

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter writer would like to present about background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation and definition of terms.

1.1 Background of the study

Language is a part of a culture; it is a part of human behavior. It is an acquired habit of systematic vocal activity representing meaning coming from experiences. Language is like a vocal system for communicating meanings. This statement tells us (a) that language operates in a regular and systematic fashion. (b) That language is basically oral and that the oral symbols represent meaning as they are related to real life situations and experiences, (c) that language has a social function, that without it society would probably not exist (Nasar, 1980:1).

The government realizes that English is one of the thousand of languages in the world which plays a very determining role in communication. So the government of Indonesia has included English in the curriculum of Indonesia schools.

Regarding is one of the skills even regarded both as objective and means of learning a language. Regarding as objectives refers to final goal of learning English in Junior High School, that is to be able to read later in higher education. Whereas reading as a means of learning refers to the fact that through reading language learners as a means of English vocabulary and pronunciation, as well as the use of language in which learners use English in discussing reading materials. The text books use in the school contain reading passages that are follow by exercises. This turn will help the students develop other language skills.

Based on 2013 curriculum at the Junior High School level in English language classes there are several types of text learned and read by students including recount text, narrative text, descriptive text, report text and procedure text.

This study focus on reading comprehension because based on the writer own experience when she did the teaching practice about four months at SMP Negeri 5 Kupang, she found that many students had difficulties in comprehending the reading text especially in narrative text. The difficulties which they faced such as the lack of vocabulary, and grammar and the lack of comprehension.

The writer has decided to conduct a study entitled “A study on Reading Comprehension Ability of the Ability of the Eighth Grade Students of SMP Negeri 5 Kupang in the School Year 2018/2019.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

This study is conducted to answer the following questions:

1. Are the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 5 Kupang in the school year 2018/2019 able to understand the text they have read?
2. What is the ability level of the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 5 Kupang in understanding the text they have read?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

In line with the problem statements above this study has some objectives as below:

1. To find out the whether the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 5 Kupang are able to understand the texts they have read.
2. To find out the ability level of the eighth students of SMP Negeri 5 Kupang in the understanding the texts they have read.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study has some significance for the English teacher, the students, and the writer, as presented below.

1. For English Teacher

This study will inform the teachers of English especially at the researched school about the ability of the students in reading text, so that they can improve or maintain the method of teaching English especially of reading comprehending.

2. For the Students

To students by reading the result of this study the students will know their weakness in reading.

3. For the Writer

Through this study the writer would be able to improve her knowledge and skills in teaching English especially reading.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study is aimed at investigating the ability level of the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 5 Kupang in reading comprehension. There are four types of reading there are literal reading, interpretive reading, critical reading and creative reading. In this study the writer will focus on literal reading comprehension. The study is limited on reading measure students ability in comprehending narrative text. It is also intended to find out difficulties that may be faced by the students in comprehending the narrative test.

1.6 Definition of Terms

There are some terms used in this study that should be defined. The definition may help the readers understand the study as a whole. The terms that should be defined in this study are as follows.

1. Ability

Ability is a potential capacity of containing or power to do something physically or mentally (Hornby, 1982:2). Dealing with this study, ability means the students capacity in comprehending reading text.

2. Reading

Reading is an activity of containing the eyes on printed material by which a reader is led to record the information for the brain to process and create a new similar text to that of the original one (Andreson, 1984).

3. Comprehension

Comprehension is power understanding (Hornby, 1982:238). Related to this study, comprehension means the power of students in understanding a reading passage which is marked by being able to do the exercises.

4. Reading Comprehension

Reading comprehension is the construction of the meaning of a written or spoken communication through a reciprocal, holistic interchange of ideas between the interpreter and the messages. The presumption here is that meaning resides in the international problem-solving, thinking process of the interpreter, that the content of the meaning is influenced by that person's prior knowledge and experience (Harris & Hodges, 1995: 39). In this study, reading comprehension is the construction of meaning by the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 5 Kupang, in understanding narrative text.

5. Narrative Text

Narrative text is a text focusing specific participants. Its social function is to tell stories or past events and entertain the reader.

6. SMP Negeri 5 Kupang

SMP Negeri 5 Kupang is one of the state Junior High Schools in Kupang located on Jln. Frans Seda-Kelapa Lima, Kupang.