CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This introduction chapter contains research background, formulation of research question, purpose of the research, research hypothesis, significance of the research, Scope and limitation of the study.

A. Research Background

Many people want to be able to read English text either for study or for pleasure. Reading was taught at Elementary until High School. But unfortunately, during the 12-year education, reading was not the focus of learning. According to Irma (2020) in teaching English, the teacher is more focused on teaching about speaking, vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar and many more. The teacher only explains in general about the concept of reading, whereas reading is an important aspect of learning English. Students can get information and knowledge from reading. But they faced difficulty in reading because they could not understand what they read, and understanding is an important stage for comprehending everything. According to Sharon (2007), Understanding or comprehend the communication between author and reader is the main purpose of reading. If students cannot understand what they are reading, the purpose of reading it is not fulfilled. According to Irena (2015), in learning English, students faced several problem such as lack of extensive reading, vocabulary, type of text, and working memory. Beside it, background knowledge is important too in reading. This statement was supported by Grabe

and Stoller (2011), when the readers do not have a background or linguistic knowledge, they will face difficulty in reading.

Reading comprehension is an important skill for students that learning English as a second language. It involves the ability to understand, interpret, and engage with written texts. Traditional methods of teaching reading comprehension often include textbooks, worksheets, and literary analysis. The previous study done by Nurjannatin (2013) showed the students got difficulties to determine main idea and answer questions based on the text. It was because they still used books that contain many texts and monotonous material. As the result, their reading achievement was below the expectation. To overcome this situation the teacher should generate student's interest by applying the various techniques and selecting the proper text. However, in recent years, educators have been exploring more engaging and interactive methods to improve reading skills, such as incorporating manhwa, comic, webtoon, and graphic novels. By using the good teaching material, the teacher could help the students think critically and develop their ideas. More importantly, the students could comprehend the idea easier and reached optimal results in reading

SMPN 2 Gondang Tulungagung is one of the schools for the people of Tulungagung especially Gondang disctrict. English becomes the second language in their learning process. Thus, reading comprehension skill is very important for students to support the learning process. According to Risna (2023) Looking at the current condition of students, the motivation to learn is lacking, especially for foreign languages such as English, which they think are

difficult. So as teachers, we must use interesting ways to increase student learning motivation.

In the digital era, media such as manhwa have become one of the effective ways to improve students reading interest and ability. Manhwa, the Korean equivalent of Japanese manga, offers a unique and appealing medium for students. Manhwa and webtoon are same the same comic who from Korea. Many people know about webtoon but not with manhwa, even though Manhwa is the original name of Korean comic and webtoon is the specifically in digital comic from Korea. Manhwa is a combination of visual storytelling and textual dialogue can capture student interest more effectively than traditional texts. Murakami (2009) said that Manhwa are not just a medium of entertainment but manhwa can be a medium to educate and teach science and morals to students. Manhwa are a form of visual communication media that has the power to convey information popularly and easily understood. Manhwa can present complex narratives in an accessible format, making it an excellent tool for teaching reading comprehension. In this study, researchers choose English Manhwa entitled "To Be an Actor" as a reading-learning media. The use of English Manhwa entitled "To Be an Actor" can develop the quality of students' reading comprehension and can motivate students to acquire new words that they have read to. In addition, most learners enjoy reading manhwa, comic and webtoon.

Several studies have shown the effectiveness of using manhwa or webtoon comics in improving reading comprehension. For the first is from Tasha (2023), she used Line Webtoon to improve the reading comprehension

of grade XI high school students. The results showed that webtoons had a significant impact on improving reading comprehension. The main difference with this study is the context of using a specific manhwa titled "To Be an Actor" for grade VIII junior high school students. This provides a new perspective in applying visual media in a lower level of education and with a specific narrative that may be more relevant to junior high school students. And then from Dwi (2023), she examined the use of webtoon as a medium to improve the reading skills of grade VIII junior high school students at SMPN 1 Metro Kibang. The results showed an increase in the average post-test score. However, Dwi's study used webtoon as a general medium with no specification of titles or themes. This study, in contrast, explored the use of a manhwa titled "To Be an Actor", which not only tested the effectiveness of manhwa media but also utilized a story that focused on the struggles of individuals in the world of acting.

