

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter explains the background of the proposed research. The focus is on a brief description of the topic chosen for research and why the researcher is conducting research in this area. It explains the scope of the research and provides a brief overview of the research and definition of term.

A. Background of the Research

Reading is a long-term skill the students must develop. They must be able to develop this habit to make it easier for them to find a lot of information. Reading is also the most important thing in every human's life, by reading we will be able to find a lot of information and also exchange information with others. With good reading comprehension students will have other skill such as writing, listening, speaking, students are required to read a lot so that the learning process can have good achievements. According to Stoller (2002), reading can be taught as way to obtain information from the text and interpret that information. This means that reading is also a way for students to acquire information and knowledge as part of the educational process.

Students who have a habit of reading a lot and spend a lot of time to reading activities will have good writing skill, they also have an understanding and mastery of the material quickly so that the learning process will have a great achievement. According to harmer (2007), there are four basic skills in English that must be mastered by the students through the learning process. Those skills are reading, listening,

writing, and also speaking, beside that they will also get a lot of information and important messages. With good reading mastery students are expected to be able to master other skills such as they can write and create writing with simple sentence and they can develop them into complex sentences until they can create a coherent paragraph. If they read a lot they will find a lot of new vocabulary that they find from reading, this will support their speaking skills and also their listening skills.

Students who do not understand the material they are reading will not be able to enjoy reading, this can be caused by lack of understanding of the vocabulary they have. Because they have a bad habit of reading and lack of time to continue practicing reading English make the feel difficult every time they understand the material presented in English. Student who dislike foreign languages and have no awareness of learning the language have a high failure rate in reading comprehension. According to Razali and Razali (2013), state that some readers use knowledge and experience to construct meaning from text during the reading process. Readers understand a text by connecting ideas in the text they read word by word, but they spend a lot of time repeating difficult concepts in a text.

Low interest in reading, especially reading in foreign language, make many students fail in learning English. This is what makes it difficult for them to understand the contents of the books they read, they

cannot find the main idea in a text. According to Nuttal (1982), they are five aspects of reading comprehension that students should understand in order to better understand texts. Determine the main idea, find specific information, draw conclusion, identifying references, understand the meaning of words and detailed information, and more. These aspects are considered the difficulties encountered by students in understanding the text.

(Puspita, 2017) Indonesia students are not good at reading comprehension, especially in reading English texts. That's because English is not their native language. For example, students may have difficulty when teacher ask them for information about the English text they are reading. The difficulties faced by students are caused by several factors. One of them is that students lack vocabulary and have difficulty understanding texts.

According to Syahubuddin, Yusni, & Zahara (2019), that secondary school students in Indonesia perceive reading comprehension as a challenging and difficult aspect of learning English. Alaraj (2015), also argued that based on his experience as an English teacher, he found that students prefer to not read and they get bored more quickly when reading English text, they also difficulty in understanding the meaning. Difficulties in reading comprehension are important thing that must be recognized, perhaps each student has different difficulties and problems they face. Before conducting the research, the researchers first

conducted observation at SMPN 1 NGUNUT together with the english teacher in one of the class, namely class 8E. In fact in this class, many students were found to have difficulty in reading. When they had to practice reading by reading conversations they had created, many of them had difficulty reading the text. Some of the reason are because they do not understand how to use reading comprehension strategies and lose concentration in reading comprehension. The lack of interest in reading and the absence of motivation in reading is also one of the factor that make them difficult in reading, causing them to have read cannot be conveyed properly.

Therefore, the researcher want to conduct a research entitled “Difficulties in Reading Comprehension Among the Grade VIII at SMPN 1 NGUNUT”

B. Formulation of Research Question

Based on the background above, the research problem is formulated as the following:

1. What are the student’s difficulties in reading comprehension?
2. What are the factor contribute to difficulties in reading comprehension for student?

C. Research Objective

Concering with the research problem of this study, there will be some objectives of the study that can be formulated as follows:

1. To know the student’s difficulties in reading comprehension.

2. To know the factor contribute to difficulties in reading comprehension for student.

D. Sifnificance of the Study

With the aim of knowing the difficulties in reading faced by students, it is hoped that this research can provide benefits and contributions, as follows:

1. For student, can help them to understand more about reading comprehension and help them improve their reading skills, overcome the problem of reading difficulties.
2. For the English teacher, from this research. Because teachers have a very important role in the success of the learning process, it is hoped that this research can provide information, so that teachers can create innovations or interesting learning methods to help students in dealing with reading difficulties.
3. The result of this study are expected to be helpful for future researchers who want to study the same case, it is hoped that this research can be a source of information.

E. Scope and Limitation of the Research

In this study, researcher will focus on reading comprehension difficulties faced by grade VIII students at SMPN 1 NGUNUT, in this study researchers will only focus on the difficulties students face when they read in English and also the factor that cause them difficulty reading in English. Some problem that can cause them difficulties in reading

such as lack of motivation in reading, lack of vocabulary they have, too limited time they have to read in English.

F. The Definition of Key Term

The key term of this study are:

1. Students difficulties

According to Westwood (2001), student difficulties are important problems faced by students that cause learning objectives not to be archived properly. Every difficulty faced by students can find solutions in many ways so that can archive the learning process well. Different factors can influence students' difficulties are student background, teaching approach, learning environment, and some related to the relationship between teacher and student closeness.

2. Reading Comprehension

Comprehension is understanding what they read by connecting the ideas in the text with what they read by connecting the ideas in the text with what they already know. So reading comprehension is the process of connecting between the reader and the text that is reas that it can produce an understanding of the text. According to Klingner (2007), reading comprehension is the process of making meaning by coordinating several process that include reading words, knowledge of words, and fluency.