

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is one of the essential aspects of life. People use language for social interaction because it connects people with their surroundings and socialize with people around them. One of the world's languages is English. Many people use it worldwide. The English language plays a vital role as an international language. Murcia (2001) argues that English is a second or foreign language for many countries, and that it has to be learnt formally.

In Indonesia, English is a foreign language. In this country, learners are to learn four basic skills, namely: reading, listening, speaking, and writing.

Reading is an essential skill This skill is crucial for students to grasp and is deeply intertwined with the educational process. According to Yang (2016), reading is one of the most important means by which learners may get knowledge or information from what they read. Moreover, Mardianti and Ohoiwutun (2014) state that the teaching of reading is very important because it helps the students develop more skills in comprehending and interpreting the content of an English text. By reading, students can expand their vocabulary and sentence structures, ultimately enhancing their language skills.

Reading is a fluid process where the reader combines the text's information with their background knowledge to create meaning (Nunan, 2003). When reading, readers can memorize all the details of the plot in order to understand the content.

Thus, reading comprehension is a crucial milestone for students, and cultivating reading habits is a key factor in achieving it.

Enhancing students' reading skills is vital to deepen understanding of their perspectives. The rewards of reading are boundless, broadening their knowledge and horizons.

From the observations made by the researcher, students had difficulties in reading comprehension of English texts in literal, inferential and critical (Talok, 2023). Literal comprehension items aim to test if students know what are written in the text, there items are taken literally. Inferential comprehension items aim to make students employ their thought. They have to make conclusions based on what are written. Critical comprehension items aim to test students where or not they know the content or the message the text carries.

However, in classroom, the students just stayed silent and relied on the direction of the teacher. In addition, from the results of their work on the answer to the questions, many show that they struggled to provide accurate answers, indicating a lack of understanding of the text.

Based on the explanations above, the researcher thus builds a research proposal entitled “A Study on the Reading Comprehension Ability of Tenth Grade Students of SMA Seminari Rafael in The Academic Year 2024/2025”

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the background of the study above, the researcher is going to answer the following questions:

1. Are the tenth grade students of SMA Seminari Rafael Kupang in the academic year 2024/2025 able to understand the English reading text?
2. What is the reading comprehension ability level of the tenth grade students of SMA Seminari Rafael Kupang in the academic year 2024/2025?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the above questions, this study aims:

1. To identify the tenth grade students of SMA Seminari Rafael Kupang in the academic year 2024/2025 whether they understand the English reading text or not.
2. To identify the ability level of reading comprehension of the tenth grade students of SMA Seminari Rafael Kupang in the academic year 2024/2025.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This research is expected to benefit students, teachers, and future researchers:

- a. For further researcher

To whoever wants to study the same case, this research could become the source of information and reference.

- b. For students

This research could information their comprehension ability.

- c. For Teacher

This research will help the teachers identify the student's difficulties in reading comprehension.