

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **A. Background of the Study**

English is an international language that is currently used in various parts of the world. Although most of them only use English as a second language, English is a language that should be mastered by various groups. Learning English is a must because English has an important role in various aspects of life. Similarly in Indonesia. Even though English is not a language that is used daily by Indonesian people, learning and teaching English is an important thing in the education world.

In the world of education in Indonesia today, English has been taught starting from kindergarten, elementary, middle school, high school, even to university level. This is related to the importance of English as a global language. For example, of course we need to master English to interact and communicate especially with foreigners. That way there is no misunderstanding between one and another.

As a foreign language taught to students in Indonesia, there are four skills that must be mastered by the students. Those four skills are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Those skills must be learned and practiced by the students and also bound together. Those four skills also have their own roles in understanding the message conveyed while communicating, especially communicating using English. If one of those skills is abandoned, then what happen is there's difficulty or misunderstanding in a communication.

One of language skills related to understanding messages or information is reading skills. Reading is very important to do, especially by students. Reading can be said as center of the learning process. In the teaching and learning process, it is impossible to succeed without reading. Reading means to

understand the meaning of printed words (Patel and Jain, 2008: 113). Through reading, students can understand the content or material presented in the textbook. Through reading, students also can gain knowledge to improve their academic achievement at school.

In general there are two reasons for reading, namely reading for pleasure and reading for information. Reading can also be interpreted as processing information by readers using information from text. Getting information through reading is not only obtained from books. Sources of reading can also be through newspapers, magazines, tabloids, and others.

For most people, especially students, learning English is not an easy matter. Many difficulties they certainly face in learning English, especially English is not everyday language they use. However, this is not a reason for students not to master reading ability. Students' difficulties in mastering reading skills can be overcome by learning.

Especially nowadays, there are many students that can get around their learning difficulties with various strategies. In general terms, strategy is a plan that is done to get something. In education world, learning strategy can be said as a tactic carried out by students to achieve maximum learning outcomes. According to Scarcella and Oxford (in Rebecca, 2003) learning strategies are defined as "specific actions, behaviors, steps, or techniques such as seeking out conversation partners, or giving oneself encouragement to tackle a difficult language task used by students to enhance their own learning". Learning strategies applied by students are believed to be able to overcome difficulties in learning, especially in understanding the contents of reading text. Fedderholdt (in Fauziati, 2015: 24) acknowledges that "learners who are capable of appropriately using various language learning strategy can improve their language skills in a better way." Learning strategies are also believed to influence the success or failure of students in learning. That is why it can be said that each student must have their own learning strategy to improve their understanding in learning material.

In this study, the researcher conducted research in a junior high school, namely SMP N 2 Kebakkramat. This school is one of the favorite schools in Kebakkramat, Karanganyar and is a school that has a strategic location. Students at this school also have diverse educational backgrounds so that in achieving their learning goals, each student has their own way.

Based on the statements above, the researcher is interested in conducting a study entitled “A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY ON LEARNING STRATEGIES IN READING USED BY THE STUDENTS OF SMP N 2 KEBAKKRAMAT 2019/2020 ACADEMIC YEAR”.

### **B. Problem Statements**

Based on the background written above, the researcher conducted several problem statements as below.

1. What are the learning strategies applied by English good achiever students in learning reading?
2. What are the learning strategies applied by English middle achiever students in learning reading?
3. What are the learning strategies applied by English low achiever students in learning reading?

### **C. Scope of the Study**

Limiting research is intended for researchers to focus on the object and subject under study. In this study, the researcher has a focus on describing learning strategies based on Chamot and O’Malley classification that students apply in learning reading.

### **D. Objectives of the Study**

Based on the problem statements that has been formulated before, the objectives of this study are :

1. To find out learning strategies applied by English good achiever students in reading.
2. To find out learning strategies applied by English middle achiever students in reading.
3. To find out learning strategies applied by English low achiever students in reading.

### **E. Benefits of the Study**

From this study, there are two benefits that can be taken : practical benefit and theoretical benefit.

#### **1. Practical Benefit**

##### **a. For teachers**

This study can be a reference for English teacher in managing classroom learning especially in learning reading.

##### **b. For students**

This study is expected to be useful to help students in applying the right strategies to improve their reading skills.

#### **2. Theoretical Benefit**

With this study, it is expected to contribute to education world, especially English education. Besides, the researcher hopes this study can be a reference and source for other researchers who want to develop study related to learning strategies

### **F. Research Paper Organization**

This research paper consists of five chapters. The five chapters are arranged as follow :

Chapter I is an introduction that presents background of the study, problem statements, scope of the study, objectives of the study, benefits of the study, and research paper organization.

Chapter II is underlying theory. This chapter presents previous studies, notion and classification of learning strategies, notion of reading, components of reading, and types of reading.

Chapter III is research method. This is the chapter that describes 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 explains about research finding and discussion.

Chapter V, the last chapter, it consists of conclusion and suggestion.