

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the study

The Quran is the word of Allah SWT which serves as a miracle revealed to Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), written in the mushafs, narrated through mutawatir transmission, and its recitation is regarded as an act of worship¹. Therefore, to obtain the assurance of salvation and happiness in both the world and the hereafter, every Muslim must strive to read and understand the Quran.

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ (1) خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ (2) اقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ
(3) الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ (4) عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ (5)

“The meaning is: Read in the name of your Lord who created (1) created man from a clinging substance (2). Read, and your Lord is the most generous (3), who taught by the pen (4), taught man that which he knew not (5). (Surah Al-Alaq [96]: 1-5).”

The greatest miracle possessed by Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) is the Quran. Allah has perfected the Quran as a guide for all mankind in the world. Even among other holy books, only the Quran is the most complete. The Quran was revealed to mankind to be read and practiced. It has proven to be a great light in guiding human beings in their journey of life. Without reading, one cannot understand its contents, and without practicing it, one cannot feel the goodness and virtues of Allah's guidance in the Quran². Therefore, it is important for us to strive to read the Quran so that we can understand its contents and apply it in our daily lives.

¹ Masjfuk Zuhbi, *Introduction to Ulumul Qur'an* (Surabaya: Karya Abtima, 1997), p. 1.

² Muhammad Tholib, *Functions and Fadhillah of Reading the Qur'an*, (Surabaya: Kaffah Media, 2005), p. 11.

The Quran is the only book on earth that receives attention from all levels of society. Since the Quran was revealed to the universe, it has always provided the light of truth for those who seek it, calming anxiety and providing tranquility for its holders. The Quran that we read, believed to be the Word of Allah, is a guide about what He desires. He is the one who created us and the entire universe, and He is also the one who revealed the Quran. Therefore, if we want our behavior to be in accordance with His will, it is essential that we understand what has been conveyed in the Quran. Likewise, if we want to manage our lives in this world well and full of blessings, there is no other way but to follow what has been taught in His holy book.³

In the educational process, the teacher's effort or effort is very important for the sake of a good teaching and learning process. In terms of effort or effort, it has the same meaning, namely the endeavor to achieve something to be achieved. While the meaning of the teacher itself is professional education, because he has volunteered to accept and assume some of the responsibilities as an educator especially as an Islamic religion teacher. Real education is the responsibility of parents, because the most important education comes from the family.

Al-Qur'an learning can be done in various places, for example at home, at school, at the mosque, at the prayer room, at the Islamic boarding school, and at the TPA. The first environment in educating children is the family, it is hoped that since childhood, children have received Al-Qur'an teaching from their parents. When parents are unable to teach them to read the Koran, they can entrust their children to a place to study the Qur'an.

Ideally reading the Qur'an for class VIII students should be able to, especially with the existence of Al-Qur'an Education Parks (TPA) in the community, which already exist in almost every village. However, several

³ Hasan El-Qudsy, *Dahsyatnya 4 Surah Al-Qur'an* (Boyolali: 2013), p. 11.

things that become big obstacles are the low motivation or support from the family. So that no matter how big the education is from the school, if there is a lack of support from the family for their children in studying religion in general, then this will be a problem that really affects children in learning the Qur'an. One of the difficulties in learning the Qur'an is due to weak support from their peers, so that when learning there is a lack of motivation that can make students enthusiastic.

Many factors affect a student who cannot read the Qur'an, as I met at Islamic Pracha Songkro School, Pattani South Thailand, there are also students who can read and some who cannot. can read the Qur'an because many of them have a background that does not support learning to read the Qur'an, in this case the teacher's efforts are needed to teach the language of God, namely the Koran. So, with this in mind, further research is needed and later it can be used as material for self-reflection and can provide benefits. Thus, this research takes the title **"THE EFFORTS OF ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHERS IN OVERCOMING DIFFICULTIES OF STUDENTS READING THE QUR'AN EIGHTH-GRADE AT ISLAMIC PRACHA SONGKHRO SCHOOL, PATTANI SOUTH THAILAND IN ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/2022"**

B. Research Question

Based on the background of this research, the author tries to formulate the problem, which is:

1. What efforts do Islamic religious education teachers make to overcome the difficulties faced by students in reading the Qur'an in eighth-grade at Islamic Pracha Songkhro School, Pattani South Thailand, Academic Year 2021/2022
2. What are the problems and solutions that teachers face in overcoming the difficulties faced by students in reading the Qur'an at Islamic Pracha Songkhro School, Pattani South Thailand, Academic Year 2021/2022?

C. Objective of the study

Based on the research problem stated above, the general objectives of this study are:

1. To describe the efforts made by Islamic religious education teachers in overcoming the difficulties faced by students in reading the Qur'an in Grade VIII at Islamic Pracha Songkhro School, Pattani South Thailand, Academic Year 2021/2022.
2. To identify the problems and solutions that teachers face in overcoming the difficulties faced by students in reading the Qur'an at Islamic Pracha Songkhro School, Pattani South Thailand, Academic Year 2021/2022.

D. Benefits of the study

The results of this research are expected to provide clear contributions to the readers. There are two benefits, namely theoretical and practical benefits.

