

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

Reading is an action to see and understand a text. It is very true because reading requires the use of vision to understand a few words in a sentence and make them meaningful. Reading may give several benefits for language learners and provide the students a good model for English writing, an opportunity to study vocabulary, grammar, punctuations, and also gives a real illustration of how to construct sentences, paragraphs, or a passage. Alderson in Gebre (2016: 87) states reading plays a very important role in our lives and Mozayan (2012: 2423) states that the more someone reads, the more they pick up items of vocabulary and grammar from text, often without realizing it, and this widening language knowledge seems to increase their overall linguistic confidence.

In reading, the students not only read with an aloud voice but reading is a process of getting meaning from the text through comprehension. By comprehending the text will help the students to develop more complete to get information of what they read and lead them into a deep understanding of the text. The students who understand what they are reading can more easily go beyond the given information on the page.

Reading and comprehension are two things that cannot be separated. Reading means understanding the text and it is the same thing as comprehension. Reading comprehension is not simply reading with a loud voice, but reading comprehension is additionally settled to comprehend the significance of words, sentences, passages, and thoughts. According to Woolley (2011: 15) “reading comprehension that should be mastered by readers to comprehend the text”.

Comprehension is an active process, which the reader actively engages in a text to construct meaning. Therefore, reading comprehension is to understand the contents of the reading and all information explicitly and implicitly using knowledge and reasons to understand the ideas of the reading. Comprehension in learning is a level of ability that expects someone to be able to understand the

meaning or concept, situation, and fact low. In this case, do not only memorize verbally, but understand the concept of the problem or fact to be asked, then the operation can distinguish, change, prepare, present, arrange, interpret, explain, demonstrate, give examples, estimate, determine, and make decisions.

Reading comprehension is one of the reading processes in comprehending a text. Patrick (2013: 35) mentioned that characterized that reading comprehension is normal as the performed reading outcome, as is obtaining analytical thinking specifically when higher reading abilities are underlined. Unfortunately, teaching reading comprehension in Indonesian schools has several problems that are caused by many factors and aspects, hard material given, the strategy used by the teacher, and so on, so the teachers have to find the solution if the teachers want teaching process will run well.

However, there are still many students who have difficulty understanding reading texts. Reading difficulties is a common problem of students, Hasanah, (2019:4). Likewise, Students in Vocational High School, also have difficulty in reading. They must also master reading skills because they will find a lot of reading material. However, getting something is not easy for students.

In learning to read comprehension, the teacher added that the students of SMPN 05 Tanah Pinoh Barat, Melawi Regency, especially grade VII, got a daily test score of 40-70. The importance of reading skills in developing English mastery, so students' difficulties in understanding English reading texts must be identified, and what factors make students difficult in reading comprehension. That way, teachers at schools know the difficulties of students, and can also develop appropriate learning strategies, so that students can improve their understanding of the texts they read.

There are previous studies that have similarities with this study conducted by Estika Satriani (2018). She researched "Reading Comprehension Difficulties Encountered by English Students of Universitas Islam. She found difficulties faced by students, there were several aspects, namely, lack of motivation in reading, lack of skills, and these students did not have background knowledge, so the lessons were not studied well. The other study by Febri Nila Rosaria

Hutagalung¹, Dervine Hutagalung², Dinaria Veronika Simanjuntak³, Putri Delima Yanti Tampubolon⁴. The purpose of this study was to analyze the students' ability in understanding the Recount Text. This research used descriptive qualitative method. This research was conducted at SMK Dharma Bakti 1 Medan. The sample of this research was 17 students of class 10 TKJ. This study used a reading test and interview instruments. The last is Sarwaswati, et al. (2021) conducted a study on students' difficulties in reading comprehension in eighth-grade students at SMP N4 Tegallalang. The result is that students have difficulty in five aspects of reading comprehension.

From the explanation above, this research has similarities with those described above, namely the same in explaining reading difficulties. But students and goals in research are different. Middle school, university, and eighth-grade students may have different difficulties. Therefore, this research should be carried out.

Based on the description above, the researcher conducted a study on the analysis of learning difficulties in English in class VII students. Therefore, it is necessary to do research "AN ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' DIFFICULTIES IN READING COMPREHENSION AT SMPN 05 TANAH PINOH BARAT (Descriptive Study on Class VII Students of SMPN 05 Tanah Pinoh Barat Melawi regency)"

B. Research Questions

The research questions are:

1. What are the difficulties faced by students in reading comprehension of class VII SMPN 05 Tanah Pinoh Barat?
2. What factors caused students difficulty in reading comprehension in class VII SMPN 05 Tanah Pinoh Barat?

C. Research Purposes

The research purposes of this research is:

1. To find out the difficulties faced by students in reading comprehension in class VII SMPN 05 Tanah Pinoh Barat.
2. To find out the factors that caused students difficulties in reading comprehension class VII SMPN 05 Tanah Pinoh Barat.

D. Research Significance

The existence of this research is expected to be a useful study including the following:

1. Theoretical Significance

The results of this study are expected to be a source of theoretical knowledge and to determine students' difficulties in reading comprehension.

2. Practical Significance

a. For Teachers

The results of this study can be an input to increase knowledge which caused students to experience difficulty in reading comprehension so that they can be a reference in designing English learning, overcoming student learning difficulties, and providing motivation to students in learning English.

b. For Researcher

This paper is expected to contribute ideas to other researchers if they want to carry out research related to the difficulty of reading comprehension.

c. For a Students

This research was useful to improve the students' activity in reading class and to help students solve the problem in reading activities.

E. Scope of Research

1. Research Variable

Research variables are everything that is determined by the researcher. Exit to study so that information about the subject is obtained, then summarized. In essence, each variable is a concept, specific to the variation in values. In this study, the variables used are single. According to Sugiyono (2014: 95), variables are anything in the form that is determined by the researcher to study so that information is obtained about it, then conclusions are drawn. Theoretically, a variable can be defined as an attribute of a person or object that has variations between one person and another or one object to another.

According to Abuzar Asra (2017: 381), a single variable is also called a single index. A single index or variable only discusses one variable. Based on the description above, this research is focused on one variable, namely with the title “An Analysis of Students Reading Comprehension at SMPN 05 Tanah Pinoh Barat”.

2. Research Terminology

Terminology was stated to avoid misinterpretation and misunderstanding of the terms used in this research. They will be explained by the researcher as follows:

a. Students Difficulties

Difficulties are errors faced by students in the teaching and learning process. This happens because students are confused or do not know or understand the material that has been explained by the teacher.

b. Reading Comprehension

Reading comprehension is the demonstration of getting what you read. In the interim, a simple definition can express that the activity is not easy to be educated, learn, or practice. Reading comprehension is a deliberate, active, and interactive process that occurs before, during, and after an individual has read a specific piece of writing. Reading comprehension is significant because without it reading does not give any data to the reader.

c. Students of SMPN 05 Tanah Pinoh Barat

SMPN 05 Tanah Pinoh Barat is one of the schools located in Pelita Jaya village, precisely in Rasau Jaya, Tanah Pinoh Barat District, Melawi Regency.

d. Descriptive Quantitative Research

Descriptive quantitative research is simply a quantitative research method. Descriptive quantitative research attempts to collect quantifiable data of the population sample for statistical analysis. The descriptive method of research is used to describe a population or situation accurately.

e. Descriptive Qualitative Research

Descriptive qualitative research is a study that explains to understand the phenomenon of the subject of research, behavior, perception, motivation, action, etc., holistically, and the way of describing the result in the form of words and sentences.