

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

There are four skills which should be mastered in English learning activities; reading, speaking, listening, and writing. This skills should be different each other to be a master English language. The four skills, reading is the most important skill because, without reading all people in this world do not know the information that occurs in this world. Beside that we also know well about the science and knowledge from the reading. The fundamental goal of any reading activity is know enough science concepts and knowing the language. Because of its importance, student should be equipped with reading skill.

It explains that teaching reading is the combination of word recognition, intellect, and emotion interrelated with prior knowledge to understand the message communicated. Considering the needs of mastering reading as one of the ways for mastering English, 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 past of experience, understand and interpret its meaning.

Reading, based on the fact that students learn through reading interesting things, like reading a novel, a romantic story, and the magazine

is one way to make students do activities read and to improve students' reading skills. If they lead learning activities fun, they'll enjoy it, so it can learn much faster and can increase their reading skills.

In *Kurikulum Tingkat Satuan Pendidikan (KTSP)* that the purpose of language teaching in Senior High School is to make the learners being able to master four skills; reading, speaking, listening, and writing. Basically, those four basic skills should be covered in English teaching - learning process and the four basic skills must be learned in time that is proportional to the maximum results in learning English. It means that every skill should have the same proportion in language learning but we know in recent curriculum, reading is more emphasized than other skills and actually, language is speech, reading is just representation of speech, further, language is the tool for communication.

Based on those problems, the researcher wants to conduct a research entitled "A Correlation between Students's English Learning Activity and the Reading Achievement at the Second Year of SMA N 1 Gondang Sragen in 2011/2012 Academic Year."

B. Limitation of the Study

Reading achievement is limited to the ability of how to apply the language that they have learned in reading skill. So, the researcher would like to focus her study on the students learning activity in relation to the reading achievement.

C. Problem Statement

The problems of the research are formulated in some questions below:

1. What are the students' learning activities in developing reading achievement?
2. Is there any correlation between the learning activities and the reading achievement?

D. Objective of the Study

The objectives of this research can be stated as follows:

1. To describe the kind of English learning activities done by the students in developing the reading achievement.
2. To know the correlation between learning activities and the reading ability.

E. Benefit of the study

From this study, it is expected that the result of the research can give a contribution to the language teaching, and learning activity in relation to the reading achievement

- a. For the writer

The research finding will broaden the writer's knowledge and experience on student's English learning activity in relation to the

development of the reading achievement and the obstacles faced by the student's in improving the reading achievement. The entire research finding is the basis for the writer to teach speech and to make teaching programs in the future when she will become a teacher.

b. For the teacher

Practically, the writer expects this study can be an additional input in the teaching-learning process related to the effectiveness of English language learning for Senior High School. So, he or she can help students learn to solve their problems in reading achievement.

c. For the students

Theoretically, this research is hoped to give input to the students, so that they can find the solution of their problem in improving the reading achievement.

F. Research Paper Organization

The writer arranges this research paper into five chapters to make it easy to understand. They are as follows:

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

Chapter II is review of related literature that deals with previous study, English learning activity, reading achievement, and criteria of reading achievement.

Chapter III is research method that discusses type of the research, variable of the study, place and time of the study, population, sample, method of collecting data, and technique for analyzing data.

Chapter IV is research finding and discussion.

Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion, followed by bibliography, and appendix.