IMPROVING STUDENTS' READING COMPETENCE THROUGH

"ACTIVE"(AN ACTION RESEARCH AT THE SECOND GRADE OF SMP 1

AL ISLAM KARTASURA)

RESEARH PAPER

Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education
in English Department

by

ERNA WAHYU WULANDARI
A. 320. 030. 045

SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION

MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA

2010

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

English is an international language which plays an important role in our life. It is obvious that in developing countries, it has become more and more important. Indonesia is one of developing countries, which need an international language to make a good relationship with other countries because it it impossible for one country to stand by itself.

Considering the important role of English, mastering English either written or spoken is needed. To master English, students need to learn the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Reading is one of the skills that need to learn most because almost all subjects of students learning activities involve reading. Reading activity is always linked with the activity of finding information. Reader also has the value of helping students learn to express their own thought and making them familiar with the language pattern.

Wallace (1996: 5) states that reading is so much a part of daily life for those who live in literate communities that much of the time we hardly consider either the purposes or processes involved . Reading is one of the complex ways in learning English. In addition, by reading, the learners can get some information and knowledge. Moreover, by reading, the reader can also do the other activities, such as writing and speaking.

Students usually face common problem in learning reading. They seems confused when they face a passage that contains something they are not familiar with. They have no experience and knowledge about the passage. Most students think that they do not need to become active. It is, for sure, a wrong concept. Because of this perception, students got difficulty to follow the subject whereas understanding this skill. Because the success of learning any subject matter depends mostly on the competence of reading comprehension, therefore, students need to develop their comprehension skill.

The result of the teaching and learning process in the second grade of SMP 1 Al Islam Kartasura is still not as good as it is expected. It can be seen from their grade. It happens because they face several problems when learning reading. The students usually face unfamiliar words, grammar, lacks of vocabulary (they often open the dictionary), they are unable to translate meaning in phrase instead of word by word, students have poor concentration on English subject and most of them have lack of prior knowledge so they hardly understand the topic of the subject.

All the problems mentioned above happens because the students think that English subject is difficult, hard to study and some of them are still unfamiliar with the language. The problems can be solve with ACTIVE. Students learn more effectively when they already know something about a content area and when conceps in that area mean something to them and to their particular background or culture, therefore, teacher needs to activate students prior

knowledge by asking them several questions related to the topic, and then they are to teach to cultivate their vocabulary by making word web. Furthermore, teaching for comprehension, is done by reading together and discussing how they understand what is written. Repeated reading is effective also to improve reading competence. And the last, verify reding strategies and evaluate progress are considering the role of motivation and select appropriate materials.

ACTIVE is the teaching technique which is used to help students to become an active reader. ACTIVE actually is an abbreviation that stand for A: Activate prior knowledge, C: Cultivate vocabulary, T: Teach for comprehension, I: Increase reading rate, V: Verify reading strategies, E: Evaluate progress. It is proposed by Anderson. An active reader does not simply pick up the text and read it but implementing the reading theory also.

Here, the writer uses ACTIVE teaching system to improve students reading competence because it contains several ways of treatment, presents a variety of ideas and information on teaching reading also. ACTIVE is the teaching technique which is used to help student to become an active reader. This teaching system enable student to improve their reading competence because the student does not feel being forced to study so they can enjoy it. It also enables student to study by themselves and to correct themselves, whether they false or not.

Based on the various facts above, the writer is interests in conducting a research about Increasing Reading Competence through "ACTIVE" (An Action Research at The second Grade of SMP Al Islam 1 Kartasura).

B. Problem Statement

Based on the study, the writer formulates the problems as follows:

1. How is the implementation of "ACTIVE" to improve the students' reading competence ?

2. Does "ACTIVE" improve the students' reading competence ?

C. Objective of the Study

1. General Objective

As stated before, the students do not have good reading skill. They are also passive in teaching learning process. Therefore the general objectives of the study is to improve the students' reading skill.

2. Specific Objective

a. To describe the implementation of ACTIVE to the second grade student of SMP I Al Islam Kartasura.

b. To see whether ACTIVE can improve students reading competence.

D. Benefit of the Study

1. Theoritical Benefit

   a. Hopefully the result of the research can be used as an input in teaching learning process especially in teaching reading.

   b. The result of the research can be used as the reference for those who want to conduct a research in English teaching learning process.

2. Practical Benefit

   The English teachers can use the result of the research when they teach students of junior high school in improving their reading competence.

E. Research Paper Organization

This research paper is organized as follows:

Chapter I is Introduction. It includes the background of the study, problem statements, objective of the study, benefits of the study and research paper organization.

Chapter II is review of related literature. It discusses the definition of reading, general concept of teaching reading, technical reading, theoritical framework and action hypothesis.

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

Chapter IV is data analysis and discussion.

Chapter V consists of conclusion and suggestion.