

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### **A. Research Background**

Reading comprehension is one of the elements in reading skill of English. It is a skill that is focus on understanding about the content of text. According to Nakamoto et al (2008) in Javed et al (2015:141), “reading comprehension is a vigorous process of constructing meaning from a piece of text and understanding it effusively and comprehensively”.

In ideal condition of reading comprehension, students have to know and understand about five aspects of reading comprehension. They are; finding main idea, finding factual information, guessing vocabulary, identifying reference and inference of text. They are very important in reading comprehension because it can help the students on understanding about the content of the reading text.

In facts, based on the observation when the researcher was teaching practice process of learning at MAN 2 Kapuas Hulu, the researcher found some problems in learning reading comprehension of the tenth grade students. There were unable to find the main idea and factual information of paragraph. They were unable to guess the unknown vocabulary of English text. They were unable to identify the reference and inference of English text. All of them were proved by their individual score in reading comprehension test which were still poor and not shown any improvement.

Prior to the initial conditions of the study, the researcher found the students who were not active in the class. They had low participation when the learning activities took place. They did not confident in the learning activity. Their activities were limited to listened, observe and record what the teacher presented. There were some of them who were not enthusiastic, and talked each other when the lesson happened in the class. The reading process has not shown any improvement. Their achievement on reading comprehension test was still poor.

Actually, though reading comprehension the students can increase their knowledge and activity in the class if the teacher could be a creative teacher. The teaching method that is chosen and used by the teacher should be appropriate and suitable with the students problems in learning activity because, it will affects to students' achievement.

Based on all reasons above, the researcher tried to offer a solution by using Learning Cell method to improve the students' reading comprehension. According to Goldschmid (1971) in McKeachie (1990), "Learning Cell, or student dyad, refers to cooperative learning in pairs in which students alternate asking and answering questions on commonly read materials". It is a suitable method for helping the students in learning reading comprehension, because in learning cell method, the students allowed by the teacher to generate idea on certain topics by asking the question and answering it according to his pre-reading. These activities will definitely increase their understanding of reading text since the

students are required to think by themselves before the actual lecture is taken place. The researcher hopes that by using learning cell method in this research will make students have high participation and active in learning activities in order to improve their skill on reading comprehension.

Therefore, the researcher was interested in investigating how the learning cell method improve the students' reading comprehension to the tenth grade students of MAN 2 Kapuas Hulu by taking the title "The Use of Learning Cell Method to Improve Students' Reading Comprehension".

## **B. Research Problem**

Based on the background above, the problem of this research can be formulated by the researcher in question "How can Learning Cell method improve the students' reading comprehension at the tenth grade of MAN 2 Kapuas Hulu in the academic year of 2018/2019? "

## **C. Research Purpose**

Based on the research problem, the purpose of this research is to find out how Learning Cell method can improve the students' reading comprehension at tenth grade of MAN 2 Kapuas Hulu in the academic year of 2018/2019

## **D. Research Significance**

The researcher hopes that this research can provide some advantages and additional information about Learning Cell Method in

English teaching and learning process, especially in teaching reading comprehension. The researcher also hopes that the result of this research will be useful for the school, students, and the English teacher particularly in MAN 2 Kapuas Hulu.

The researcher hopes that this research will have the benefits as follow:

**1. For the English Teachers**

This research can give additional knowledge and experience on how to improve the students English reading comprehension.

**2. Forthe Students**

The use of learning cell method will help the students on improving reading comprehension. It also will help them to be more independent and active in learning reading of English especially in narrative text.

**3. For the School**

The researcher expects that learning cell method can facilitate the teacher when they want to solve the teachers problem in teaching reading comprehension.

**E. Scope of Research**

**1. Research Variable**

Variable in a research is very important, because it tell us about what is going to be measured. It means that variable in a research tell us about what characters that will be measured by the researcher. According to Ary et al (2010: 37), a variable is a construct or a characteristic that can take on different values or scores. Then, it

can be concluded that the variable is anything that will be studied by the researcher. Based on the explanation above, this research only uses single variable, because it focuses on the *Students' Reading Comprehension using Learning Cell Method*.

## **2. Terminology**

To avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation of the terms are used in this research, the researcher provides are terminologies which are concerned in this research:

### **a. Learning Cell Method**

Learning Cell is a method refers to a cooperative learning in pairs in which students alternate asking and answering question on commonly read material.

### **b. Improving**

Improving means act enhancing or making better in terms of quality or value. Improving in this research mens that to bring several changes of students in to a more desirable or excellent condition.

### **c. Reading Comprehension**

Reading comprehension can be defined as the process of intentional thinking on extracting and constructing the meaning through interaction and involvement with written language.

## **F. Action Hypothesis**

The hypothesis is used to predict the tentative answers. According to Singh (2006:54), “the hypothesis a tentative solution problem”. Based on the research problem, the action hypothesis of this research is Learning Cell Method to improve the students reading comprehension to the tenth grade students of MAN 2 Kapuas Hulu.