CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a basic instrument of human activity. It is a system of sound used by group of people to communicate and carry on their normal activities. People need language to express many things like ideas, feelings, needs, and thought with others in their life. They can use language as a tool of communication through the available skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Mohan (1986) said that, as English teachers, we teach developmental reading (learning to read; the process in which students make a habit of reading continuously and not only when necessary) and it is different from other teachers because they teach functional reading (reading to learn: the process in which students make a habit of reading continuously and just to understand and comprehend the contexts of the text). Mohan also suggests that language teacher must find ways to help students learn the language.

In many second and foreign language teaching and learning situation, reading receives a special focus because of several reasons (Richards and Renandya, 2002). Firstly, many foreign language students often have reading as one of their important goals. They want to able to read for information and pleasure for their career and for study purposes. Secondly, written texts serve various pedagogical purposes. It can be

said that reading ability will be developed with the association with listening, speaking, and writing activities since they are interrelated skills.

Teaching reading is a process to build students' ability to understand the reading text. In order to help the students to develop their competence in predicting information from the text, the teacher, for example, can use a set of pictures, looking at subheadings or graphics to give the students a general idea of a text.

While the students are reading and looking at a picture, they connect what are in the materials to what they have about the text, looking back or ahead to link one part of the text to another. Besides, through a set of pictures, the students are able to build their competence in analysing some information based on those pictures orally or in written form.

In fact, a lot of students believe that reading is very difficult, especially when they read a long story. Based on the writer's experience, if a story is accompanied by attractive pictures, it makes the students more interested and understand the content of a story.

Based on the statement above, the writer is interested in conducting a study about reading under the title: "AN ANALYSIS ON THE COMPETENCE IN PREDICTING INFORMATION FROM THE PICTURES OF READING TEXT OF THE EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS OF SMPN 1 KEFAMENANU IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2013/2014

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the study as described above, the problems of the study are:

1. Are the eighth grade students of SMPN 1 Kefamenanu able to predict information from the pictures on reading text or not?

2. What is the students' level of ability in predicting information from the pictures on reading text?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The objectives of this study are formulated in the following statements:

1. To find out whether the eighth grade of SMPN 1 Kefamenanu able in predicting information from the pictures on reading text.

2. To find out the students' level of ability in predicting information from the pictures on reading text.

1.4. Significance of the Study

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

1. **For the Writer**

Through this study, the writer hopes to obtain more beneficial input as well as findings, which is in turn hopefully best assisting the writer in pursuing the future as an English teacher.

2. **For the English Teacher of SMP Negeri 1 Kefamenanu**

The result of this study serves as an evaluation and motivation for the sake in improving students chances of making good progress in learning English, especially in understanding the reading text.

3. **For the Students**

To give motivation for the students of SMPN 1 Kefamenanu to build their ability in predicting information through pictures.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study deals with reading focuses on the use of pictures to help the students improving their competence to predict the information from the reading text. This study also focuses on Literal Reading Comprehension of the eighth grade students of SMPN 1 Kefamenanu in the academic year 2014/2015.

1.6 Definition of the Terms

The followings are the terms appeared in the title that should be defined to help readers to understand this study.

1. **Reading**

Lexically, reading means the particular way in which you understand a book, situation, etc (Hornby:1974). Leipzig in Marokaha (2007) explains that reading is a multifaceted process involving word recognition, comprehension, fluency, and motivation. Reading is making meaning from a reading text. Reading is a

complex of skills that the individual uses to derive meaning form the printed page (Karlin,1963:1). In this study reading means activity of the eighth grade students in predicting information by using picture.

2. **Competence**

Being able to do something well (Hornby,1995:232). In this study, competence means the ability of the eight grade students to predict the information is from the text.

3. **Predicting Information**

It means to tell what will happen before it does happen (Modern Junior Dictionary 1970:345). In this study predicting information means is the ability of the eighth grade students to tell what will happen before it does happen.

4. **Reading Competence**

Reading competence is defined as the ability to read critically and thoughtfully. In this study, reading competence means the ability of the eighth grade students to read critically and throughfully the information from the pictures before they read the text (Beckner and Dumas, 1968).

5. **Picture**

Picture is a representation of anything as a person, paper or other surface, produced by means of painting, drawing, photography and representation in colors. "Picture" in this study means a description of something that enables someone to get impress and to form a mental picture (Hornby,1974:871).

6. SMPN 1 Kefamenanu

SMPN 1 Kefamenanu is one of the public junior high schools in Kefa – TTU. It is same level as the junior high school in Kefa city. It is located in Kefa city.