

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Language is oral, and to use language one must string together a number of speech sounds in a limited number of “patterns”. The structure of a given language dictates what patterns are acceptable (Heilman, 1972: 166). English language as the foreign language is needed in studying and learning particularly in the educational institution. Indonesian students from elementary school to senior high school must learn it. Learning English involves the four kinds of language skills; listening, speaking, reading, 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.

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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 (1971) in Fauziati, (2002: 139). It is important to

learn reading since it (1) helps us learn to think the new language, (2) helps us build a better vocabulary, (3) makes us more comfortable with written English, (4) can help us plan to study in English – speaking country.

The general meaning of reading itself is a process of decoding messages in which reader needs his or her own experiences and knowledge efficiently. Herber (1978) in Dupuis, (1982: 20) sees reading as a thinking process which includes decoding of symbols, interpreting the meanings of the symbols, and applying the ideas derived from the symbols. If students have prior knowledge of the topic or the style of the text to be read, they should recall that knowledge of the topic and use it to help them predict what might be in the text. This information might also be of help later as they read.

There are many advantages can be obtained through reading. By reading students can extract a lot of information and knowledge from many textbooks, references and related library reading they read. Reading can also serve pleasure feeling. It is mostly gained by reading magazine, newspaper, short story, novel, etc according to what they like. By reading those material, it can feel relax and joyful since in this type of reading it just read what we want. Reading then can be said as a means of studying and thinking as well as a means of enjoying.

Teaching reading is one of language skills learned in junior high school to understand and not only the content of it, but also the pronunciation and intonation. Reading comprehension is fundamental for English foreign learner

in observing new information and knowledge. Since many source books for the students especially for higher students are in English, they to be able to comprehend their book well.

The function of the teacher is not to tell the students what they should learn, but to help them to select what they want to learn. The teacher becomes a facilitator of learning of personal and social change by assisting the developing person at those points where help is requested. The students in mastering the subject will greatly depend on the presentation of material given by the teacher besides the ability of the students themselves. The teacher may use the goal formulated as a guide in choosing the method of the teaching (Surakhmad, 1994: 44). It is really pleasure and positive experience to try various classroom activities because successful lessons depend on the using of a variety of teaching methods.

Based on the explanation above, the writer wants to analyze deeper about a descriptive study on teaching reading at the second year students of *SMP N 1 Polanharjo*. The reasons why the writer chooses this school are the first, the writer was known-well about the situation and condition of this school, second, it has a good grade quality especially in Klaten areas, and third, the school has good achievements of their graduations.

B. Previous Study

The writer finds other studies conducted the study on descriptive study by the other researchers. First, Rachmawati (UMS, 2007) studied a descriptive study entitled *A Descriptive Study on Teaching Reading to the First Year Students of MTSN 1 Surakarta in 2008/2009 Academic Year*. She discussed the technique which was applied by the teacher in teaching reading especially in MTSN 1 Surakarta.

The second Wijayanti (UMS, 2007). She writes *A Descriptive Study on the Ability of Reading Comprehension by the Fifth Year Students of SDN 1 Limpung Batang in 2006/2007*. She discussed the problem faced by the teacher and the students during teaching-learning process in reading comprehension.

The third Suryaningsih (UMS, 2005) in her studied entitled *A Descriptive Study on the English Reading Test for the Sixth Level Students of SD Jetis 1 Sukoharjo in Academic Year 2002/2003, 2003/3004, 2004/2005* found some comparison on the problem of reading faced by students. She compared the dominant problem from 2002 to 2005 academic year students of the sixth level of SD Jetis 1Sukoharjo.

In this research, the writer will analyze on descriptive analysis. The writer is considering the problem and methods which are suitable in teaching reading in junior high school.

C. Problem Statements

Based on the background of the study, the writer states the research problems as the following:

1. What is the objective of teaching reading comprehension in *SMP N 1 Polanharjo*?
2. How is the technique of teaching reading comprehension in *SMP N 1 Polanharjo*?
3. How is the process of teaching reading comprehension in *SMP N 1 Polanharjo*?
4. What are the materials of reading comprehension in *SMP N 1 Polanharjo*?

D. Limitation of the Study

In this research, the writer limits the problem as follows: the research concerns only with the methods used by teacher in teaching reading at the second year students of *SMP N 1 Polanharjo Klaten*.

E. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study is to know and describe the teaching reading comprehension in *SMP N 1 Polanharjo*. To gain a better understanding, the writer focuses on the formulation of the study as follows:

1. To know the objective of teaching reading comprehension in *SMP N 1 Polanharjo*.
2. To know the technique of teaching reading comprehension in *SMP N 1 Polanharjo*.

3. To know the process of teaching reading comprehension in *SMP N 1 Polanharjo*.
4. To know the materials of reading in *SMP N 1 Polanharjo*.

F. Benefit of the Study

There is always a sense or experience behind everything done and happened in the world. Different activities will have different benefits. The researcher hopes that this research will give some practical and theoretical benefits:

1. Theoretically: for teacher or lecturer, this research might be useful for lecturer in giving additional input and reference about the realization of teaching reading for students of junior high school. For other researchers, this research is significant for stimulating the other researcher in conducting such kind of research in the future.
2. Practically: This research will be helpful for the students to understand about reading and can enrich the theory of teaching English reading to junior high school.

G. Paper Organization

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

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

Chapter II is review of related literature. It consists of previous researches related to the topic, the notion of descriptive study, the notion of reading, teaching reading and technique for teaching reading.

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

Chapter IV is result of the research it consists of the result of the implementation of teaching reading.

Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion. It consists of the conclusion of the research and completed by suggestion to make the research better.