

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter provides general outline of this study. It covers background of the study, statement of problems, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study and definition of terms.

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

English plays a very important role in communication. In fact, people of almost all countries in the world use English to communicate for their international encounters.

The Indonesian government has treated English language as the first foreign language to be taught at Junior High Schools, Senior High School and the Universities. Just recently, the teaching of English has also been offered to elementary school. English is very important for assisting those who intend to enroll for higher education, to cope with globalization demands, high technology development for culture enrichment and to establish international communication.

English is one of the international languages used to communicate around the world. Thus mastering English becomes a very important thing. As a medium of communication, English is used in daily life for example, English is one of the requirements to apply a job.

In Indonesia English becomes one of many subjects that must be learnt by the students from elementary school. Up to the university level of educational

program, English also becomes one of qualifications in passing the national examination. This means that the major function of teaching and learning of English in Indonesia is as an instrument of improving higher science and technology, which is absolutely needed in Indonesia specifically and world generally. By teaching English at schools, the students are hoped to master English skills and try to use English in daily life.

There are four important skills in English. They are listening, speaking, reading and writing. Reading is one of the skills developed for students in order to get information and knowledge. In the reading activities, the students ability is important because the greater ability they have of what they are doing, the learning will be more effective. For example, a good reader is able to distinguish between important information and details as they are reading. Moreover, a good reader also able to notice inconsistencies in a text and employ strategies to make these inconsistencies understandable (Barker and Brown, b1984:20).

Brown wrote: "In general, the aim of teaching reading is to develop students' ability in getting information and understanding about the text. The aim of teaching for the reader is to comprehend and react to what is written" (Brown, 1982:18)." Reading needs familiarity on the part of the reader with the two fundamental building blocks, that structure and vocabulary" (Valette, 1967). Between those building blocks, structure is more important because if the sentence is not correct, the reader will not understand the text.

In order to improve students' reading ability, an English teacher should know about his/her students ability. It is important because by knowing students' reading ability, the teacher can know what are the problems and difficulties faced by them in comprehending a reading text. Based on the writer experienced, during teaching practice students always have some difficulties and pronouncing words and understanding information in the text. Many students not have understand about reading. And students have lower vocabulary, grammar, and theirs reading are very minim. After knowing their problems and difficulties the teacher can design reading interaction which solves and handles students' problems and difficulties. Based on this opinion, the writer decided to conduct a study with the title:” **A Study on the Reading Comprehension Ability of the Eight Grade Students of SMP Negeri 10 Kupang in the School year 2019/2020.**”

### **1.2. Statement of the problems**

The topic of the study is specified into some problems. The problems are formulated in questions.

1. Are the eight grade students of SMP Negeri 10 Kupang able to comprehend the text they read?
2. What is the ability level of the eight grade Students of SMP Negeri 10 kupang in comprehending a reading text?

### **1.3. The Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of this study are formulated in the following statements there are two objectives.

1. To find out whether or not the eightGrade Students of SMP Negeri 10Kupangin the school year 2019/2020 able to comprehend the reading text.
2. To find out the ability level of the eight Grade Students of SMP Negeri 10 Kupang in the school year 2019/2020 in comprehending the reading text.

#### **1.4. Significance of The Study**

There are some significances as the contribution to some parties as follows:

1. For the English Teacher

To inform the English teachers about the ability of students in reading, so that, they can improve or maintain the method of teaching English especially the teaching of reading comprehension.

2. For the writer

This study will increase the writer's knowledge and skill in comprehending reading. The writer is also trained in how to write a scientific writing.

3. For the students.

This study will inform the students about their level of ability in reading.

4. For the English study program.

This study will improve professionalism of English teachers, and increasing the accreditation of study programs.

#### **1.5 Scope and Limitation**

There are four kinds of the language skills, they are listening, speaking, reading and writing. According to (Greelet 1981:4) reading consists of skimming, scanning and reading comprehension. Reading comprehension comprises literal comprehension, inferential comprehension, critical comprehension, appreciative comprehension. In this study, the writer only focuses her study on the language skill of reading especially reading comprehension in terms of literal comprehension. According to (Choosenberry 1998:104) literal comprehension is the understanding of the written meaning of the passage: the definition of words, the context of the writing, the main idea of the passage, and the sequence of thought chosen by the author. And literal comprehension is basically means that we can understand things from the text we are reading that we can take literally.

### **1.6. Definition of terms**

To help the readers understand the terms used in this study, the writer presents some definitions of terms as follow:

#### **2. Ability**

According to Hornby (1982), ability is the power or capacity to act physically, mentally, morally, inherent in a person to carry out an activity physically or mentally which he obtained from birth, learning, and from experience. In this study, ability means the capacity of eight grade students of SMP Negeri 10 Kupang in the school year 2019/2020 in reading the given text.

#### **3. Reading**

Karlin Robert (1964:1) stated that reading as a complex of skills that the individual uses to derive meaning from the printed page, and the ability to sound out printed words ordinarily is not the best “reading” that a student is capable of doing.

#### **4. Comprehension**

Comprehension is the main goal of reading. Richard et al (1985: 54) stated that it is a process by which a person understands a written or spoken language. In this study, comprehension is a process by which the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 10 Kupang in the school year 2019/2020 understand the text they have read.

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

It is the process using syntactic and rhetorical found in printed task to reconstruct in the readers mind, using the knowledge of the words she or he possesses plus appropriate cognitive skill and reasoning ability (Devine, 1986: 126)

#### **6. SMP NEGERI 10 Kupang**

It is the one of Junior High School in Kupang. It is located in Jl. Prof. Herman Yohanes Lasiana Kupang, East Nusa Tenggara Province.

