

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

Reading is one of the most significant abilities for English learners who study English as a foreign language in particular. They can get information in many ways through reading, such as reading books, newspapers, journals, magazines, comics, etc. According to Miculecky (2011:5) reading is a complex conscious and unconscious mental process in which the reader uses a variety of strategies to reconstruct the meaning that the author is assumed to have been intended, based on data from the text and from the readers prior knowledge. In other words, reading is a process carried out by readers to obtain information conveyed by the author.

As a role in learning and one of the foremost common ways to get information, reading can be developed inside and outside the classroom, also by reading, students' can get the meaning of a text easily if they have good comprehend in a text. Reading means to understand what writer tries to present in his/her writing. This means that a reader needs background knowledge and competence while reading. Razali and Razali (2013:3) states some readers use their background of knowledge and experience to compose meaning from the text in reading process, then the readers will connect the ideas in the text to what they already know in order to get the comprehension of the text. In these words, readers can understand what material they are reading after discovering the ideas contained in the text and combining them with the experiences and knowledge they already have.

Comprehending a text is very crucial in reading. Based on Nida (2010:35) says that comprehension is automatic word processing, powerful general meaning abilities, main ideas representation and it requires very rapid processes. It means the students can be good readers if they have good comprehension. Futhermore, Brown (2003:54) said reading comprehension is the construction of the meaning of a written the thought of a reciprocal

interchange of ideas between the reader and the message in the particular text. In these words, the readers must be able to understand to interpret and to select actual information from the text.

Based on the explanation above, reading comprehension is important in language because the students can get information, ideas, and knowledge. It can be explained that reading is the combination of word recognition, intellect and emotional interrelated with prior knowledge to understand the text. Thus, reading comprehension is period knowledge, the reader to gain context analysis, and interactive process between. It is the ability to read the text, process it, and understand its meaning.

Many students have low ability in reading comprehension. According to Oberhozer (2005:11) in reading there are two kinds of difficulties, namely inter-lingual difficulty and intra-lingual difficulty. Futhermore, Westwood (2008:88) said some factors that cause reading difficulties are limited vocabulary, lack of fluency, lack the familiarity with the subject matter, difficulty level of the text, inadequate use of effective reading strategies, weak verbal reasoning, problem with processing information, and problem in recalling information after reading. In other words, there are many factors that cause students difficulties when learning English, especially in reading comprehension of the text.

By doing so, the researcher feel interested in conducting a study that focuses on factors causing students' difficulties in reading comprehension. In this case, the researcher was investigating at eleventh grade students of SMA Santo Benediktus Pahauman. So this research entitles "Factors Causing Students' Difficulties in Reading Compehension".

B. Research Question

Based on the background above, the questions of this research are:

1. What are the difficulties faced by students in reading comprehension at the eleventh grade students of SMA Santo Benediktus Pahauman in the academic year of 2022/2023?

2. What are the factors causing the students difficulties in reading comprehension at the eleventh grade students of SMA Santo Benediktus Pahauman in the academic year of 2022/2023?

C. Research Purposes

The purposes of this research are:

1. To analyze the difficulties faced by students in reading comprehension at the eleventh grade students of SMA Santo Benediktus Pahauman in the academic year of 2022/2023.
2. To analyze the factors causing the students difficulties in reading comprehension at the eleventh grade students of SMA Santo Benediktus Pahauman in the academic year of 2022/2023.

D. The Benefits of Research

The researcher expected that the result of this research useful both theoretically and practically.

1. Theoretically

The research study can be one of the references in creating interesting reading comprehension to motivate the students in learning the reading comprehension.

2. Practically

- a. To the Teacher

The research findings can be used as a starting point for teaching reading comprehension to students so that in the future students can learn easily and comfortably without any obstacles or difficulties encountered while learning.

- b. To the Students

The research study can motivate students in learning the reading comprehension. So, that in the future students can find out where the difficulties they face and how to overcome them.

c. To the Students of English Study Program

This research can be a reference for them if they would like to conduct a research concerns analyzing the students reading comprehension. They can also see whether there are similarities or differences in the difficulties students face in each school in learning English.

d. To Other Researchers

The findings of the study are expected to inspire other writers interested in replicating a study with a similar theme or purpose on different subjects. So, that other authors can easily complete the research they are doing.

E. Scope of the Research

1. Research Variable

Variable in a research is very important because it tells us about what is going to be measured. On the other word, variable is characters that will be measure by the research. Variable is the construction or a characteristic that can take on different values or scores (Ary et al 2010:37). This research focuses on the single variable. That is students' difficulties in reading comprehension.

2. Terminology

The terms in this investigation is used to avoid the misunderstanding among the readers. To make it clear in comprehension therefore there are some key terms such students' difficulties, reading comprehension and SMA Santo Benediktus Pahauman.

a. Students' Difficulties

Students' difficulties are learning that is condition that causes interruption in learning process and also the difficulties faced by the students' in learning that influence the development of students' learning.

b. Reading Comprehension

Reading comprehension is the process of simultaneously extracting and constructing meaning through interaction and involvement with written language. It consists of three elements: the reader, the text, and the activity or purpose for reading. Reading comprehension involves the ability in finding out main ideas, specific information, and word meaning.

c. SMA Santo Benediktus Pahauman

SMA Santo Benediktus Pahauman is the level of senior high school which in eleven grade students is interactive skill. There are 4 classes of eleven grade students of SMA Santo Benediktus Pahauman.