

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Everybody in the world needs communication. By communication, the writer can know many things in the world, such as; knowledge, culture, and the characteristics of other people. The instrument of communication is language. People in the world use language as a means of communication and interaction. Language is an instrument by which humans can express their ideas, thoughts, need to others. Finnochiaro (in Srijono, 2001: 7) states “language is used to express one’s emotions, needs, thoughts, ideas, attitudes, etc”.

Realizing the importance of English in this global era, the Indonesian government commands every school level to adopt English as the part of curriculum from Elementary School up to University. English consists of four language skills, namely reading, listening, speaking and writing. Teachers should develop these four language skills in order that their students could use the skills to communicate or express their thoughts, feeling, and opinions in English.

Reading is one of the skills in learning English. It is defined as an understanding a message conveyed by the writer through visual and non-visual information (Smith in Fauziati, 2008: 134). It is important to learn

reading since it (1) helps us learn to think the new language, (2) helps us build a better vocabulary, and (3) makes us more comfortable with written English.

The teacher usually has some methods in teaching-learning process. Teaching methods are needed in teaching-learning process, especially in teaching reading. Method is treated at the level of design in which the roles of teachers, learners and instructional materials are specified. Anthony (in Fauziati, 2008: 5) defines method as “an overall plan for the orderly presentation of language material, no part of which contradicts, and all of which is based upon the selected approach.” When the students are reading Indonesian text they have mastered vocabulary and structural system, but when they are reading English text, they are demanded to have adequate knowledge of the target language which has different system.

Students should have mastery on reading skill. Good achievement in reading is important for the students. Students will get information and ideas which can enrich their vocabulary and ideas. So it needs to use appropriate method in teaching reading, in order to produce good reading ability.

Teaching reading in junior high school can be done in many ways. The common way usually used by the teacher is reading short story whereas in fact there are other techniques that are more effective. For example, the methods of teaching reading such as short stories, puzzles, advertisement and games. It will make students more active in the classroom. The various activities will avoid monotonous class. It is very useful for increasing student's interest and motivation in learning English, so the teaching-learning process will run better

and faster. As it is found in *SMP Negeri 3 Colomadu*, the teacher has some problems in teaching learning-process of reading. Most of the students usually get difficulties in understanding the text and the students cannot comprehend well.

This condition appears from the students themselves. Some of them do not understand the materials in reading test, they have limited vocabulary so they cannot transfer the important message and key word from the text. They think that reading makes them bored and tired, because they tend to read word by word. In other words, the students have less motivation and interests in reading.

Based on the background above the writer decides to carry out a research entitled *A Descriptive Study on Teaching – Learning Process of Reading to the First Year Students of SMP Negeri 3 Colomadu in 2010/2011 Academic Year*.

B. Limitation of the Study

In this research, the writer limits the problems in teaching-learning process of reading at the first year students of *SMP Negeri 3 Colomadu* in 2010/2011 academic year. The writer focuses her research only on descriptive text, because the teacher used descriptive text during teaching-learning process of reading in the classroom.

C. Problem of the Study

Based on the background of the problem above, the writer formulates the problems as follows.

1. How is the English teaching - learning process of reading to the first year students of *SMP Negeri 3 Colomadu* in 2010/2011 academic year? and
2. What are the difficulties faced by the students in comprehending the reading material?

D. Objective of the Study

Based on the problem statements, the objectives of the study in this research are:

1. to describe the teaching - learning process of reading to the first year students of *SMP Negeri 3 Colomadu* in 2010/2011 academic year, and
2. to describe the difficulties faced by the students in comprehending the reading material.

E. Benefit of the Study

The researcher expects that this research can give benefits, both theoretical and practical:

1. Theoretical Benefits
 - a. The result of the research can be used as an input in English teaching-learning process especially for teaching reading.

- b. The result of this research can be used as the reference for those who want to conduct a research in English teaching-learning process.

2. Practical Benefits

- a. The research may improve the writer herself in mastering English Reading.
- b. The reader may get a large knowledge about teaching reading.
- c. For English teachers, the result of the study can help them in teaching reading.

F. Research Paper Organization

In writing this research paper, the writer divides it into five chapters.

Chapter I is introduction. It consists of background of the study, limitation of the study, problem of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, and research paper organization.

Chapter II is review of related literature. It delivers of previous researches related to the topic, the notion of reading, approaches to teaching reading, descriptive text, teaching reading, teaching-learning process of reading descriptive text, and teaching procedure for teaching-learning process of reading descriptive text.

Chapter III is research method. This chapter deals with type of the research, subject of the research, object of the research, sources of data, method of collecting data, and technique for analyzing data.

Chapter IV discusses the result of the research. It discusses of research finding and discussion.

Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion followed by bibliography and appendix at the end of research paper.