

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Reading is one of the four basic skills in English. This is because reading is a very important part of learning a language, one of which is English. Why is reading one of the basic skills in learning English? This is because reading makes it easier for someone to add new vocabulary and makes students as beginners easily learn English. Especially in reading skills, students can hone their ability to understand the meaning of reading and the patterns of sentences displayed so that students can improve their ability to read English texts. Furthermore, adopted by Nugroho et al. (2019), reading comprehension is a process of recognizing and comprehending the written symbols in a text to get the ideas of both explicit and implicit messages. It means that, reading comprehension is not just meaning but more than that.

Reading comprehension is able to make the reader find the explicit and implied meaning in the written text. To have reading comprehension, students must have high skills in understanding the text that is read, because reading comprehension is a complex skill that involves interaction between the writer and the reader who reads the text.

Furthermore, according to Akyol (2013), “The process of establishing meaning in a suitable environment using appropriate information based on effective communication between the author and the

reader in accordance with the appropriate aim and method.” That means reading is the process of interpreting a text. There is information and ideas from the author. Through reading, there is indirect communication between the writer and the reader through the text. Through reading, there is a process of interpreting the information given by the author. Through the explanation above, reading is the process of interpreting a text. Through reading, the reader will get meaning and information in the text.

Furthermore, teaching reading is a common thing in teaching and learning activities in schools. Teaching students in English is not an easy matter. There are many things that must be carefully planned and prepared so that students are able to capture what is being taught. According to Aswan et al quoted in Murdi (2017), teaching strategy is a teacher’s plan in teaching and learning process to achieve a purpose which has been planned. It can be interpreted if teaching reading is an activity that is designed as well as possible so that students are able to understand how to read properly. Furthermore, according to Ranggi (2019), teaching is the activities environment in a good condition to give the opportunity for the students in learning process to get the purpose. It means that teaching reading is arranging the class as best as possible so that students can be provoked to be active in learning.

When doing PLK at SMP N 8 Padang, the researcher found factors that made students have difficulty with reading comprehension. Reading difficulties are obstacles when students learn to read. The

conversation and interview accidentally happened on September 30th recently to a student who took part in English Guardian. Student said that at first student really hated learning English because the atmosphere was tense and also stiff. That made student afraid when learning English. When student finds a teacher who is able to make the atmosphere fun by learning a language, then learning English becomes the most fun thing for student. So, from this short interview, we can assess if the teacher's role is very important in improving students' ability to learn English, especially in reading skills. This is a challenge for teachers so that students' reading skills can improve.

Quoting from reports sources about reading comprehension, it is found that reading activity is boredom activity. Why do students feel that reading is a boring activity? This is because students do not understand English, so when students read English texts, students are not only difficult to read but also do not understand what is meant, so the students just skip the texts. The progress of science and technology in fact is not used as much as possible by students many of them feel bored reading because they do not know what the meaning for each word is in the sentences or questions given. So that even though students read text in English, students did not get anything so that students did not try it at all. Sometimes when students do not know the meaning word used in the text students choose to ask the teacher without trying to find out first because the media used does not exist. Once found a real problem in a ninth grader

where students did not even know the meanings of very common words and when asked the answer was student did not understand.

One of the reasons why many students are weak in reading skills is thought to be because students have just passed the COVID-19 pandemic. Standard of mastery learning English in junior high school is regulated by the Minister of Education and Culture in the 2013 curriculum, is the students are expected to be able to apply social functions, text structures and linguistic elements of interpersonal interaction texts orally and in writing according to the context of their use. But in fact, even though there has now been a curriculum renewal, the implementation of the 2013 curriculum has not been fully fulfilled considering the students' reading ability, which does not fully reach the expected target.

Furthermore, making inference is making a short explanation that is able to contain all the facts in a paragraph or short text. It can be said that making inference makes the most possible explanation of the facts and describes the implied meaning of the author. According to Joseph et al. (2020), make inference very important to make a solid understanding of a text, in which there is an emphasis on understanding a text. That means making inferences is the process of making a conclusion based on the facts with compression. Furthermore, according to Kartawijaya (2018), inference helps the students to understand and comprehend the text based on the context. That means making inference is a short way to show if students are able to understand and analyze the text given.

The results of the observations that the researcher made during three months of internship at SMPN 8 Padang can be concluded as follows. First, the existence of a superior class in the school makes class A students very different from other classes. Class A stands out for its intelligence as well as its achievements. Secondly, when students do activities reading comprehension they rarely carry a dictionary, so that sometimes they have difficulty understanding what they read. The third factor is the lack of motivation to do activities reading comprehension in English lessons, which exacerbates students lack of understanding.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher wants to know the effectiveness of making inferences from students' reading comprehension. Making their own inferences is the ability of students to conclude what they have read through the text, given it can be a short or long text. The researcher will conduct this research in class IX B because there are because in this class many students are active but still have difficulty making inferences from what they get when doing reading comprehension. Students have a lot of enthusiasm when read text in English, but students find it difficult to express students reading comprehension by students own language.

B. The Identification of the Study

Based on the background of the problem above, researcher can conclude that the problems in reading comprehension are very complete. This can be seen from the problems that have been included: The first is

environmental factor the teacher and classmate are factors that greatly influence students in learning. The second is a lack of knowledge about vocabulary. The third is obstacle for students is learning from home during pandemic. Indonesia post covid-19, where during the pandemic it was not students who carried out the task but family members who were more understanding. The fourth is problem in reading comprehension is the lack of motivation. Based on the research's findings, that first, the majority of students stated students lack of English foundation background and students lack of confidence to use English because they are afraid of mistakes and shy feeling. To overcome the problems that occur above, the researcher uses the technique of making inference.

C. The Scope and Limitation

To avoid misunderstandings in reading, the researchers made the scope of this research only about reading skills. The researcher limits this research problem only to an analysis of the students' reading comprehension by using making inferences for the ninth grade of SMP N 8 Padang in the academic year 2022/2023.

D. Research Questions

Based on limitation of the problem in this research above, than the researcher can find the problem are:

1. How is the reading comprehension of grade IX students of SMP N 8 Padang before using making inferences on the 2022/2023 academic year?

2. How is the reading comprehension of grade IX students of SMP N 8 Padang after using making inferences on the 2022/2023 academic year?

E. Purpose of the Study

Based on the research questions above, the researcher must research and analyze matters relating to the objectives below:

1. To find out students' reading comprehension before using making inferences in ninth grade students of SMP N 8 Padang the academic year 2022/2023.
2. To find out whether the use of making inference in reading comprehension activities is effective for reading comprehension of ninth grade in SMP N 8 Padang.

F. Significant of the Study

1. Theoretical

It is hoped that by doing this research and getting the results of it can have a role and contribute to educational activities. Especially in reading skills, it is hoped that by conducting this research it can be useful for students and teachers. It is certain that by conducting it is hoped that there will be a provision for researchers who will later become English teachers in the future.

2. Practical

- a) For Teacher

The findings of this study allow teachers to practice and provide the best strategies to improve students' reading skills. On the other hand, with the findings of this study, it is possible for teachers to motivate students to have a strong motivation to learn English.

b) For Student

The findings in this study allow students to get more motivated about learning English and can improve students' reading skills in understanding English texts.

c) For Researcher

This research is expected to be useful for others, especially for researchers who need sources for thesis writing for graduation requirements as a resource.

G. Definition of the Key Terms

There are several terms used in this study, to avoid misunderstanding or ambiguous meaning. Then the researcher made a definition of the key term used in writing this research.

1. Reading

Reading is an activity to interpret a written text. When reading, there is an interaction between the written text and the reader.

2. Comprehension

Comprehension is thinking critically about what they read. Understanding is not only understanding the contents of the text but

also connecting the information with one another in the sentence. Moreover, understanding the meaning of comprehension will make it easier for students to understand the text.

3. Making Inference

Making inference is making the easiest words to conclude the content of the text. If students can make inferences properly and correctly, it means that students understand what is in the text.

4. Analysis

Analysis is the process of breaking complex problems into small parts so that students are easier to solve and find solutions, thus finding understanding that is easier to understand.