

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In this chapter, the writer would like to present about: Background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, the significance of the research, scope and limitation, and definition of terms.

#### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Language is the basic of communication in the society and it plays an important role in our everyday life. By communication we can get information, ideas and feeling from others and vice versa. There are many languages in the world and English is at present considered as one of the leading languages of the world. It is used as the international language, English is very important for assisting students to enroll to higher education to face up globalization demands, high technology development, and to establish international communication. Considering the reality of the importance of English as a global language in the world, as English learners we must be able to express our ideas in correct, clear and effective English sentences.

English as a subject matter in school covers the four basic language skills namely: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Language also has several sub skills like pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, and spelling. Learning these sub skills is as important as learning the four skills. They give the some important contribution to language mastery of a language users or language learners.

Reading is one of the complex ways in learning English. It is kind of activity to comprehend the writer's idea or the way the writer communicates with the reader by way of the written or printed words. Reading is important for everybody in order to learn new knowledge in the globalization era.

Reading is one of the four main skills in language and one of the hardest for a foreign language learner. Because, English language learners have great difficulty in understanding new texts without any background support. Learners should know at least something about the topic before reading. Harmer (2007:99) said "Reading is useful for language acquisition". Provided that students more or less understand what they read, the more they read, the better they get at it".

Most of students in Indonesia have difficulty in comprehending English texts although they have studied English since they were in elementary schools. There are some factors affecting the students' reading comprehension. According to Ruston (2006:3-5), "those factors can be categorized into two major factors; from the students and the others like technique, material and media, students' vocabulary, and their interest in reading".

Based on writer's experience during teaching practice in SMK N 2 Kupang, it was found that many students had difficulty in comprehending the reading text. The writer is motivated to conduct this study in relation to the comprehension of the reading text by the students of SMKN 2 Kupang. For this, the writer proposed the following topic of the research entitled **"A STUDY ON READING**

## **COMPREHENSION ABILITY OF THE TENTH GRADE STUDENTS OF SMK N 2 KUPANG IN THE SCHOOL YEAR 2018/2019**

### **1.2 Research Questions**

The following are the problems of the study:

1. Are the tenth grade students of SMKN 2 Kupang in the school year 2018/2019 able to comprehend the reading text ?
2. What are the comprehension levels of the tenth grade students of SMKN 2 Kupang in comprehending the reading text ?
3. What are the difficulties encountered by the tenth grade students of SMKN 2 Kupang in comprehending reading text?

### **1.3 Objective of the Research**

The following are objectives of this study:

1. To find out the students' ability level in comprehending the reading text.
2. To identify students' comprehension levels in comprehending the reading text.
3. To find out the difficulties faced by students in comprehending the reading text.

### **1.4 Significance of the Research**

The result of this study will be beneficial for the following:

1. English teacher

The result of this study will be given to researched school. All the findings will be able to known by English teacher. Hopefully, they will use this results of

the students' ability in comprehend reading text to improve students' skill in comprehend reading text.

#### 2. The writer

In conducting this study, the writer hopes to obtain more positive and beneficial inputs which in turn will hopefully be best assisting him pursuing the future career as an English teacher. Conducting this research is also as partial fulfilment to get sarjana degree at faculty of Widya Mandira Chatolic university.

#### 4. The students

This study can help the students find out the difficulties encountered by them in comprehend the reading text.

### **1.5 Scope and Limitation**

This study is about reading comprehension. The writer is going to analyze the student's ability in comprehending narrative texts. In order to limit the discussion, the writer tries to limit his work on the reading comprehension with give test. So that, the writer using five narrative texts and multiple choices test of twenty-five items. This study is conducted to the tenth grade students of SMKN 2 Kupang.

### **1.6 Definition of Terms.**

#### 1. Ability

Hornby (2000:19) defines ability as the capacity or the power to do something physically or mentally.

#### 2. Reading

Rohani Ariffin (1992:1) in her book entitled *Anthropology of Poetry for Young People* defines reading as a highly personal activity that is mainly done silently, alone. There is a clear understanding that reading is something related to the activity of acquiring information and it is done either silently or aloud.

### 3. Reading comprehension

Reading comprehension is the ability to process text, understand its meaning, and to integrate it with what the reader already knows. (Durkin, 1993:5)  
“Comprehension is the essence of reading and active process of construction meaning from text”.