2009: 6:34) round table is a cooperative learning model in which students provide feedback (ideas) in turn to solve the problem. Round table was one of structured teaching and learning activity emphasizing on students' group work in a heterogenic team. These enabled the production of positive dependence so that it could acquire the responsibility among group members. Thus, as round

table discussion was technique that students were demanded to be more active and productive in the learning process rather than passive and receptive. It was proposed that students were set in a more student-centered learning rather than teacher-centered learning.

B. Reasons of Choosing the Topic

1. The low participation of students at first grade in Junior High School Muhammadiyah Maos to follow the learning activities in reading class.
2. To improve the participation of the students; Round Table Discussions was the appropriate method to be applied.

C. Problem of the Research

Based on explanation above, the problem that would be observed in this research was “Did the Round Table Discussion improve students’ participation?”

D. Aim of the Research

Based on the reasons above, the aim of the research was to know whether or not of round table discussion could improve the students’ participation as class VII of Junior High School Muhammadiyah Maos students in joining the English lesson activities of the school year 2017/2018.

E. Contribution of the study

The contributions of research were given for the following people:

1. For English Teacher

Giving experience in doing Classroom Action Research (CAR) by theater using round table discussion in classroom.

2. For Other Researchers

The researcher hoped that this research inspired future researcher to conduct the research that was related to apply round table discussion in learning English in the school.

