

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Education is a means to increase the quality of Human Resources (SDM). By getting education, people can make or change their lives to be better. Every country has different ways in developing the education. In Indonesia, education is taught in all degrees, start from kindergarten, elementary school, junior high school, senior high school until university. One of the most important subjects in education is English language.

As international language has long been used by people to interact with others around the world, English has important role in many aspects of life. For example, English can help people when they want to use modern devices like gadget, iphone, and laptop in English instructions. Realizing the importance of English, Indonesian government decides that English language must be taught and learned by students of many school in Indonesia.

English language has many skills to be learnt; reading skill, writing skill, speaking skill, and listening skill. All those skills are the basic tools to understand the language and message. One of the skills that interrelated with prior knowledge to understand the message communicated is reading skill. "Reading is not one skill but a large number of highly interrelated skills that develop gradually over the year" (Harris & Edward, p.13).

Reading is far more enjoyable when it is carried out efficiently and seriously. Through reading, students are able to be familiar with many kinds of vocabulary and enrich their vocabulary mastery especially with educational field. In KTSP curriculum, reading is a fundamental skill in English learning. Most of material in English learning is presented in text through reading. Reading has important role in teaching English by genre text.

Reading is a process undertaken to establish the meaning. Reading implies both an author and a reader. The author put ideas into the page and the reader tries to understand the author's meaning. By reading, students are able to understand texts written in English, and also can guess the meaning of

unfamiliar words based on the text. Therefore, the ability to read is very important for students to enrich their knowledge. The ability to understand is one of the keys for a student's success in learning.

Basically, learning is viewed as a process of conditioning behavior. Brook (1964: 46) in Fauziati (2009: 18) states "learning as a change in performance that occurs under the condition of practice." Learning is one of the activities done in many teaching learning process. Generally, students have many difficulties to learn and to understand English well. So, students should learn and master it to get better knowledge. Students can use various strategies to support their learning. Therefore, learning strategies is the crucial thing to do.

Nowadays, every student develops learning strategies to deal with the learning material. Strategies can be learned and modified as a behavior done by the learner. Scarcella and Oxford (1992) states "learning strategies are defined as specific actions, behaviors, steps, or techniques such as seeking out conversation partners, or giving oneself encouragement." So, learning strategies are the behavior that is used by learner to help them comprehend what has been learned. The goals of learning are to develop the students' competencies, such as knowledge and skills that are elaborated in every education.

In Junior High School, learning English is obligated to help students to develop their skills competence. Therefore, each student needs strategies to learn. Learning strategy can give some advantages there are; can improve the language skills in a better way, can read in English text effectively, and related to Oxford, 2002: 362 (in Fauziati, 2010: 150) "the strategies will make learning easier, faster, more enjoyable, more self directed, more effective, and more transferable to new situations." So, it can be concluded that the students who use learning strategies are going to be successful in learning language.

In this research, the writer conducted a research at SMP N 1 Kebakkramat. The objectives in choosing SMPN 1 Kebakkramat as the location of the research because this school is located in strategic area. It is located at Jl. Solo-Sragen km 11, this location is near from the main street. After some interviews with the English teacher at that school, the writer found that there are

some students have various score in English subject. Some students have high score, some others have middle score, and the rest have low score. Averagely, there are three students who get the score 68-70, five students who get the score 71-74, eighteen students who get the score 75-79, two students who get the score 80, five students who get the score 81-82, and only one student who get the score 85. So, the writer guesses that the students have different learning strategies so they got different score on English subject. Therefore, the writer wants to know the learning strategies used by the student in reading.

Based on the statements above, the writer is interested in conducting a research entitled “LEARNING STRATEGIES USED BY THE STUDENTS IN READING CLASS AT SMP N 1 KEBAKKRAMAT IN 2016/2017 ACADEMIC YEAR.”

B. Scope of the Study

It is necessary for the writer to limit the study. It is intended to help her to focus on the object and subject of the research. The writer limits her object on learning strategies in reading class. Her subject consists of 34 students, with 13 male students and 21 female students from VIIIF class in SMPN 1 Kebakkramat. In this research the writer focuses on analyzing the learning strategies used by the students in the class.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the background of the study above, the writer formulates the problem statement as the following:

1. What are the strategies used by the students of VIIIF class of SMP N 1 Kebakkramat in learning reading?
2. What are the effects of various learning strategies used by the students on the English achievement?

D. Objective of the Study

In line with the problem statement, the objectives of the study in this research are:

1. to identify the learning strategies used by the students of VIIIIF of SMP N 1 Kebakkramat in learning reading.
2. to describe the effects of various learning strategies used by the students on the English achievement.

E. Benefit of the Study

There are two benefits of this research; they are practical benefit and theoretical benefit.

1. Practical Benefit

a. For English Teacher

This study can be a reference or suggestion to handle and manage in teaching English especially the learning reading.

b. For the students

This study can be useful for additional information to improve student's ability in reading, so they are motivated and interested in learning.

2. Theoretical Benefit

Related to this research, the writer hopes this research would help readers to provide the suggestion to the language teaching and the development of learning reading in Junior High School. Besides, this research can be used as reference for the other researcher who wants to conduct research about the student's learning strategies.

F. Research Paper Organization

The writer organizes the paper into five chapters and every chapter is subdivided into further divisions. The research paper organization can be arranged briefly as follows:

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

Chapter II is underlying theory. This chapter concerns with previous study, notion of learning strategies, categories of learning strategies, notion of reading, components of reading, and techniques of reading.

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

Chapter IV describes research finding and discussion.

The last is chapter V; it consists of conclusion and suggestion. The writer concludes the result of the whole research and gives suggestion.