

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **A. Background of the Study**

Reading is one of the processes that can be done to train skills in oral communication as well as the thinking process in understanding the content of the text. According to Yunus (2023), reading is an activity to acquire information conveyed in reading materials. It can be concluded that reading is one of the activities that can help students obtain any information conveyed in the form of reading materials.

Reading comprehension is one of the abilities to understand, analyze, and interpret the meaning of the text being read. According to Toller & Grabe (2013) defining reading comprehension as the ability to understand text and create meaning from written text. It can be concluded that reading comprehension is the ability to understand written texts and create meaning from each written text.

Teaching reading is one of the processes of teaching reading comprehension to individuals or groups, with the aim of helping students understand, analyze, and interpret texts effectively. According to Henry Guntur Tarigan (2008), teaching reading is an effort to develop reading comprehension in students so that they can understand, analyze, and evaluate the texts they read. This teaching aims to enable students to obtain information in an effective and efficient manner through reading and it can be concluded that teaching reading is

one of the processes carried out by teachers in developing reading comprehension in students so that students can understand the content of the text they read.

The problem experienced by students at SMP N 8 is reading, where most of them have difficulty reading written texts and only a small number of students are willing to read written texts. Many problems experienced by students in reading and understanding written texts include lack of interest in learning English, lack of interest in reading and understanding the content of written texts, low motivation, the students The student does not want to learn English, limited vocabulary, and difficulty in pronunciation. Based on the problems that have been outlined, the author considers the need to conduct research aimed at improving reading comprehension abilities in the seven grade at SMP N 8 PADANG.

Structure strategy is a strategy that is arranged in a planned manner with the aim of helping students understand the text well. According to Marzano (2021), in his book on teaching strategy, defines the structure strategy as the use of various systematic and planned techniques aimed at enhancing students' ability to absorb information more effectively. This includes organizing information in a way that supports the learning process.

Based on the background of the study, the researchers concluded that reading is an activity that helps students acquire information from reading materials, and reading comprehension are very important in English language learning. Reading comprehension is the ability to understand and derive meaning from the text being read. Teaching reading is the teacher's effort to develop

students' reading comprehension so that they can understand and evaluate texts effectively.

However, many students at SMP N 8 experience difficulties in reading and understanding written texts, caused by a lack of interest, low motivation, limited vocabulary, and difficulties in pronunciation. To address this issue, research is needed to improve reading comprehension. An organized and well-planned teaching strategy structure can help students absorb information more effectively and make it easier for them to understand the material they read.

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

The problem faced by students at SMP N 8 is related to reading skills and reading comprehension. Most students have difficulty reading written texts, and only a few students are willing to read. The main problem found is the lack of interest in learning English, which leads to low motivation to understand the content of the text.

In addition, students also face difficulties in understanding the text due to limited vocabulary and pronunciation issues. These factors hinder students' ability to master reading comprehension effectively. Therefore, based on these issues, the author considers the importance of research to improve the reading comprehension skills of students at SMP N 8, particularly seventh-grade students. A structured and organized teaching approach is needed to help students better understand and master the text.

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

In this study, after outlining the issues in reading comprehension above, the researcher limits the findings or scope to improving reading comprehension in seventh grade using structure strategy at SMPN 8 for the 2024/2025 academic year.

### **D. Formulation of the Problem**

Based on the background outline above, the problem formulation in this research can be stated as follows:

1. How structure strategy improve the reading skills of students at SMP N 8 Padang?
2. What are the factors that cause students to struggle with understanding written text?

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

1. To find out whether the use of structure strategy can improve students' reading.
2. To determine whether students' interest and motivation in learning increase when using structure strategy.

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

In relation to the research objectives stated above, where the purpose of the research is to help improve the ability to understand how to read sentences or words, the importance of this research is:

### 1. Theoretical benefits.

The findings of this research are expected to become one of the much-needed references for every English teacher. This strategy, of course, helps in English lessons to improve each student's reading comprehension, especially by using structure strategy to enhance reading comprehension of sentences or texts in the form of images as one of the strategy in teaching reading comprehension.

### 2. Practical benefits.

The results of this research are expected to contribute to the following elements:

#### a) For students.

This research can be used as one of the strategies for understanding reading materials in the form of sentences or texts accompanied by images in order to improve reading comprehension in every English language teaching.

#### b) For the teacher.

The results of the research on the strategy structure to improve reading comprehension can facilitate every English teacher in applying these strategy to each student during English language instruction.

#### c) For researchers.

This research can be useful for another researcher who wishes to study sentences or texts accompanied by images in the strategy of improving reading comprehension.

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

### **1. Reading**

Reading is a process of evaluation to understand every idea or content of what is written, either by vocalizing it or just in one's mind.

### **2. Comprehension**

Understanding is a thinking process where someone comprehends and absorbs the meaning from a written text.

### **3. Strategy**

Strategy is technique used in understanding, remembering, and analyzing written texts more effectively.

### **4. Structure Strategy**

Structure strategy is a strategy that is arranged in a planned manner with the aim of helping students understand the text well.