

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with the background of the study, statements of the problems, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of the terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a human speech either spoken or written. Language enables people to talk and to write, to express their thoughts and ideas to each other. Language is indeed a medium for communication and a tool for thinking (Nasar, 1980: 52).

There are so many languages in the world. English is one of them. English is used as an international language, and playing important role in the world. We can prove it in our life. If we know English well, we will know about the development of the world through reading or watching news on TV, which uses English.

Language skills consists of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. While language sub skills are grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and spelling. Both the skills and sub skills play important roles in teaching and learning English. Regarding the four skills, the writer chooses, one of the skills that is to become the topic of her study.

Reading is important to teach. Reading comprehension means that the reader should comprehend the information directly and indirectly from the text.

Reading is very important for students. Through reading, 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 acquire more vocabularies.

Klingner, et al (2007: 2) states that reading comprehension is the process of constructing meaning by coordinating a number of complex processes that include word reading, word and world knowledge, and fluency Reading comprehension. Reading is primarily a matter of developing appropriate, efficient comprehension strategies. Some strategies are related to bottom-up procedures, and other enhances the top-down processes (Brown, 2000: 306).

Grabe (2002: 29) states that reading comprehension is an extraordinary way of balancing and coordinating many abilities in a very complex and rapid set of routines that makes the comprehension seemingly effortless and enjoyable. This is the reason that reading as one of the English skills is taught to all levels of education.

The fact shows that many Indonesian are not accustomed to reading. As a result the students might face some problems in reading, like they cannot understand or comprehend what they are reading. In line with this they cannot answer the questions or doing the exercises given to them.

Based on the background above, the writer is interested to conduct a study under the topic **“A Study on Reading Comprehension Ability of the Eighth Grade Students of SMP Negeri 10 Kupang in the School Year 2019/2020”**.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The topic of the study is specified in some problems. The problems are stated in the following questions:

1. Are the Eighth grade students of SMPN 10 Kupang in the school year 2020/2021 able to comprehend English texts?
2. What is the level of ability on reading comprehension of the eighth grade students of SMPN 10 Kupang in the school year 2019/2020?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Going line with the problems this study also has three objectives, as stated below:

1. To find out and to know whether the students of eighth grade of SMPN 10 Kupang in the school year 2020/2021 are able to comprehend English texts.
2. To find out and to know the level of reading comprehension ability of the eighth grade students of SMPN 10 Kupang in the school year 2020/2021.

1.4 Significance of the Study

A good study should have significance. The significance of a study is actually its usefulness or benefit for the readers and the writer himself/herself. Thus this study has significance for the following persons.

1. For the English teacher

This study can be used as a feedback for the teacher in teaching English especially reading comprehension of the students.

2. For the Writer

Doing this study, the writer is trained in English and writing research.

3. For the Students

This study is very important to students , because they are able to know and improve their knowledge about reading comprehension and through the result of this study the students will be informed about their ability in reading.

4. For English Study Program

The result of the study can give information to the lecturer and students of English Education Study Program of Teacher Training And Educational Science Faculty of Widya Mandira Catholic University Kupang about english assesment of Junior High School including of SMPN 10 Kupang.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study is about analyzing the ability of reading comprehension of the eight grade students of SMPN 10 Kupang, especially the students of class IXF. In this study the writer wants to know about student's level of ability in reading comprehension. There are three types of questions: literal comprehension question, inferential comprehension question, and critical comprehension question. In this study the writer will focus on literal comprehension question. There are five types of reading text taught in SMP : Narrative text, Descriptive text, Recount text , Procedure text, Report text. In this study the writer will focuses on comprehending descriptive text.

1.6 Definition of Terms

To help the readers understand the terms used in this study, the writer presents some definitions of terms as follow:

1. Ability

Ability is potential capacity or power to do something physically or mentally (Hornby, 1982: 2). Dealing with this study, ability means the students capacity in comprehending reading text.

2. Reading

Reading is an activity of contacting the eyes on printed material. By which a reader is led to record the information for the brain to process and create a news similar text to that of the original one (Anderson , 1984).

3. Comprehension

Comprehension is a process by which people understand the meaning of the written or spoken language (Richard 1985). In this study , comprehension is a process by the second year students of SMPN 10 Kupang understanding the reading text they have read.

4. Reading Comprehension

Reading comprehension is a process of using syntactic and rhetorical information found in printed text to reconstruct the readers main,using the knowledge of the words he or she possesses,plus appropriate cognitive skill and reason ability (Devine 1986: 73).

5. Literal Reading Comprehension

Literal comprehension is seen as the first level of comprehension. It is the simplest form of location information in texts because the information is

stated directly in the text. Questions assessing literal comprehension skills examine how well students can identify and understand information that is directly stated in a text (Silbert and Kameenui, 1997). In this study Literal reading comprehension means communication of students to identify and understand information that is directly stated in a text which can signify the understanding on what is read.

6. SMPN 10 Kupang

SMPN 10 Kupang is one of the Junior High Schools in Kupang. It is located in East Nusa Tenggara Province. It is a public school that is located on JL. Prof. Dr. Herman Yohannes, Lasiana, Kelapa Lima subdistrict.