

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

English is a foreign language that is learned by the students from school to the university levels in Indonesia. It is one of subjects included in the national curriculum, English language must be taught at junior and senior high school students as well as at university. There are so many languages in this world, and English is one of them. It is used as an international language, and it has an important role in the world. We can prove it in our life. If we know English well, we will know about the development that happens in this world.

English language skills consist of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Regarding the four skills, the writer chooses, one of the skills that is to become the topic of his study. Reading is one of important materials in the curriculum both as objective and the means of learning the language. While the reading comprehension means that the reader should comprehend the information directly and indirectly from the text.

Reading is even regarded both as objective refersto the final goal of the learning English in high school, that is to be able to read letter in higher education. Whereas reading as a means of learning a language refers to the fact that, through reading, language learners can learn the structure of English, vocabulary and pronunciation, as well as the use of language in which learners use English in discussing materials. The text books used in the schools

contain reading passages that are followed by exercises. This in turn will help the students develop other language skills.

There are some kinds of reading used in teaching reading English language, such as extensive reading, silent reading, reading aloud, and reading comprehension. Reading comprehension is one of reading skill that taught in junior and senior high school until at university. Dealing with reading comprehension, the material that can support the teacher to execute it well by using narrative text. (Mursyid, 2010: 4) states, "narrative text is a kind of text having social function to amuse, entertain and to deal with actual or vicarious experience in different ways.

SMP 10 Kupang implements curriculum 2013 (K13). The most important from this curriculum is to make students active through a specific teaching approach such as scientific approach, communicative approach and contextual teaching approach.

Based on the background above, in this study the researcher tries to do a study on reading comprehension of SMPN 10 Kupang with the title "A Study Of Reading Comprehension Ability of The Eight Grade Students Of SMPN 10 Kupang In School Year 2018/2019.

1.2 Problem Statements

Based on the background explained above, the writer has formulated the problem statement of this study in the following questions.

1. What is the ability level of reading comprehension of the eight grade students of SMPN 10 Kupang in the school year 2018/2019?
2. What are the difficulties encountered by students in their attempt to comprehend narative text that they read?

1.3 Objective Of the Study

Based on the problem statement above, the objective of the study are as follows;

1. To find outstudents reading comprehension ability level of the eight grade students of SMPN 10 Kupang in school year 2018/2019.
2. To identify the difficulties encountered by students in reading narative text in English.

1.4 Significance of The Study

The significance of this study isexpected to provide some advantages for English teacher and students.

1. For English teachers of SMPN 10 Kupang

This study can inform the teachers of English about their students ability in reading comprehension, so that they can improve the method of teaching English particularly in teaching reading.

2. For the Eight Grade Students of SMPN 10 Kupang

This study may be able to determine students reading performance and may evaluate their strengths and weaknesses on reading.

3. For other readers/ researcher

The result of this study can be a good information for them to be the material for the review of related studies of their studies or reserachers.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

Language skill covers four primary skills namely, listening, speaking, reading, and writing. However, in this study, the writer is focusing on reading especially reading comprehension. There are four types of reading comprehension. They are : literal reading, interpretative reading critical reading, and creative reading. The writer focuses on literal reading, because in this paper the writer wants the reader to see the resolve his/her own difficulties such as remembering in detail, noting the main idea, which is directly stated or skills allow readers to take the information stated in the text reading given by the writer.

1.6 Definition of Terms

There are some terms use in this research, and to avoid misunderstanding from reader then would definite the terms..

1. Ability

It is a potential or power to do something physically or mentally (Hornby:2008). In this study, it means students ability to understand the text they have read.

2. Reading Comprehension

It is the process of using syntactic, semantic and rhetorical information found in printed text to reconstruct in the reader's mind, using the knowledge of the word he or she possesses, plus appropriate cognitive skills and reasoning ability (Devine:1986). Dealing with the study, reading comprehension mean the capacity of the eighth grade students of SMPN 10 Kupang to comprehend the reading narative text.

3. Reading Comprehension Ability

In this study the capacity of eighthth grade students of SMPN 10 Kupang to comprehend the reading narative text.

4. Narative Text

Mark Anderson and Kathy Anderson (2003:8) states that narrative is a piece of text which tells a story and entertains or informs the reader. Some examples of narrative text are fantasy novels, bedtime stories(spoken), historical fiction, and stories.

5. SMPN 10 Kupang`

SMPN 10 Kupang is one of public junior high schools, located in Kupang City, East Nusa Tenggara Province.