

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In this chapter, the writer would like to discuss about background of the study, Statement of problems, Objective of the study, Significance of the study, Scope and limitation, and definitions of terms. Those are explained detail below.

#### **1.1 Background of the Study**

In learning language, there are four skills that should be mastered by students, such as listening, speaking, reading and writing. These four skills should be involved by teacher in process of teaching and learning in a classroom. Speaking and writing refers to productive skills while reading and listening refers to receptive skills ( Harmer, 2003).

Reading is one of language skills which is very important to be learnt by students. Through this activity, students can improve their own language and experience. They will get information and ideas which they need to know. Moreover, they will be able to know what they do not know before.

Reading is fundamental in developing a good self image. Non-readers or poor readers often have low opinions of themselves and their abilities. Many times they feel as if the world is against them. They feel isolated [everybody else can read - which isn't true] and behavior problems can surface. They can perform poorly in other subjects because they cannot read and understand the material. Often the reader tends to "give up.

Reading is fundamental to functioning in today's society. There are many adults who cannot read well enough to understand the instructions on a medicine bottle. That is a scary thought - especially for their children. Filling out applications becomes impossible without help. Reading road or warning signs is difficult. Even following a map becomes a chore.

Day-to-day activities that many people take for granted become a source of frustration, anger and fear.

In reading, there are many kinds of reading text, such as narrative, recount, report, descriptive, explanation, analytical exposition, hortatory exposition, procedure, discussion, news item, and so forth. Narrative text is one of genre of text should be taught to students of senior high school especially in eight grade students of SMPK Sta. Theresia Kupang in the school year 2017/2018.

The based on writer's in teaching practice in SMPK Sta. Theresia Kupang, the ability of the students in terms of reading was not so good, the pronunciation, and the comprehension were not so good as well.

Therefore the writer wants to conduct a study under the title **“A Study on Reading Comprehension Ability of the Eighth Grade Students of SMPK Sta. Theresia Kupang in the School Year 2017/ 2018”**.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

There are two problems in this study. They are:

1. What is the ability level of the eighth grade of SMPK Sta. Theresia in the school year 2017/2018 in reading comprehension of narrative text?
2. What are the difficulties faced by the eighth grade of SMPK Sta. Theresia in the school year 2017/2018 in reading comprehension?

## **1.3 Objective of the study**

Based on the problems stated above the objective if this study are:

1. To find out whether or not the eighth grade of SMPK Sta. Theresia in the school year 2017/2018 able to comprehend of narrative texts?

2. To find out of the ability level of the SMPK Sta. Theresia in the school year 2017/2018 in reading comprehension?

#### **1.4 Significance of the study**

Significance is important of doing the study. Doing this study has some significance for some parties, such as the teacher of English, the students, and the writer herself. The significance of the study are presented below:

1. For the English Teacher

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

2. For the Writer

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

#### **1.5 Scope and Limitation**

This study is aimed at investigating the ability level of the eighth grade students of SMPK Sta. Theresia in reading comprehension. The reading is limited on reading narrative text. This study is also intended to find the difficulties found in reading the text. There are three kinds of comprehensions. They are:

Literal, inferential and critical.

In this study the writer only focused on in literal comprehension, reading using narative text.

## **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 which should be defined in this study are as follows:

### **1. Ability**

It is capacity of someone physics or mental that can develop through optimal exercises (1987). Here the ability means of SMPK Sta. Theresia kupang in comprehending a text marked by being able to answer the question.

### **2. Reading**

Reading is a process in which done by reader to get message or information from the writer throught printed media. It is verry complex process in recognizing and comprehending written symbols which influenced by perceptual skill, decoding, experiences, language background, mind set and reasoning of reader (Tarigan, 2008).

### **3. Comprehension**

Comprehension is means and has excessive aimed in improving or testing one's understands of a language whether written or spoken. Comprehension is not only need in student's reading activities, but also to measure the ability of each student in classroom (Hornby,1995, p.235).

### **4. Reading Comprehension**

It is the process of using syntactic semantic and rhetorical information. Sound in printed text to resentment in the readers mind, using that knowledge of the word her or she process, plus appropriate cognitive skills and reasoning ability (Devine:

1986:73). In the study, it is the process of reading comprehension of the use cognitive skills in answering the reading text

## 5. Narrative Text

Narrative text is a written text that tells about story.

**Generic Structure of narrative text are:**

- 1) **Orientation:** in which the writer tells the audience about who character in the story are, where the story is talking place, and when the action is happened.
- 2) **Complication:** which consist of problems in story.
- 3) **Resolution:** which provide solution to the problem.
- 4) **Re-orientation:** the ending of the story.

## 6. SMPK Sta. Theresia Kupang

SMPK Sta. Theresia is one of the private junior high schoos in Kupang city that is located in Ahmad Yani street, Merdeka sub district, in which the writer uses as the location of the study.