

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of some sub-chapters, such as background of the study, problem statements, objectives of this study, the significances of study, scope and limitation and definition of terms.

1.1. Background of Study

One important factor that influences successful teaching learning process is teaching strategy. It is a certain way of how language is learned. Mackey in Siahaan (2008:185) claims that some philosophical concepts of the language says “language teaching is influenced by ideas on the nature of language in general, by ideas on the particular language being taught and by ideas on how the language is learned”. Concerning this idea, Wilkins (1974) in Siahaan (2008:201) says that the selection of teaching item must be based on what we know about language we are teaching. Based on the statement above, the writer wants to conclude that the actual teaching must be about the language aspect which is based on a certain way of how a language is learned.

Fleming et al, (1998:14-21) in Siahaan (2008:212) say that the role of teaching strategy is to assist the students to develop their language skills and knowledge in the sense that, the teachers are suggested to see information about teaching strategy for their classroom activities. In teaching English as a second language to the students, it is crucial for the teacher to teach the four language skills i.e.: (listening, speaking, reading and writing). Each of the skills has its own

aspect of instruction on how to teach.

Generally, the aim of teaching reading is to develop the students' ability to read the material, get information and understand the text. Brown, (1982:18) says that reading can be seen as an interaction process between language and mind. So the success of reading will be influenced by factor of knowledge that overshadows background and reading strategy. The ability in reading is not only on the fluency in reading a text, but also on the ability in comprehending the text, since the main aim of reading is to get the messages from written language. Basically, reading consists of two related processes, namely word recognition and comprehension. Word recognition refers to the process of perceiving how written symbols correspond to one's spoken language. Comprehension is making sense of word, sentences and connected text. Readers typically make use of background knowledge, vocabulary, grammatical knowledge, experience with text and other strategies to help them understand the text.

The writer wants to do research in the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri1 Kupang, because the writer thinks the students have known and able to use English. In this case, the eighth grade students of SMPNegeri1Kupang are able to master reading as one of English four main skills.

Seeing the situation above, the writer feels interested to conduct a study entitled **''A Study on Reading Comprehension Ability of the Eighth Grade Students of SMPNegeri 1 Kupang in the School Year 2018/2019''**.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Statement of the problem is the focus of the study. The statement of the problems should be answered or proved in the data analysis and discussion. The statement of the problems of this study are formulated in these questions.

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

1.3 Objective of the Study

Going in line with the problem statements, the objectives of this study are formulated in the following statements:

1. To find out whether or not the eighth grade students ofSMP Negeri 1 Kupang able to comprehend the reading text.
2. To find out the ability level of the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 1Kupang in comprehending the reading text.

1.4 Significance of the Study

There are some benefits expected in this study, namely:

1. For the English Teacher

This study informs the teacher of English about the ability of the eight grade students of SMP Negeri1 Kupang in reading especially the ability in answering the questions about the text they have read.

2. For the Writer

Through this study the writer would be able to improve his knowledge and skills in reading.

3. For the Students

Through the result of this study the students will be informed about their ability in reading.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

There are some kinds of reading comprehension such as literal, interpretative, critical and creative. By considering the education level of the students, the writer limits his study on literal reading comprehension. This study is focused on narrative text.

1.6. Definition of Terms

1. Ability

Ability is a potential capacity or power to do something physically or mentally (Hornby, 1998: 2). Dealing with this study, ability means the students capacity in comprehending a reading text.

2. Reading Comprehension

The process of making meaning from text. The goal is to gain an overall understanding of what is described in the text rather than to obtain meaning from isolated words or sentences.

3. SMP Negeri 1Kupang

It is one of the public Junior High Schools in Kupang, that is located on Jln.

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