The third is from Imanuel (2023), in his research the application of webtoons to students at Pattimura University in a professional reading class. His focus was on increasing motivation and reading comprehension in a higher education context. Otherwise, In this study differentiates itself by focusing on junior high school students and evaluating the impact of manhwa in the development of basic reading skills, targeting a younger audience with different reading skill levels. And the Fourth is from Iftanti (2012), in her research only mentions the existence of e-text or digital media in general, without discussing the effectiveness of specific media. Otherwise in this study, the researcher is to find the potential use of manhwa as an innovative medium for learning on reading comprehension. Additionally, Manhwa not only offers

interesting stories and beautiful illustrations, but can also help students understand English contexts better, manhwa has been found to enhance understanding and retention of information. English Manhwa entitled "To Be an Actor" is one example of a manhwa who can use for learning English. By using interesting story techniques and rich illustrations, this manhwa can increase students' interest in reading and understanding English texts.

Therefore, this study aims to determine whether the use of English Manhwa entitled "To Be an Actor" can improve the reading comprehension skill of eight grade junior high school students of SMPN 2 Gondang Tulungagung. This study also aims to determine how much influence this manhwa has on improving students' reading skills.

B. Formulation Of Research Question

Based on the background of the study, the problem formulation of this study is:

Is there any significant different on students score in reading comprehension between the student taught by using English Manhwa entitled "To Be an Actor" and those student that are not taught by using English Manhwa entitled "To Be an Actor"?

C. Purpose Of The Research

Based on the background of the study mentioned above, the objectives of this study are:

To find out the significant different on students score in reading comprehension between the student taught by using English Manhwa entitled

"To Be an Actor" and those student that are not taught by using English Manhwa entitled "To Be an Actor".

D. Research Hypothesis

The Hypothesis is not the final answer of the research. This is an alternative answer that needs to be verified. The researcher's hypothesis must first conduct research empirically. The hypothesis is this research is:

1. The Null Hypothesis (H0): there is no significant effect on the use of English manhwa on students' reading comprehension skill

2. Alternative Hypothesis (Ha): there is a significant effect on the use of English manhwa on students' reading comprehension skill

E. Significance of the Research

1. For students

   The results of this study can be a motivation to continue learning English reading comprehension in a more fun and memorable way.

2. For teachers

   The results of this study can be used as an example for English reading comprehension learning programs.

3. For reader's and future researchers

   The results of this study can enrich innovations in teaching English reading comprehension to support English learning.

F. Scope and Limitation of the Study

To avoid misunderstandings, researchers want to limit the scope of the problem. This research focused on the use of Manhwa in reading comprehension skill. There are many kind of tittle manhwa such as To Be an Actor, solo leveling, Superstar From Age 0, etc. In this research, the reseaercher only focus on To Be an Actor Manhwa and this research conducted in SMPN 2 Gondang Tulungagung for eight grade students'.

G. Definition Of Key Terms

In this section, there are several explanations related to the title mentioned above. The title is The Effectiveness of Using English Manhwa Entitled "To Be an Actor" on Reading Comprehension Skill for Eight Grade Students.

To avoid misunderstanding from readers, it is important to explain key terms such as the following:

1. Effectiveness

    Effectiveness is a condition that contains the understanding of the occurrence of a desired effect. Effectiveness can also be interpreted as a description that provides a measure of how far the target can be achieved.

2. Reading Comprehension Skill

    Reading comprehension is the ability to understand, interpret, and interact with written text. It includes literal, inferential, and evaluative comprehension to interpret information from texts.

3. Manhwa

Manhwa is a Korean comic used as learning media in this study. The combination of visual narration and dialog helps to improve students' reading skills in a more interesting and interactive way.

4. To Be an Actor

To Be an Actor is the title of the manhwa used in this study. This manhwa tells the story of the journey of Jang Young-guk, a supporting actor who experiences time regression to improve his life and achieve the dream of becoming a lead actor.