1. Theoretical Benefits
 - a. This study can contribute to the development of Islamic education in Islamic Pracha Songkhro School, Pattani South Thailand.
 - b. This study can add to the body of knowledge regarding the efforts made by Islamic religious education teachers in overcoming the difficulties faced by students in reading the Qur'an at Islamic Pracha Songkhro School, Pattani South Thailand.
2. Practical Benefits
 - a. It is an encouragement for parents towards education, and related parties to pay more attention to Islamic religious education so that students understand more about the Qur'an.
 - b. Providing information to Islamic religious education teachers about overcoming difficulties in learning to read the Koran to students at the Islamic Pracha Songkhro School, Pattani South Thailand.

- c. Improving students' understanding of reading the Qur'an with the iqra' method

E. Research Methods

1. Type of Research

Types of research conducted include the type of research field research (field research). Field research is a qualitative research in which researchers observe and participate directly in small social scale research and observe the local culture.⁴

2. Research Approach

The approach used in this study is an qualitative approach. Then the data collection method uses observations involved, in-depth interviews, documentation.

3. Research Place and Research Subjects

This research was conducted at Islam Pracha Songkhro School, located in Phiten District, Thungyangdaeng Regency, Pattani Province in the Pattani South of Thailand. The subjects of this research are the principal, Islamic Education teachers, and students of Islam Pracha Songkhro School related to the efforts of Islamic education teachers in overcoming students' difficulties in reading the Qur'an.

4. Data Collection Technique

a. Interview

Interview is a process of seeking information or data by means of questions and answers with informants or interviewees according to the intended place, with or without using interview guidelines.⁵ This interview was conducted by the author with the principal, Islamic Education teacher, and students of Islamic Pracha Songkhro School regarding how the efforts of Islamic education teachers in overcoming students' difficulties in reading the Qur'an

⁴ Abuddin Nata, *Methodology of Islamic Studies* (Jakarta: Raja Grafindo Persada, 2000), p. 125.

⁵ Sutopo, *Qualitative Research Methods* (Surakarta: UNS Press, 2006), p. 72.

and how the problems and solutions of teachers in overcoming difficulties in reading the Qur'an.

b. Observation

Observation is the process of researchers in seeing and observing the situation that occurs in the place being studied to obtain the information needed in the research. This introduction can be done freely or structured, using observation tools in the form of observation sheets, checklists, event notes, and others.

The purpose of observation is to describe the setting of activities that have occurred, the people involved in the activities, the time of the activities, and the meaning given by the actors observed about the events in question.⁶

Observation can be done directly or indirectly. In this study using direct observation techniques that are not taking messages or also called non-participant observation. With this method, researchers can directly observe how the efforts of Islamic religion teachers in overcoming the difficulties of students reading the Al-Qur'an class VIII at Islamic Pracha Songkhro School.

c. Documentation

Documentation is a record that is already valid. Documents can be in the form of writings, images, or monumental works of a person. Research results will also be more credible if supported by photographs or existing academic and artistic papers.

Documentation was used to obtain written data about the history of Islamic Pracha Songkhro School, vision, mission, and goals, organizational structure, facilities and infrastructure, data on teachers, and employees and students, physical data of Islamic Pracha Songkhro School.

5. Data Analysis Methods

⁶ Lexy. J. Moleong, . *Qualitative Research Methodology*. (Bandung: PT. Remaja Rosda Karya 2002). p. 66.

In the observations obtained, researchers used qualitative methods. This method is used to clarify the data obtained to be concluded, data in the form of sentence descriptions collected through observations and interviews, recording documents and others which have then been arranged in an organized manner, but are a very large number of words in the form of sentences before the final analysis is used.

After the data is collected in the field, the analysis used is an interactive qualitative analysis consisting of 3 streams of activities that run simultaneously, namely data reduction, data presentation, and data withdrawal.

a. Data Reduction

Data reduction can be interpreted as a process of selecting, focusing research on simplifying, validating data, transforming rough data that emerges from written field notes. This data reduction takes place continuously during the research. The method includes, among others, through rigorous data selection classifying in a broader pattern.

b. Data Presentation

The second flow of data analysis activities is data presentation, which is organizing data in the form of a set of information. In this way, it is hoped that it will make it easier to draw conclusions, and in taking verification or can complete data that is still lacking through additional data collection and data reduction.

c. Inference

The last analysis activity is drawing conclusions, namely formulating conclusions after performing the data reduction and presentation stages. Drawing conclusions is done inductively, in this case the researcher examines a number of specific data regarding the problem that is the object of research, then makes general conclusions.

6. Data Validity Test

Data collection goes through three stages including the preliminary stage, the screening stage, and the stage of completing the missing data. Of the three stages, for checking the validity of data that occurs a lot at the data screening stage. Therefore, if there is data that is irrelevant and less peaceful, data will be filtered once again in the field so that the data has a high level of validity.

The data validity checking technique that will be used in this research is data triangulation, namely by comparing observation data with interview results, interview data with documentation and observation data with documentation. The results of this comparison are expected to unify the perception of the data obtained.