

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Reading is one of the language skills which is very important to be mastered by everyone to get knowledge. It is an activity which needs process, and used to understand the writer's message, ideas or the way the writer communicates with the readers by written or printed words. Hodgson (1960:43-44) in Tarigan (1986:7) defines reading is a process that is carried and used by readers to get the message, which was about to be submitted by the author through the medium of words or written language. A process which requires that a group of words which is a unity will be seen in a glimpse and that the meaning of individual words will be known. If this is not met, then the message is explicit and implied to be caught or understood, and the reading process is not performing well.

It is very essential for everyone to gain new knowledge and information in this globalization era. It will increase someone's knowledge to a better life in the future. However, until now there are still many people who do not have much interest and motivation to read books, so they cannot broaden their knowledge.

English and Indonesian are two different languages. No one can guarantee that students who understand Indonesian texts will also understand English texts. It is easier for students to read Indonesian texts

because they have mastered the Indonesian vocabulary and grammatical structures, but when they read English texts, they should have enough vocabulary and understand the grammatical structures of the target language.

Reading is not just reading the texts without understanding the content. The readers have to know the message or idea included in the text. Every text has its own purpose, message or idea (narrative, recount, procedure, report, analytical exposition, explanation, discussion, descriptive, news item, hortatory, spoof, and review). To understand the texts well, the readers have to master the strategies. They involve the pre-reading that are used to prepare students for reading, while reading where readers check their comprehension as they read, and post reading which functions as a closing mark for a reading class.

Each form of texts is created based on genre. Genre can be defined as a type of the text functioned as a frame of reference, so the text can be created effectively; in purpose, election, and arranging of text elements, and accuracy in using grammar. In reading, the students should have capability to understand the content of the text. Capability is ability necessary to do something. The teacher should lead his or her students to develop reading texts. This is one of the ways to increase the students' capability. The reading skills and strategies that should be mastered are, (1) skimming: used to quickly identify the main ideas of a text, (2) scanning: reading quickly to find the needed information, (3) reading for detailed information: reading to understand or to find all data included in the texts, (4)

reading between the lines: reading to find the implied conclusion of the text, (5) predicting: predicting what will happen. The students have to use the available data found in the text, because the answer is not stated, and (6) deducing meaning from the context: guessing the meaning of few words without looking up to the dictionary, but by reading the text carefully.

Reading is taught from Elementary schools up to the university level. Generally, there are two kinds of school, namely state schools and the private ones. A state school is a school in which the fund is from the government, while a private school is a school in which the fund only comes from that school. *SMP N 2 Panekan Magetan* is a state school which is in the process of being a national standardized school now. The quality of this school is good enough, supported by sufficient buildings and taught by teachers who are capable in their fields. No longer, this school will provide the multimedia devices.

There are some reasons why the writer chooses this school. First, *SMP N 2 Panekan Magetan* is a state school which is in the process of being a national standardized school. Second, the quality of this school is good enough as it is supported by sufficient buildings and capable teachers; moreover no longer there will be multimedia facilities. Third, in this study the writer takes the third year students that will face the national examination, so it is important to know their capability in understanding written text before facing the national exams.

Based on the background above, the writer wants to know the capability of the third year students of *SMP N 2 Panekan Magetan* in understanding written texts, the problems faced by the third year students in understanding written texts, and the causes of the problems faced by the third year students of *SMP N 2 Panekan Magetan* in understanding written texts. Therefore the writer is interested to conduct a research entitled **THE CAPABILITY OF THE THIRD YEAR STUDENTS OF SMP N 2 PANEKAN MAGETAN IN UNDERSTANDING WRITTEN TEXTS.**

B. Research Problem

The problems of this research are as follows:

1. How is the capability of the third year students of *SMP N 2 Panekan Magetan* in understanding written texts?
2. What are the problems faced by the third year students of *SMP N 2 Panekan Magetan* in understanding written texts?
3. What are the causes of the problems faced by the third year students of *SMP N 2 Panekan Magetan* in understanding written texts?

C. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are to describe:

1. the capability of the third year students of *SMP N 2 Panekan Magetan* in understanding written texts.

2. the problems faced by the third year students of *SMP N 2 Panekan Magetan* in understanding written texts.
3. the causes of problems faced by the third year students of *SMP N 2 Panekan Magetan* in understanding written texts.

D. Limitation of the Study

In this research, the writer limits the study of the capability of the third year students of *SMP N 2 Panekan Magetan* in understanding written texts which focuses on the genre of texts (narrative, recount, procedure, report, descriptive) and the reading comprehension capability is seen from the result of the test, then the writer wants to know the problems faced by the third year students of *SMP N 2 Panekan Magetan* in understanding written texts.

E. Benefit of the Study

The writer hopes that this research can give some benefits in the study of English especially in reading skill. There are two kinds of benefits in this research, they are:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The writer hopes that the research can be a reference for conducting such kind of research in the future. This research gives description about the capability of third year students in understanding written text and the problems faced by the third year

students in understanding written texts that is useful for improving teaching ideas especially in reading subject.

2. Practical Benefits

- a. This research can give the information about the capability of the third year students in reading comprehension so that the students can improve their capability in understanding written texts.
- b. This research can give the information about problems in reading comprehension so that the teacher at school can improve the techniques in teaching reading.

F. Research Paper Organization

To enable the readers easy to understand the research paper, the writer divides this research paper into five chapters, they are as follows:

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

Chapter II is review of related literature that consists of previous study, theoretical review, capability, capability in understanding written texts, understanding written texts, reading comprehension, teaching reading, reading skills and strategies, the difficulties faced by students in reading, teaching reading, and the assessment of reading comprehension.

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

Chapter IV is research finding and discussion. The research finding is divided into the capability of the third year students in understanding written texts, the problems faced by the third year students, and the causes of the problem faced by the third year students at *SMP N 2 Panekan Magetan* in understanding written texts.

Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion.