

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a code whereby ideas about the world are represented through a conventional system of arbitrary signals for communication (Bloom and Lahey: 1978). Language is simply a means of communication and that human intelligence is the result of the rapid growth and unusual size of human brains (<http://psycnet.apa.org/psycinfo/1995-98931-000>). Based on the meaning of language above they concluded that language is a tool for communication. We cannot live without language because to live we are need communication with the other people. In order to make the communication runs well we have to master the language skills. Reading is one of the most important skills in learning language besides listening, speaking and writing (Kustaryo: 1988).

It is certainly not easy to present the English reading to Indonesian students whose language system is different. Reading in their own language is much easier than that of the language learned because they have mastered the vocabulary and the structure of their own. As reading plays an important role in language learning, it would be better that this teaching is wisely done. To understand a text the students must have a good command of the vocabulary of the target language. The reader uses knowledge, skills and strategies to determine what the text meaning is. Writing is an act of discovery, of communication, of joy. It connects us to work, to culture, to society, to existing knowledge, and to the meanings of our lives. Based on the writer's experience during his teaching practice on PPL (Teaching Practice Program in Senior High School 2010).

It was found that the students' reading ability was still low. The students faced many difficulties in reading texts. They often failed to comprehend the reading texts because they

are lack of vocabularies and reading technique. Besides that, problems came from the teacher's technique and strategy in teaching. During the writer's observation, he found that the teacher still applied a traditional method, the teachers asked the students to write things in their exercise books freely, to read the texts in their heart and open dictionary anytime they stuck on using words that they didn't know. It caused the students bored and not concentration on learning. So, they are could not gain the purpose of reading. This problem, can be solved if the teacher would like to create their teaching by change their strategy in teaching process and should consider the most effective and creative language teaching strategy in teaching reading skill. Teachers is one the most factors influencing the success of learning English. An Approach may be one the solution to improve teaching process. Approach is a correlative assumptions dealing with the nature of language teaching and learning. There are some approaches in teaching they are lexical approach, and Natural Approach. Lexical approach in language teaching refers to one derived from the belief that the building blocks of language learning and communication are not grammar, functions, notions, or some unit of planning and teaching but lexis, that is, words and word combinations (Richards 2001) .

Natural approach is a philosophy of language teaching, developed by combining it with Krashen's theory of second language acquisition. Some methods totally depend on the teachers as the source of knowledge and directions (Richards 2001). Teachers should be a motivator for their students. Learning reading comprehension by using natural approach is one of the alternatives in teaching reading process. The Natural approach is a philosophy of language teaching, developed by combining it with Krashen's theory of second language acquisition. In Natural Approach the emphasis is on the exposure of the target language. The exposure is often called input. The Natural Approach is meant to provide comprehensible input. This can be done by discussing topics of interest, games, tasks, and the like. In learning

teaching processes, language learners may respond in either the first or second language (Setiyadi 2006).

The natural approach is aim at the goal of basic personal communications. And also the natural approach has been shown to improve reader understanding, and their ability to recall information from the reading text. In other words, the readers are more likely to learn and to learn more of the material they are reading. When use the natural approach students must get the information based on what they are like. This natural approach can effectively increase the students' comprehension of the text to be read. The same related research was conducted by (Perangin-angin: 2009).

Based on the ideas above, the writer may find out the clear idea related to how the writer motivates the students improving their comprehension to read the text. By seeing such problems, the writer wants to conduct this study entitled “*The use of Natural Approach in increasing Reading Comprehension Ability of the Eighth Grade Students of SMP Bina Mandiri Malaka in the School Year 2014/2015.*”

1.2 Problem Statements of the Study

Formulating the problem statements depends on the topic of the study. The writer wants to conduct this study in order to answer the following questions:

1. Is the natural approach effective in increasing reading comprehension ability of the eighth grade students of SMP Bina Mandiri Malaka in the school year 2014/2015?
2. To which degree is the result of using natural approach in increasing reading comprehension ability of the eighth grade students of SMP Bina Mandiri Malaka in the school year 2014/2015?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the problem statements above the objectives of this study as follow:

1. To find out whether using natural approach is effective in increasing reading comprehension ability or not of the eighth grade students of SMP Bina Mandiri Malaka in the school year 2014/2015.
2. To know the result of using natural approach to the reading comprehension ability of the eighth grade students of SMP Bina Mandiri Malaka in the school year 2014/2015.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study will be expected to present some valuable things to human being as presented in the following.

1. For the Writer

Through this study the writer can apply her knowledge got in college. Besides, through this study the writer can study deeper about reading comprehension.

2. For English Teacher

The result of the data analysis and the suggestion can give valuable contribution to the teacher of English about ability of students in reading text, so that they can improve the teaching of English especially the teaching of reading comprehension.

3. The Students

Through this study, the writer can increase his knowledge about reading comprehension in the natural approach.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

There are many methods and techniques used by the teachers to improve students' reading comprehension they are semantic mapping, mind mapping think pair share, imaginative reading strategy and natural approach. In this study the writer limits himself by

using natural approach in increasing reading comprehension ability of the eighth grade students of SMP Bina Mandiri Malaka. For the natural approach in increasing reading comprehension ability the writer uses a narrative story to be read and imagined by the students.

1.6 Definition of Terms

There are some terms used in this research, and to avoid misunderstanding from reader then the writer would define the terms.

1. Reading Comprehension

Reading comprehension is a process of making sense of written ideas through meaning interpretation and interaction with language (Thorndike in Heilman, 1981: 242). Dealing with this study, reading comprehension means the capacity of understanding a reading text of the eighth grade students of SMP Bina Mandiri Malaka.

2. The Natural Approach

Definition of The Natural approach is one of the communicative approaches to language teaching of the present time. It is based on the work of Tracy Terrell and Stephen Krashen who published their book *The Natural Approach* in (1983). The book contains theoretical parts with regard to second language acquisition theory prepared by Krashen, as well as sections on classroom implementations prepared by Terrell.

The natural approach developed by Tracy Terrell and supported by Stephen Krashen is a language teaching approach which claims that language learning is reproduction of the way humans naturally acquire their native language.

The natural approach belongs to traditions of language teaching methods based on observation and interpretation of how learners acquire both first and second languages in nonformal setting. Such methods reject the formal (grammatical) organization of language as a prerequisite to teaching (Krashen and Terrell: 1968: 153). In the natural

approach, a focus on comprehension and meaningful communication as well as the provision of right kinds of comprehensible input provide the necessary and sufficient conditions for successful classroom second of foreign language acquisitions. In this study natural approach is aim at the goal of basic personal communications.

3. SMP Bina Mandiri Malaka

SMP Bina Mandidri Malaka is one of the public Junior High Schools in Malaka. It is located at Kamanasa Street, in Malaka.