

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter consists of six points. They are background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study and the definition of the key terms. The six subchapters are discussed in the following.

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

There are so many languages in the world and one of them is English. As language of the world, people of Indonesia need to learn English in order that they can communicate with foreign people, especially those who speak English. Indonesia government has included English in the curriculum of Indonesia school

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 another, so every student has to have good command of these skills, because it makes students able to use English in their daily communication.

Reading is one of spiritual need of human being. By reading, a reader can satisfy his/her knowledge and for various bits of information happening around the world. Besides, he can extend his horizontal for thinking, and providing himself with the reality of human life.

Now the writer wants to discuss about reading ability of students concerning the reading of the descriptive text.

The purpose of teaching reading is to establish the students' ability to understand the reading text. According to Woolley (2011) : (assisting Children with Learning difficulties) Reading comprehension is the process of making meaning from text.

Reading as one of the English skill at all levels of education is considered as the core skill if a reader wants to improve his/her speaking, writing, listening pronunciation skill, and grammar mastery. Reading can help the achievement of other language skills.

The essential goal of reading activity is comprehension. "Comprehension" refers to the ability to understand what is read. In real life, there are so many difficulties that the students face. The text books used in school contain reading passage and followed by the exercises. It is expected that by reading, the students can learn stucture, aquired more vocabularies and even to learn and improve pronunciation. With all these, students can develop other language skills.

So that way, when people talk about reading, it might be automatically related to comprehension or understanding. For instance, a reader who understands what he has read can answer the question about it. It means that understanding something is the main goal of reading

Reading becomes an important part of language teaching, and the teaching of reading English texts has complicated problem. Some teachers considered that reading is not favorite activity for most students. They are expected to find appropriate strategies or activities to make students understand reading text and moreover enjoy reading.

In fact many Indonesians do not have reading habit. Because of this habit, the students might encounter some problems in reading. They might not understand or comprehend what they are reading, in line with this, they might answer the question or doing the exercise given.

Based on the problem above, the writer was interested to make a study on reading under a title: **A Study on the Reading Comprehension Ability of the Eighth Grade Students of SMPK Muder Teresa Kupang in the School Year 2017/2018**

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Based on background of the study, the writer would like to answer the research problems as formulated in the following :

1. Are the eighth grade students of SMPK Muder Teresa Kupang in school year 2017/2018 able to comprehend reading descriptive texts?
2. What is reading comprehension ability level of the eighth grade students of SMPK Muder Teresa Kupang in comprehending reading descriptive texts?
3. What are the difficulties encountered by the eighth grade students of SMPK Muder Teresa Kupang in comprehending reading descriptive texts?

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study are formulated in the following:

1. To find out whether or not the eighth grade students of SMPK Muder Teresa Kupang are able to comprehend descriptive text they have read.

2. To find out the ability level of the eighth grade students of SMPK Muder Teresa Kupang in school year 2017/2018 in reading descriptive texts.
3. To find out the difficulties faced by the eighth grade students of SMPK Muder Teresa Kupang in the reading descriptive texts.

#### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

The writer considers that this study would be useful for the following people:

##### **1. For the English Teacher.**

This study informs the teacher of English about the ability of the eighth grade students of SMPK Muder Teresa Kupang in reading text, so that they can improve the teaching of English especially the teaching of reading comprehension.

##### **2. For the Writer.**

Through this study the writer can apply his knowledge he got in the university. Besides, through doing this study the writer can study deeper about reading comprehension.

##### **3. For the Students.**

Through this study the students of the researched school can know their level of ability in comprehending reading text.

#### **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 descriptive text.

## **1.6 Definition of Terms**

There are some terms used in this study and in order to avoid readers' misunderstanding, the writer clarifies the terms in the following:

### **1. Ability**

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

### **2. Reading**

According to Tarigan (1990:7) in Jaenal 2010, argues that reading is a process that is carried out and used by the readers who want to get message delivered by the author through the medium of words or written language. Reading, in this study, is a reading text used as a text to measure the ability of the eight grade students of SMPK Muder Teresa Kupang in reading the descriptive text.

### **3. Reading Comprehension**

Reading comprehension is the ability to understand a written text (Scoanes and Stevenson,2004). The term of " Reading Comprehension" in this study refers to the students' ability to understand a wriiten text.

### **4. Literal Reading**

In this literal reading the readers remember details, notes, main idea, which directly stated or this skill enables the reader to take out of the information that explicitly stated in the reading text (Chusenbery 1988).

#### 5. SMPK Muder Teresa Kupang

SMPK Muder Teresa Kupang is one of state Junior High Schools in Kupang, located on Jl. Amabi Atas No. 36 Maulafa Kupang.