

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

In the first chapter, the researcher explains some points in this research. Those consist of background of the study, formulation of the research problem, the purpose of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, definitions of key terms and organization of the study.

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

Language is very important thing in human life. It is caused by language has significant role in humans' daily activities. Language can express humans' feeling, ideas, opinion and so many things. Human also uses the language as a means of communication with other people. So that, it means language gives human the opportunity to exchange the information each other. Not only with people in the same country, but also with people in the different country.

In this case, English is one of the language that it is often uses to communicate among the people in a lot of countries. That's why, English is reputed as international language. Due to the importance of English, many people try to learn and master English language in order they don't find the difficulties in communicating with other people. Now days, English is much emphasized to taught in every stage of education from elementary school level up to university level. It is done in order to produce the young learner that familiar with English.

In process of teaching and learning English, there are some skills that should be mastered by the students, they are listening, speaking, reading and writing. Among those skills, they don't separated each other. According to Nunan (2003 : 68) "reading is a fluent process of reader combining information from a text and their own background knowledge to build meaning". It means that by reading, the readers will get many information from their understanding. Besides, they can increase their knowledge, learn things, improve their skill in reading, stimulate the development of brain cell, reinforce the language skill, and so on.

Reading is the fastest and simplest way to reach peoples' education level. Reading is also to be priority in teaching and learning process. The students' successful study depends on their ability in reading. If the students have good ability in reading, it is enable the students to get a better opportunity in achieving their study. On the contrary, if the students have poor ability in reading, it is enable the students face the difficulties in achieving their study. To avoid the difficulties in reading, students should practice their reading activity more and more. If they always keep practicing in reading, they will have good sense of English.

Based on the researchers' observation and test administered at the preliminary observation on April 28<sup>th</sup> 2016, almost all of the seventh grade students in seventh A of SMPI Assalam Jambewangi faced the difficulties in reading. It was proven through the mean score of students' reading comprehension test was 56.81. It means that the students' achievement was still

low. The factor that caused this condition was they had crucial problems in comprehending the contents of the text. They could not identify and understand the meaning of all words in the text well. The words in some passages on the text appeared difficult to be understood by using unfamiliar word. They also didn't know what the text tell about and difficult to determine the main idea from the text. So, they could not understand what the text is about well. This condition made the students lazy and bored in reading class.

Based on the problems above, the researcher wants to conduct Classroom Action Research (CAR) to solve the existence of reading problems by using CIRC (Cooperative Integrated Reading and Composition) method. CIRC Method gives the students many advantages. Huda (2013:222) explains the strengths of CIRC as follows: first, students experience and learning activity will be always relevant with the level of child development. Second, the chosen activity appropriate with and depart from students' interest and requirement. Third, all of learning activities are more meaningful for the students, so the result of more meaningful learning for the students will be able to hold out longer. Then, integrated learning is able to expand the students' thinking creativity. Integrated learning also provides pragmatic activities (useful) that appropriate with the problem that is often found in students' environment. Integrated learning is able to grow students' learning motivation to the dynamic, optimal and expedotopis learning. Integrated learning is able to grow students' social interaction, like cooperation, tolerance and respect toward the others' idea. Last, arousing learning motivation and expand teachers' perception and aspiration in teaching.

CIRC method enables the students become more active in learning. In this case, CIRC method can develop students' ability. CIRC can help the students to learn reading comprehension that can be applied broadly. The students will be engaged in team work. They can cooperate with their team. Students that have more ability can help the others' and is able to give correction to their teammate. The students also can learn to make a prediction about the problem that should be solved and making summarize about the elements of the story. It will make the rising of students' reading comprehension. So, the process of learning reading more meaningful for the students, because students' outcomes will be better and the dominance of the teacher can decreases.

In conclusion, CIRC method is able to solve the existence of students' problems in reading. CIRC gives the students opportunity to learn cooperatively and they get many advantages from the implementation of CIRC method. Therefore, CIRC is very useful to implement in teaching and learning process, especially in reading.

Based on the reason above, the researcher is highly motivated to improve the seventh grade students of SMPI Assalam Jambewangi achievement in reading comprehension through CIRC method.

## **B. Formulation of the Research Problem**

Based on the background above, the research question can be formulated as follow, “How can the students’ reading comprehension of the seventh graders at SMPI Assalam Jambewangi in academic year 2015-2016 be improved through the developed CIRC method?”

## **C. The Purpose of the Study**

In sum, based on the background of study and research problem above, the purpose of the study formulated as follow, “To know how students’ reading comprehension can be improved by using the developed CIRC method of the seventh graders at SMPI Assalam Jambewangi in academic year 2015-2016”.

## **D. Significance of the Study**

From this study, the researcher hopes that the result of this study can give theoretical and practical significances. Theoretically, it is expected to provide theoretical evidence about CIRC method in improving students’ reading comprehension.

Practically, it can gives useful contribution especially for students, English teachers, institution and the further researchers. First for the students, the finding of this study can give new experience and also motivate the students in the teaching and learning activities. Second for English teachers, it can gives good feedback whether their teaching is appropriate or not for their students, especially in teaching reading. Third for institution, it is expected to be useful reference and

increase the number of catalogues in the library. Last for the further researchers, it is expected to be previous study that useful for their research.

### **E. Scope and Limitation of the Study**

Because scope of reading is too broad and complex, it is really important to narrow the area of this discussion in order the readers focuses on the specific area of reading comprehension. Further, this study is limited on teaching reading comprehension through CIRC Method of the seventh grade students at SMPI Assalam Jambewangi. Because in reading there are many kind of the text, this study only focuses on descriptive text.

### **F. Definition of Key Terms**

To avoid the readers' misinterpretation of this study, it is necessary to define the terms of this study as follows:

a. Reading comprehension

Reading comprehension in this study means an activity to understand and take out the contain messages of the text by deducing what the meaning or information is about from the text.

b. Cooperative Integrated Reading and Composition (CIRC)

CIRC is a method which is implemented in teaching and learning reading process as the students' learning method. This method encourages students to cooperate in group with members which they have different reading ability level. The purpose of this method is to help the students to learn reading comprehension broadly in cooperative teams. In this method,

every student responsible concern team work. Every member of team gives the ideas each other to understand a certain concept and finish the work. So, it is enable to form comprehension and long-term learning experience.

## **G. Organization of the Study**

To make a good thesis, the organization of this thesis needs to be arranged systematically. This thesis is divided into five chapters as follows:

Chapter I The Introduction, it is consists of background of the study, formulation of the research problem, purpose of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, definition of the key term and organization of the study.

Chapter II Review of Related Literature, it is presents related literature including definition of reading, reading principles, the types of reading, the process of reading, models of the process of reading, definition of teaching reading, the importance of teaching reading, definition of reading comprehension, the steps to measure reading comprehension, definition of cooperative learning, the strategies of cooperative learning, the strengths of cooperative learning, definition of CIRC, the use of CIRC in teaching reading, the strengths of CIRC, assessment of reading comprehension and some previous studies.

Chapter III Research Methodology, this chapter discusses the methodology used in conducting this research. It presents the research design, subjects and setting of study, and procedure of the study.

Chapter IV Research Findings and Discussion, this chapter covers the result of the study and discussion toward the results of the study. The research findings are taken from the all of the obtained data during the process teaching and learning by using CIRC Method. Besides, the discussion is taken from the result of research findings.

Chapter V Conclusion and Suggestion, this chapter presents the summary of the research findings explanation and suggestion that give the useful description for English teacher, students or the future researcher.