

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Problem

Reading is one of the four skills in learning English, namely speaking, writing, listening and reading. The purpose of reading is to make it easy for students to get some information and also the best technique for expanding students' vocabulary. Students will get many new languages and understanding by reading. Reading is an activity or process of seeing and understanding the contents of a text. Another meaning of reading is activity of seeing some texts such as novels, short stories and others which can express an imagination of a reading and also be understood by those who read it. Reading is the ability to understand and explore the meaning of written text. Reading can add knowledge for the students, and will automatically add new vocabulary in English sentence for students.

Reading comprehension is one of the important receptive skill in language learning. Reading comprehension involves the ability to understand and analyze the meaning contained in the text. Reading comprehension skill is important because it provides broader knowledge, information and understanding. In an educational context, reading comprehension helps students to understand subject matter, answer questions, analyze arguments, and develop critical thinking.

However, the lack of students' interest in learning English subject is one of the causes of students' lack in understanding of reading English text. Reading is

very important as a means of increasing knowledge, a lack of reading can have negative consequences in one's life, for example: lack of knowledge, lack of critical thinking skill, students cannot communicate well and students lack imagination and creativity when learning. Someone will not have enough access to information and new ideas if lack of reading. Therefore, learning English with reading short stories will help and make it easier for us to communicate and interact with foreigners. English is the official international language, which the students must learn to keep up with the times, so hopefully the students can master the English language well. In addition, reading is the key to be able to achieve success for students.

In fact, there are still many students have low interest, lazy and do not want to try in Indonesia and this is what makes students in Indonesia lack knowledge. Seeing the problem above, the researcher wants to apply strategy of learning English by reading short story which the researcher hopes can increase students' interest in reading. Therefore, short story is design to encourage students to be happy for reading, writing, telling stories and also develop reading comprehension skill. According to Pathan (2012), short stories can help develop students' language skills more effectively, especially in reading skill.

In addition, according to Leibacher (2010), students are trained to think imaginatively when listening or reading stories the way the author describes the setting, characters, and events that occur in the story. In general, students will find new vocabularies and will automatically acquire a lot of knowledge. Then they

will be easy to convey new ideas that are more creative and imaginative. As a result, it will help develop their communication skills in both oral and written communication. After understanding the problems above, for this research to be successful, researcher needs method that can make students enthusiastic and interest.

Based on the problems above, the researcher try to provide method that it can be used to support students to be able to reading well. According to Grades (2006), an interactive reading experience that occurs when students join or share reading from a large book or other enlarged text while being guided and supported by a teacher or other experienced reader. This will make it easier for students to adapt to ongoing learning. Using this strategy will improve students' reading comprehension and also the researcher hopes to increase students' score in the reading program.

Therefore, the researcher chose tenth grade students at SMK Negeri 1 Padang as the object of this study to apply short story to learning strategy to increase student's interest in reading English. Short story can also increase students understanding of words or sentences in English, because it undeniable that English is compulsory subjects that have been implemented. However, because SMK Negeri 1 Padang is a vocational school, general lessons such as English are only held once a week, therefore causing students' general knowledge to be low. Students focus more on studying specific vocational subjects. Based on the problems above, researcher is interested in conduct research entitled; **The Use**

## **of English Short Stories to Improve Students' Reading Comprehension of the Tenth-Grade of SMK Negeri 1 Padang.**

### **B. Identification of the Problem**

Based on the background of the problem above, a problem can be identified in learning English for the reading skills of class X students at SMK N 1 Padang for the 2022/2023 academic year. The problem is students' lack of interest in studying English subjects which is the cause of students' lack of understanding in reading English texts. Students think English lessons are not mandatory so students feel there is no need to learn it. Students consider English lessons to be difficult because they are difficult to understand. Therefore, students have difficulty understanding the content or meaning of short stories when learning English in class.

### **C. Limitation of the Problem**

Based on the identification of the problems above, this study will focus on discussing students' interest in reading and strategies for learning to read in English by using short story texts to improve reading comprehension for tenth-grade ELKA-B students at SMK N 1 Padang in the 2023 academic year.

#### **D. Research Questions**

Based on the limitation of the problem above, these are the research questions of this research :

1. How to improve students' reading comprehension by using English short story of the tenth-grade students of SMK Negeri 1 Padang?
2. Is the use of English short story effective to improve students' reading comprehension of the tenth-grade students of SMK Negeri 1 Padang?

#### **E. Purpose of the Research**

Based on the research questions above, there are some purposes of the research:

1. To find out whether the use of English short story can improve students' reading comprehension of the tenth-grade students of SMK Negeri 1 Padang by using English short story.
2. To find out of the effect of short story on students' reading comprehension of the tenth-grade students of SMK Negeri 1 Padang.

#### **F. Significance of the Research**

Related to purpose of the research above, the significances of the research are as follow:

1. Theoretically

- a. This research can increase students' English vocabulary and improve students' reading comprehension at SMK through short story reading techniques.
- b. For readers they can get more knowledge about teaching reading skills.

2. Practically

a. For teachers

This study can provide information to teachers about the difficult students face in learning English, especially to enrich students' reading comprehension. If the teacher already knows the ordeal, then teachers can increase their skills in teaching to overcome the difficulties that occur in the teaching and learning process in the classroom. Therefore, will make it easy the teacher in the teaching process.

b. For students

This research can improve reading comprehension by using the English short story reading method, and can increase students' knowledge by reading a lot.

## **G. Definition of Key Terms**

It would be better for the researcher to explain the term utilized in order to prevent confusion and misunderstanding about the title of this investigation.

### **1. Short stories**

Short story is a type of prose where the contents of the story are not real events and are only made up. The story can happen anywhere and anytime with a relatively short storyline.

### **2. Reading Comprehension**

Reading comprehension is a skill or ability to understand and process a text, or an individual's ability to understand a text that is influenced by their skills and their ability to process the information contained in the text.

### **3. Narrative Text**

Narrative text is a story with complication or problematic events and it tries to find the resolutions to solve the problems.

### **4. Improve**

Improve is an effort to make changes that are beneficial to ourself and others in order to improve someone's quality.