

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Reading comprehension skills become an important part in reading activities for English language students especially for students who learn English as a foreign language. Reading without comprehension will be useless because students just read the text without even understand meaning of the text. Harvey (2011:2) states that in order to have comprehension in reading, students are required to actually know and understand what they are reading. When the students comprehend a text, they must be able to understand and imagine the context of the reading text. Yukselir (2014:65) specifically mentions that reading comprehension is the result of complex interactions between text, setting, the reader, and the reader's background.

Indeed, reading comprehension is an activity involving students' capacities, abilities, and knowledge to get information from a text then understand and interpret both explicit and implicit messages delivered by the writer. However, it is a complex process of decoding and analyzing word by word to construct meaning and connect the ideas in the text using readers' background knowledge and experiences.

Reading text is a text which contains an event and information. Reading comprehension is reading with the aim of getting a deep understanding of what is read. It is very important that students are able to understand and better analyze a text. However, some students find reading difficult because various obstacles, such as limited words, difficulty concentrating in reading English texts, not understanding grammar well, and so on.

Based on the experience of current researcher, one of the problems that arises in learning

English subjects is the difficulty of understanding complex sentences. Meanwhile, understanding affects students' ability to understand the entire text. In order to overcome this problem, strategies are needed. Strategies can help improve students' ability to understand the overall content of reading text.

The writer will conducted the research at SMPK Adisucipto Penfui Kupang to find out the students' reading comprehension ability.

## **1.2 Research Problems**

Based on the background that has been stated above, the writer conducted the study to answer the following questions:

1. Are the eighth-grade students of SMPK Adisucipto Penfui Kupang able to read dan comprehend narrative texts?
2. What is the reading ability level of the eighth-grade students of SMPK Adisucipto Penfui Kupang?

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

Going in line with the problem statements, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To find out whether or not the eighth-grade students of SMPK Adisucipto Penfui Kupang are able to read narrative text and comprehend.
2. To find out the reading ability level of the eighth-grade students of SMPK Adisucipto Penfui Kupang.

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

The study is beneficial for some parties, they are; the teacher of English and students at the researched school, and also the writer.

##### **1. For the English Teacher**

This study input for the English teacher at the researched school about the level of reading comprehension ability of the students so that teachers can consider this when planning the lesson.

##### **2. For the Students**

This study helps the students to measure their reading comprehension ability so that they can improve or increase their reading skill by practicing reading more.

##### **3. For the Writer**

By conducting the study, the writer learns how to write scientific writing and conduct a research with appropriate methodology.