

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Chapter I consists of six subchapters. Such subchapters include background, problem statement, objective, significance, scope and limitation, and definition of terms. The detail explanation follows.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a part of culture. It is a part of human behavior because language is an acquired habit of systematic vocal activity representing meanings. This statement implies the following things: language operates in a regular and systematic fashion, language is basically oral and that the oral symbols represent meaning as they are related to real life situation and experiences, and language has a social function and that without it society would probably not exist (Raja T. Nast. 1978. 1).

There are many languages in the world. One of them is English. English is one of the most important languages, because it is the most common communication tool used in the world. As in Indonesia, we need to learn English in order that we can contact with other people of other countries for different need and purpose. Therefore, students are expected to master language main skills and sub skills. There are four main skills of language such as, listening, speaking,

reading, and writing, while language sub skills are grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, spelling as supporting materials. Both the basic skill and sub skills play an important role in teaching and learning English.

Reading is one of the basic skills in addition to listening, speaking, and writing. It must be acquired by learners of language. Reading can be defined as an active attempt on the part of the reader to understand a writer's message. Smith (1983: 6) says that in the process of reading the reader interacts with the writer and tries to reconstruct what a writer wish to communicate.

The writer' experience shows that, when having teaching practice, many students had difficulty in understanding a reading text. Often they could not answer the questions about the reading text they have read. They could not know the content of the reading text.

Based on the fact above, the writer attempts to conduct a study on reading ability entitled **“A Study on Reading Comprehension Ability of the Tenth Grade Students of SMA Negeri 3 Kupangin the School Year 2014/2015.”**This topic is specified in the following problem statements.

1.2 Problem Statement

As it has been stated above that the topic of the study is specified into some problems. They are formulated in questions.

1. Are the tenth grade students of SMA Negeri3 Kupangin the School Year 2014/2015 able to understand the reading text they read?

2. What is the ability level of the tenth grade students of SMA Negeri 3 Kupangin the School Year 2014/2015 in understanding the English reading text?
3. What are the difficulties encountered by the tenth grade students of SMA Negeri 3 Kupangin the School Year 2014/2015 in readingcomprehension?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Going in line with problem statements stated before, this study has three objectives. They are stated in detail in the following.

1. To find out whether or not the tenth grade students of SMA Negeri 3 Kupangin the School Yearn2014/2015 able to understand the reading text they read.
2. To find out the ability level of the tenth grade students of SMA Negeri 3 Kupangin the School Year 2014/2015 in understanding the English reading text.
3. To find out and to know difficulties encountered by the tenth grade students of SMA Negeri 3 Kupangin the School Year 2014/2015in readingcomprehension.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study has some significance for the teachers of English, the students studying English, and the writer herself.

1. The Teacher of English at the Researched School

The result of this study may help the teachers of English at the researched school in evaluating their teaching result and then may improve their method of teaching if the student's ability is poor or keep that method having been used if the student's ability is good.

2. The Students Studying English

To help them develop their interest to study and to learn English more, especially in reading English texts.

3. The Writer

Through this study, the writer can improve her knowledge and skill she has already gotten and especially how to write a scientific writing.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

There are some types of reading comprehension they are literal comprehension, inferential comprehension, critical or evaluation comprehension, appreciative comprehension. In this study the writer focuses herself on reading comprehension especially literal comprehension.

1.6 Definition of Terms

There are some terms used in this study that should be defined to help the readers understand the study, are as follow:

1. Ability

Ability means the physical or mental power or skill needed to do something (McIntosh, 2013: 2). In this study, ability means the power of the tenth grade

students of SMA Negeri3 Kupangin comprehending or understanding a reading text marked by being able to answer the question.

2. Comprehension.

Comprehension means the ability to understand completely and be familiar with a situation, facts, etc. (McIntosh, 2013: 307). In this study, comprehension means the ability of the tenth grade students of SMA Negeri3 Kupangto understand the reading text.

3. Reading

Reading is an activity of contacting the eyes on printer material by which a reader is led to record the information for brain to process and create in new similar text to that of original one (Adderson, 1984).

4. Reading Text

It is the process of using syntactic, semantic, and rhetorical information found in printed text to reconstruct in reader mind using the knowledge of the world he or she possesses, plus appropriate cognitive skill and reasoning ability a hypothesis or personal explanation which may account for the instanced message that existed in the writer's mind as the printed text contains (Devine, 1986:1216).

5. Reading Comprehension

Reading comprehension is a fluent process of readers combining information from text and their own background knowledge to build meaning (Nunan, 2003:64). In this study reading comprehension means a fluent process of the tenth grade students of SMA Negeri3 Kupangto read combining information from a text and their own background knowledge.

6. SMA NEGERI 3 KUPANG

This is one of a state senior high schools in Kupang. It is located in W.J. Lalamentik Street OepoiKupang where the writer took the data for this study.