

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Learning English is one of the activities done in many teaching learning processes. It is not easy for every people to learn and teach English well. There are many difficulties found in understanding English. Learning English means studying a foreign language. In Indonesia, English is not the first language, but it becomes the second language studied by people. They learn it because it is an international language in this world. Since English is an international language, people should learn and master it to get better communication when they speak to foreign people. By mastering English they will get easy in communicate to many people from many countries because English learned in every country. Mastering English also means avoiding misunderstanding. Therefore learning English is the important thing to do.

To learn English, students need strategies. Learning strategies will help student understand the materials learned. There are many strategies which can be used in learning process. According to Riding (2002: 79),

Learning strategies are formed as part of a response within the individual to meet the demands of the environment. Learning strategies may thus be seen as cognitive tools which for the individual are particularly helpful for successfully completing a specific task. This approach leads to the concept of the strategic learner.

Learning strategies are important for students to improve their interest to study foreign language. It is an important tool to help learner completing a specific task such as understanding written text in reading class.

There are four skills which should be mastered in learning and teaching English, namely; speaking skill, reading skill, listening skill, and writing skill. Those skills should be equal each other to get good result in mastering English. Sometimes, in many cases there are many difficulties from learners to balance their skills, especially their reading skill. According to Kennedy (1981: 5),

Reading is the ability of an individual to recognize a visual form, associate the form with a sound and or meaning acquired in the past, and on the basis of past experience, understands and interpret its meaning. In reading from books, it is usually necessary to recognize, understand and interpret several words in a series.

Reading is important skill for everyone to get message from written text or other printed text. Many people who have no interest in book or reading will get difficulty to access reading activities and reading program in doing reading because people cannot read the text without understanding the content of the text. They have to know the information, message and also the idea which wrote in the text.

Reading is one of the four skills which should be mastered. When students learn the second language especially in improving their reading skill, they still have many difficulties, such as in understanding the meaning of the message either in words or sentences. It means they can't understand what the important information in the passage. Because of their difficulties, most of the students

think that reading is difficult. Sometimes, learners also feel bored when reading, because reading the text is more boring than other activities in the class. At this time, learners should have their own creativity to make reading more interesting. This creativity is also called learning strategies.

In this opportunity, the writer is interested in doing the research in *SMA Muhammadiyah 1 Surakarta*. In this school the students especially at the second grade have various marks in English subject. Some students have high mark, and the others have middle and low mark. This school is an ordinary school because it is not a favorite school in Solo. Even though it is not a favorite school there are some students who still having good mark in English subject. The writer guesses that they have different learning strategies so they also got different mark on their English subject. From the description above, the writer is interested in carrying out the study on *Learning Strategies in Reading Used by the Second Year Students of SMA Muhammadiyah 1 Surakarta*.

B. Limitation of the Study

In order to make this research feasible, the writer here limits the scope of the research. In this research the writer focuses on analyzing the learning strategies used by three students of *SMA Muhammadiyah 1 Surakarta* class XI. She focuses only on three students because she wants to compare between one student to another student. The three students are as follows:

1. S1 is a student who has high mark in English subject (ALW).
2. S2 is a student who has middle mark in English subject (CAN).

3. S3 is a student who has low mark in English subject (AC).

C. Problem Statement

Based on the background of the study, the writer states the problem of study in this research is only one. It is “What are the strategies used by the students at *SMA Muhammadiyah 1 Surakarta* in increasing their reading ability”.

D. Objective of the Study

The objective study of this research is to find the learning strategies used by three students at *SMA Muhammadiyah 1 Surakarta* at second grade who have high, middle and low mark in English subject in increasing their reading skill.

E. Benefit of the Study

1. Theoretical Benefit

- a. From this study, it is expected that the result of the research can give a contribution to the language teaching and learning in general.
- b. The writer hopes that the result of this study will be one of references for other researchers who want to research the students' learning strategies.

2. Practical Benefit

- a. For teacher

The writer hopes this study can help English teacher in *SMA Muhammadiyah 1 Surakarta* and also other English teacher to increase students' ability in reading.

b. For learners

This study is very useful to improve the ability in reading especially in improving students' reading skill. They also can get easier in understanding reading text.

F. Research Paper Organization

This research paper is bended into 5 chapters. Chapter I is introduction, consisting of background of the the study, problem statement, objective of study, limitation of the study, benefit of the study, and research paper organization.

Chapter II is previous study and underlying theory, which deals with the theories that are useful for conducting the analysis of the data. They are the notion and the kind of learning strategies, notion of reading comprehension, reading skill and component of reading.

Chapter III is research method. This chapter is divided into five points. They are type of research paper, object of the research, data and data source, technique of collecting data, and the last is technique of analysing data.

Chapter IV is research finding and discussion. The research finding describes the learning strategies used by the second year students of *SMA Muhammadiyah 1 Surakarta*.

The last chapter is chapter V. This chapter consists of conclusion and suggestion.