

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter the researcher presents some points related to this research. Those include background of the study, formulation of the research problem, purpose of the study, significant of the study, scope and limitation of the study, definition of key term and organization of the study.

A. Background of the Study

. Language is a means of communication that is used to transfer information, ideas, and feelings from one person to another. It is used to communicate both in written and spoken form. In learning English, the students have to master the four basic language skills, they are: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Those four language skills are the target to be achieved through the language components such as structure, vocabulary, spelling and pronunciation.

Reading is important skill in learning English. Reading is the most important activity in any language class. Reading is not only a source of information but also help the students to get more knowledge. Anderson in Manzo (1995:10) states that reading is a process of constructing meaning from written text. Reading is a communication process, so students can communicate effectively with the materials or with main idea of the writer. By learning reading students will get a lot of information and ideas which can enrich the students'

vocabulary and knowledge. Reading is important because it does not only give a lot of information but also pleasure and joy.

Reading is most useful and important skill for people. According to Harmer (1980:68), reading is useful for the other purpose: any exposure to English (provide students understand it more or less) is good thing for language students. It means that reading is an important activity for expanding knowledge of the language. Reading texts also provide opportunities to study language: vocabulary, grammar, punctuation, and the way we construct sentences, paragraphs and texts. Good reading texts can introduce interesting topics, stimulate discussion, excite imaginative responses and be the springboard for well-rounded, fascinating lessons.

According to Beatrice (1990:5), reading is a complex conscious and unconscious mental process in which the reader uses a variety of strategies to reconstruct the meaning that the author is assumed to have intended, based on data from the text and from the reader's prior knowledge.

Based on the researcher's observation at the preliminary observation on 12th of May 2014, some factors that cause the condition above are the students lack of weakness in reading texts. The students are busy and play when the teacher gives the material to the students. The students have weaknesses in reading ability, they are difficult to understand well about what they read. The presence of reading material can also be another factor in supporting the failure. Some texts sometimes appear too long and difficult which make the students became bored. In the same hand, after conducting interview with the English

teacher of eight grades at that school, the researcher has fully considered that the eight grade students have serious problem on reading skill.

The test administered at the pretest on 26th of May 2014, it was found that the mean score of the students' reading comprehension test was 65. The mean score of 65 indicated the students still in low achievement.

In this research, the researcher chooses MTs SULTAN AGUNG JABALSARI because, the researcher have practiced teaching there before, so, it is consider that the researcher know well about the situation and consider in that school. The researcher also choose eighth grade because narrative text is given in that grade more detail. In the seventh grade have given but not more detail in the eighth grade. So, that is why the researcher chooses MTs SULTAN AGUNG in the eighth grade for research.

This condition motivates the researcher to conduct Classroom Action Research (CAR) to improve students' ability in reading comprehension using questioning strategy. Questioning is always considered a valuable tool to stimulate students learning. Teachers are being encouraged to use appropriate questions to activate students' prior knowledge, as well as to actively engage them in the exploration and transformation of knowledge.

Questioning is an important technique and it is one of the most popular modes of teaching for the act of asking questions has the potential to greatly facilitate the learning process. According to Frazee and Rose (1995: 241), questioning is the oldest and common teaching technique and it is fundamental to outstanding teaching.

Theoretically, questioning strategy itself can build the student's interest and motivation before the students read the whole text. Moreover, the students can predict what the text discusses.

Based on the reason above, the researcher is interested in conducting a research by the titled **“Improving Students’ Reading Comprehension Ability of Eighth Grade by Using Questioning Strategy at MTs Sultan Agung Jabalsari Tulungagung in Academic Year 2013/2014.”**

B. Formulation of the Research Problem

Based on the background of the study above, the problem of the study can be formulated as follows “How can the Reading Comprehension Ability of Eight Grade at MTs Sultan Agung Jabalsari Tulungagung in Academic Year 2013/2014 be Improved by Using Questioning Strategy?”

C. Purpose of the Study

In line with the formulation of the research problem above, the purpose of the study is ”To Know how can the Reading Ability of Eighth Grade at MTs Sultan Agung Jabalsari Tulungagung Tulungagung in Academic Year 2013/2014 be Improved by Using the Questioning Strategy.

D. Significance of the Study

The findings of this study are expected to give contribution for the teacher, the students, and the other researcher. These contributions could be mentioned as follows:

1. For the teacher

It is expected that finding will inspire the teacher to improve their knowledge about strategy and the material of teaching English especially in teaching reading.

2. For the students

The result of this study will add new experience for the students in the learning and teaching activity and also motivate them to learn English especially in reading.

3. For the other researcher

It facilitate them to be a reference in conducting further studies about questioning strategy to improve the students' reading ability.

E. Definition of Key Term

Definition of key term is important to be given in order to avoid misunderstanding. Referring to the topic discussed in the present study some terms used need to be defined are as follows:

- a) If we say that students is a good as comprehension we means that he can read accurately and efficiency, so as to get maximum information from the text. It means the readers try to find the message from what they have read. Moreover reading is an active process. Active means while the readers are reading, they try to actively to interact with the printed text with meaning. (Swan, 1975: 1).
- b) Questioning is the types of questions teachers ask to stimulate the various types of thinking that students engage in during reading, (Lerner, 1985:393)

F. Organization of the Study

This thesis is written in five chapters, those are introduction, review of related literature, research method, findings and discussion, conclusion and suggestion.

- 1. CHAPTER I: Introduction. It consists of background of the study, formulated of the research problem, purpose of the study, significance of the study, limitation of study, definition of key term and the organization of the study.
- 2. CHAPTER II: Review of Related Literature. It includes: definition of reading, types of reading, reasons of reading, principle of reading, techniques in teaching reading, definition of reading comprehension, types of reading comprehension, definition of questioning strategy, types of questions, and purposes of question.

3. CHAPTER III: Research Method. It covers of research design, setting and subject of the study, procedure of the study, observing and reflecting.
4. CHAPTER IV: Findings and Discussion
5. CHAPTER V: Conclusion and Suggestion