

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides general outline of this study. It covers background of study, statement of problems, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study and definition of terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

English plays a very important role of communication. In fact, people of almost all countries in the world use English to communicate for their international encounters.

The Indonesian government has treated English language as the first foreign language to be taught at Junior High Schools, Senior High School and the Universities. Just recently, the teaching of English has also been offered to elementary school. Nowadays, English is very important for assisting those who intend to enroll for higher education, to cope up with globalization demands, high technology development for culture enrichment and to establish international communication.

English is an international language which is used for various needs, such as politics, economy, education, commerce, technology and so forth. Take for example in education, many books are written in English. Therefore, students are expected to master language main skills such as listening, speaking, reading and writing. Likewise, they have to master language sub skills, grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation. The writer focuses on the reading skill.

Based on 2013 curriculum at the Senior High School 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.

Reading is a way to find information of a written passage by readers. By reading, we can build up and increase our knowledge. For example, when reading science books, of course, we will get much information there. This is the reason why reading is necessarily needed.

Actually, reading is an activity to understand information and ideas explicitly or implicitly in a passage. Reading is not to read a lot but to understand what is read. When we read, we have to involve our brain to gain ideas from what we read.

A reader has to good ability to comprehend reading text. According to (Grellet, 1974:75) in reading comprehension, readers are mainly demanded to understand or comprehend reading text. To be able to comprehend better, there are some reading skills to be mastered by readers, among them are recognizing script of language, understanding information, when not explicitly stated, understanding conceptual meaning, understanding relation between the sentence and parts of text.

In fact, readers sometimes find difficulties in comprehending reading text because they do not have this skills. The writer experienced when she was with some senior high school students learning English. When they found sentences with unfamiliar words, they felt difficult to understand the sentences. For example, when they found the sentence like “I purchase many books” they felt

hard to know the meaning or it because the word “purchase” is unfamiliar to them. They are more familiar with word, like “buy” or “sell”. Another example, many readers, especially students, they find it difficult to comprehend reading text because their grammar knowledge is so limited. From these facts, the writer assumes that senior high school students find it difficult to comprehend reading text.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

The topic of the study is specified into some problems. The problems are formulated in questions.

1. Are the eleventh grade students of SMA Negeri 4 Kupang able to comprehend the text they read?
2. What is the ability level of the Eleventh Grade Students of SMA Negeri 4 Kupang in comprehending a reading text?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are formulated in the following statements there are two objectives.

1. To find out whether or not the Eleventh Grade Students of SMA Negeri 4 Kupang able to comprehend the reading text.
2. To find out the ability level of the Eleventh Grade Students of SMA Negeri 4 Kupang in comprehending the reading text.

1.4 Significance of the Study

There are some significances as the contribution to some parties as follows:

1. To inform the English teachers about the ability of students in reading a text, so that, they can improve or maintain the method of the teaching English especially the teaching of reading comprehension.
2. This study will increase the writer's knowledge and skill in comprehending a reading text. The writer is also trained in how to write a scientific writing.
3. This study will inform the students about their level of ability in reading.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

There are four kinds of the language skills, they are listening, speaking, reading and writing. Reading consists of skimming, scanning and reading comprehension. Reading comprehension comprises literal comprehension, inferential comprehension, critical comprehension, appreciative comprehension. In this study, the writer only focuses her study on the language skill of reading especially reading comprehension in terms of literal comprehension.

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:

1. Ability

It is power, capacity and proficiency (Hornby:1974). Here it means the ability of the The Eleventh Grade Students of SMA Negeri 4 Kupang in answering the questions about reading text.

2. Reading

Karlin Robert (1964:1) stated that reading as a complex of skills that the individual use to drive meaning from the printed page, and the ability to sound out printed words ordinarily is not the best “ reading” that a student is capable of doing.

3. Comprehension

Richard et al (1985: 54). It is a process by which a person to understand of written or spoken language. In this study comprehension is a process by which The Eleventh Grade Students of SMA Negeri 4 kupang understand the reading text they have read.

4. Reading Comprehension

It is the process using syntactic and rhetorical found in printed task to reconstrct in the readers mind, using the knowledge of the words she or he posseses plus appropriate cognitive skill and reasoning ability (Devine, 1986: 126)

5. SMA Negeri 4 Kupang

SMA Negeri 4 Kupang is one of the state Senior High Schools in Kupang, located at Jl. Adi Sucipto-Oesapa.

