

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer would like to present about background of the study, statement of problems, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definitions of terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

Every human knows that language is a tool of communication. This statement means that language helps people to communicate with other people in this world. There are many languages used as a means of communication by people around of the world and one of them is English, which has a role as an international language. English is known as the first foreign language taught in Indonesia. It is started from elementary school up to university.

In learning English as foreign language, there are four skills to be acquired by students. They are listening, speaking, reading and writing. These skills are closely related one to another, so every student has to know these skills, because these skills are important to make them able to use English in their daily communication.

From the four skills above the writer wants to discuss about reading skill especially about reading comprehension in narrative text. Reading is one of the

most fundamental skill. The purpose of teaching reading is to establish the students ability to understand the reading text. According to Woolley (2011) Reading comprehension is the process of making meaning from text. Reading comprehension (understanding, gaining meaning and interpreting the text) depends on a variety of reader-related, text-related, and situational factors (Corte et al : 2001). Study about reading comprehension is not easy because in reading comprehension the students do not only read but also know how to comprehend the reading text. If they have already comprehended the reading text certainly they can find out the meaning or the aim of the text.

Good reader is able to distinguish between important information and details as they are reading. In general, the aim of teaching reading is to develop students' ability in getting information and understanding about the text. Edmund Burke Huey (1908), believed that if we could understand reading, we would understand the mysteries of the human mind. Reading is one of the skills developed for students in order to get information and knowledge. In the reading activities, the students' ability is important because the greater ability they have of what they are doing; the learning will be more effective.

The writer discusses about reading comprehension because based on the writer own experience when she did the teaching practice about four months at SMAN 7 Kupang, she found that many students had difficulty in learning english such as in comprehending the reading text especially in narrative text. Difficulty which they faced such as the lack of vocabulary, grammar and the lack of

comprehension. The students cannot understand and comprehend the content of the reading text especially in narrative text.

The difficulties faced by the students in understanding about narrative text is about grammar, such as the use of tenses. The tenses used in narrative text is simple past tense. Because narrative text is a text that tells about events happening in the past. However, many students have not really known the pattern of simple past tense and they also have not been able to classify the use of verbs and TO BE in simple past tense or Verb-2, it could be seen from their answers when the writer gave them some exercises about narrative text during her teaching practice. As a result, they could not answer the questions and did the exercises given to them.

Reading is not a new thing but if everyone reads the text without comprehending the text, it means that the person is not able to read. We must train our brain to think so we can get the meaning or the purpose of the reading text.

Based on the problems above, the writer is interested to make a study on reading under a title : **A STUDY ON THE READING COMPREHENSION ABILITY OF THE TENTH GRADE STUDENTS OF SMAN 7 KUPANG IN THE SCHOOL YEAR 2015/2016.**

1.2. Statement of Problems

Research problem is the key point of a research. Related to the rationale above the witer would like to conduct a research to answer the following questions:

- a) Are the tenth grade students of SMAN 7 Kupang in the academic year 2015/2016 able to understand the text they read?
- b) What is the ability level of students in comprehending a reading text?

1.3. Objectives of the Study

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

1. To find out and to know whether the students of SMAN 7 Kupang are able to understand the text they read or not.
2. To find out and to know the ability level of the tenth grade students in reading.

1.4. Significance of the Study

This study has some benefits for the following persons.

1. For the teacher

The result of this study might make the teacher of SMAN 7 Kupang knows the result of his/her teaching learning process whether they are successful or not.

2. For the writer

This study will give the writer many experiences particular in accomplishing research and also will enrich her by understanding better in reading.

3. For the students

This study will provide a real data about the students ability in reading so they can find solution in improve their ability.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

There are many aspects in English that must be understood in mastering the language. One of the purpose of teaching English is that the students are good at English skills such as reading, listening, speaking and writing. This study focuses on students' ability in comprehending the narrative reading texts in English. However, basic competence of reading comprehension measured in this study is on literal comprehension done in the classroom focusing on linguistic or semantic details of passage. Furthermore, the purposes of reading comprehension skills involved in this study are : finding the description of an event, Identifying main points and summarize them, abstracting the main idea, evaluating the authors point of view and a theoretical issue.

1.6. Definition of the Key Terms

To avoid some confusing in understanding about what this topic, the researcher will explain the definition of some main terms.

1. Ability :

Ability is potential capability or power to do something physically or mentally (Hornby.1987:2). In this case ability mean the students potential in understanding narrative text they read.

2. Reading :

Reading is an activity of contacting the eyes on printed material by which a readers is led to record the information for the brain to process and create a new similiar text to that of the original one

(Anderson, 1984 : 34). In this study reading means the activity done by the tenth grade students of SMAN 7 Kupang in reading the narrative text.

3. Comprehension :

Comprehension is the ability to understand something (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary)

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 message. The presumption here is that meaning resides in the intentional problem-solving, thinking processes of the interpreter, that the content of the meaning is influenced by that person's prior knowledge and experience (Harris & Hodges, 1995, p. 39). In this study, reading comprehension is the construction of meaning by the tenth grade students of SMAN 7 Kupang, in understanding narrative text.

5. SMAN 7 Kupang :

SMAN 7 Kupang is one of the state Senior High Schools in Kupang, located on Frans Damores Street, Tofa – Maulafa, Kupang city.