

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

In learning English, one of the basic abilities is reading. Reading is urgent for knowledge transfer in the society in general and in academic community in particular. Therefore, reading is the priority among other skills like writing, speaking and listening. Reading ability is also believed to facilitate the mastery of other language abilities. Through reading, students can gain a lot of knowledge and improve their language skill.

According to Burnes (1991:48), reading is not mechanical passive task. It involves evaluating and using what is read. It is a thinking reasoning activity. Readers need to bring and to bear on the task knowledge that they have built up by accumulated experience or a period and match it against the text. Harmer (2007: 99) states: Reading is useful for language acquisition. Though the students are more or less understand what they read, the more they read the better they get at it.

Reading is one of the many activities in English teaching classroom. To make it an effective way of learning English, method of teaching must be selected. Method plays important role in teaching-learning activities beside the skills of teachers. This is to ensure the ability in comprehending reading texts.

There are many kinds of reading texts taught in senior high school level. They are: descriptive text, narrative text, recount text, procedure text, analytical hortatory and spoof text. In this research, the writer used narrative text that has been applied in curriculum KTSP 2006 (*Kurikulum Tingkat Satuan Pendidikan*) to

do the research. Beside that, there are four levels of reading comprehension, they are: literal reading comprehension, interpretative reading, critical reading, and creative reading, but in this study the writer focuses on literal reading comprehension.

Based on the writer's experience in learning process when she was in junior and senior high school or even in the University, many students still have problems in reading comprehension. The writer assumes that the same things might be faced by students in Senior high school including students of SMA Negeri Harekakaie Betun.

There are many aspects that can cause the students' problem in reading comprehension, such as: the lack of the students' grammar knowledge and lack of vocabulary as well.

Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested in conducting a study on reading comprehension ability. The writer would like to carry out this study with the title '**A Study on Reading Comprehension of the Tenth Grade Students of SMA Negeri Harekakaie in the School year 2016/2017**'.

1.2 Problem Statement

Related to the background of the study as described above, the problem of the study are the following.

1. Are the tenth Grade Students of SMAN Harekakaie Betun in the school year 2016/2017 able to understand the text they read?
2. What is the ability level of the tenth Grade Students of SMAN Harekakaie Betun in the school year 2016/2017 in comprehending a reading text?

1.3 Objective of the Study

In this study the writer has some objectives and they are presented in detail below.

1. To find out whether or not the tenth grade Students of SMA Negeri Harekakaie Betun in the school year 2016/2017 comprehend the reading text.
2. To find out the ability level of the tenth grade Students of SMA Negeri Harekakaie Betun in the school year 2016/2017 in comprehending the reading text.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The study has some significances. They are presented in the following part.

1. For English Teacher

To inform the English teachers about the ability of students in reading text, so it can improve her/his teaching of English especially in teaching reading comprehension.

2. For Students

Through the result of this study the students will be informed about their ability in reading.

3. The Writer

This study would increase the writer's knowledge and skill in comprehending a reading text.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

There are many kinds of reading texts taught in senior high school level. They are descriptive text, narrative text, recount text, procedure text, and spoof text.

However, the writer only limits her study on the reading comprehension of narrative text. Beside that, there are four levels of reading comprehension, they are: literal reading comprehension, interpretative reading, critical reading, and creative reading, but in this study the writer focuses on literal reading comprehension.

1.6 Definition of Terms

In this part, the writer would like to give some terms in order to help the reader to understand this study.

1.6.1 Ability

Ability is a potential capacity or power to do something physically or mentally (Hornby, 2000:2). Related to this study ability means the capacity of tenth grade students of SMA Negeri Harekakae in the school year 2016/2017 in understanding the English materials given.

1.6.2 Reading

Tinker and McCullough (1975:9), reading involves the identification and recognition of printed or written symbols which serve as stimuli for the recall of meaning built up through past experience, and further the construction of new meaning through the reader's manipulation of relevant concepts already in his possession, the resulting meanings are recognized into thought process according to the purposes that are operating in the reader.

Williams (1996: 2) states reading as 'process' through which one looks at and understands a written text.

1.6.3 Comprehension

Comprehension is a process by which a person understands the meaning of the written or spoken language (Ricard, 1985). In this study comprehension is a process by which the tenth grade students of SMA Negeri Harekaka Betun in the school year 2016/2017 understand the reading text they have read.

1.6.4 Reading comprehension

Reading comprehension means perceiving a written text in order to understand its contexts. This can be done silently, (Richards, 1992:302). In addition, Kalayo and Fauzan 2007:128) stated that reading comprehension is an activity with a purpose. It is very useful for all people. In this study, reading comprehension is the ability of students to answer some questions based on the reading text they read.

1.6.5 SMA Negeri Harekaka Betun

SMA Negeri Harekaka Betun is one of public senior high schools in Malaka city that is located in Jln. Translok Harekaka - Malaka Tengah sub district in which the writer uses as the location of the study.