

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

In this chapter, the writer would like to discuss about background of the study, statement of problems, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitations, and definition of terms. Those are explained in detail below.

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

Reading is a useful skill and it has an important role in human being's life. Through reading, everyone can get information about science, and technology that perhaps they do not know before. Reading is the most efficient way to acquire information about many aspects in life, since most of available information is delivered in printed media such as journals, newspaper, magazines and books. Therefore, having a good reading skill helps people to know the content of information. Even in the internet, the information is presented in written form, so the users need to read the information.

There are four skills such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing. A research shows that a child who doesn't learn to read early will not master other skills of the language. If a child does not learn to read well she/he cannot learn other language (Chorine, 1999: 22).

Reading is one of spiritual needs of human being. By reading, a reader can satisfy his/her understanding about knowledge and for various kinds of

information happening around the world. Besides, a reader can attend his thinking and drawing conclusion, making judgment, stimulating his mind and thinking critically and providing him with the reality of human life. It means that what the reader thinks about reading may be the same with the reality of human life.

Richards and Renandya (2002: 273) asserted that in many second and foreign languages teaching and learning situation, reading receives a special focus because of several reasons. Firstly, many foreign language students often have reading as one of their important goals. They want to be able to read information and pleasure for their care and for study purposes. In fact most of the EFL situations the ability to read information in foreign languages is all that the students ever want to acquire. Secondly, written text serves various pedagogical purposes. Reading then is a skill that highly valued by the students and teacher alike. In other words, it can be said that reading ability will be developed with the association with listening, speaking, and writing activities since they are interrelated skills.

Based on 2013 curriculum at Junior High School in English language classes there are several types of text learned and read by students including recount text, narrative text, descriptive text, report text, and procedure text.

Considering its importance as the core skill which has great contribution to the other language skills, many efforts have been made by experts. One of them is by conducting research in educational field to find out the possible constraints or problem the teaching and learning process of English in general and teaching reading particular.

Nowadays, reading is one of many activities in class. In reading there are many kinds of reading text, such as narrative, recount, report, descriptive, explanation, analytical exposition, hortatory exposition, procedure, discussion, news item and so forth. Narrative text is one of genre of text should be taught to students of junior high school especially in eighth grade students of SMPN 8 Kupang in the school year 2018/2019.

The writer chooses reading comprehension because the writer assumes that many students are not able to read well, could not answer the questions based on the reading passages. Based on the problem above, the writer wants to study about reading comprehension. The writer wants to make a study with the title; **“A Study on Reading Comprehension Ability of the Eighth Grade Students of SMP Negeri 8 Kupang in the School Year 2018/2019.”**

## **1.2 Statement of the Problems**

Based on the background of the study, the following are the questions that should be answered by this study:

1. Are the eighth grade students of SMPN 8 Kupang able to understand the English text they read?
2. What is the ability level of the eighth grade students of SMPN 8 Kupang in the school year 2018/2019 in reading narrative text?
3. What are the difficulties encountered by the eighth grade students of SMPN 8 Kupang in the school year 2018/2019 in reading narrative text?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study are actually the aims or purposes of what a study is to find out or to know. This study has some objectives or aims that are formulated in the following statements.

1. To find out and to know whether the eighth grade students of SMPN 8 Kupang able to understand reading of narrative text.
2. To find out and to know the ability level of the eighth grade students of SMPN 8 Kupang in the school year 2018/2019 in reading comprehension.
3. To find out the difficulties that might be encountered by the eighth grade students of SMPN 8 Kupang in reading narrative text.

### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

A good study should have significance. The significance of a study is actually its usefulness or benefit for the readers and the writer himself/herself. Thus this study has significance for the following persons.

1. For the Teacher of English at SMPN 8 Kupang.

The result of the study can be used by the teacher of English at the researched school as the basis to find out the ways to overcome the student difficulties in understanding the text they read.

2. For Students

To inform the students about their ability on the reading comprehension.

3. For the Writer

This study helps the writer in improving her knowledge and skill for doing the research and knowing more about reading.

4. For the English Education Department

The result of this study can give information to the teachers and students of English Education Department of FKIP of UNWIRA about English Assessment of the students of junior high school.

### **1.5 Scope and Limitations**

This study is aimed at investigating the ability level of the eighth grade students of SMPN 8 Kupang in reading comprehension. The reading is limited on reading narrative text, while the comprehension level is focusing on the literal reading comprehension.

### **1.6 Definition of Terms**

There are some terms used in this study that should be defined. The definition may help the readers understand the study as a whole. The terms which should be defined in this study are as follows:

#### **1. Ability**

Ability is potential or power to do something physically or mentally (Hornby.1987:2). In this case ability means the students potential in understanding narrative text they read.

#### **2. Reading**

Reading is an activity of contacting the eyes on printed materials by which a reader is left to process and create the new similar text to that of the original one

(Alderson, 1984). In this study reading means an activity of reading a narrative text of the eighth grade students of SMPN 8 Kupang.

### **3. Comprehension**

Comprehension is the mind's act of power to understanding (Hornby, 1987: 2). In this study comprehension is power of understanding a reading text of the eighth grade students of SMPN 8 Kupang.

### **4. Reading comprehension**

According to Wolley (2011), reading comprehension is the process of making meaning from text. The goal, therefore, is to gain an overall understanding of what is described in the text rather than to obtain in meaning from isolated words or meaning.

### **5. Literal Reading Comprehension**

Literal reading comprehension is seen as the first level of comprehension. It is the simplest form of locating information in texts because the information is stated directly in the text. Questions assessing literal comprehension skills examine how well students can identify and understand information that is directly stated in a text (Silbert and Kameenui, 1997). In this study Literal Reading Comprehension means communication of students in identify and understand information that is directly stated in a text.

### **6. Narrative Text**

According to Pardiyono (2012), narrative text is a text that tells a story about someone life in the past, about the adventures and others which in these stories found that a conflict problems or challenges and solutions.

The purpose of narrative text is to entertain the readers or listeners, to arouse readers emotion, to make them think and to get a lesson or the moral value.

### **7. SMPN 8 Kupang**

SMPN 8 Kupang is one of the public junior high schools in Kupang city, located in Jl. S.K. Lerik, Walikota, Kupang.