CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problem

English is one of the subjects that included in the curriculum to be learned at senior level. Learning English is very important in the education world because English is the international language. The aim of learning English is to develop students competence to communicate in English both orally and written. In the research pointing on reading, especially in reading comprehension.

Reading is one of the most important skill in learning language besides speaking, writing, and listening, because it could facilitate the students to learn language. The goal for any reading activity is to know enough science concepts and to know the language. Reading is a set of skills that involves making sense and deriving meaning from printed word. It means that reading is a process to erect the student’s comprehension which involves making sense and found the meaning from printed word with different purposes. Moreover, reading serves as an important tool in every field of professional service and one of the indispensable channels around the world to recognize, interpret, and perceive written or printed material. Therefore, reading plays a great role for comprehension of written texts. Without reading, it will be difficult for students to further the student’s advanced education in higher level fields. In reading the reader needs the comprehension.
According to Pressley (2000) and Birsch (2011) defined reading comprehension as the ability to get meaning from what is read. It means reading comprehension is the process of reading to find the meaning and content from the text what the reader read. Thus, reading comprehension is the ability not only to understand the text but also to comprehend the meaning of the text. Reading comprehension is so important mastered by the students because of their success in understanding depend on large and extend the words that they have. Therefore, reading comprehension is not a simple process, because of English is a second or foreign the students still find the problems in comprehending English text.

In comprehending text, the students have problems. Firstly, the students have problem in language knowledge, the students limited knowledge of vocabulary and sentence structure. Word knowledge is the most important element for reading comprehension because the students can not comprehend the sentence without attaching the meaning to the word. Secondly, the students have problem in background knowledge, the students lacks prior knowledge in reading a text. they can not follow and understand it because they do not know what the text is about. Background knowledge is defined as the students’ prior knowledge. The students use background knowledge to integrate new information from a text into their previous information. Thirdly, the students have problem in motivation, the students did not have motivation and did not have interest in reading if the text is difficult, boring and uninteresting the topic discussed from the text. the motivation of the students can affect the outcome of reading. as a result, less motivation becomes an obstacle to reading comprehension. Fourthly, the students
have problem in the lack of reading strategies, The students lacked the strategy in the reading with the result that the students have problems in how they perceive or comprehend, how they can process to read and do what they do when reading comprehension become difficult. Strategies as learning techniques, behaviors, problem solving or study skills which make learning more effective and efficient. If the students lack reading strategies or fail to use the strategies, the students will not have the ability to surpass reading difficulties and reach comprehension. And the last, the students have problem in reading process, the process of reading is the interaction between a reader and the text. the students fail to interacting with the text if the students can not decode the text, deciding what it means, how parts relate to each other, or to things the students know, predicting what to come next, and expecting which purpose to read for.

Based on problems and phenomenons above, the reseacher was interested to analyse the problems faced by the students at SMA PGRI Pekanbaru especially in comprehending English text, and also the reseacher is interested to conduct the research entitled: “AN ANALYSIS OF THE STUDENTS’ PROBLEMS IN COMPREHENDING ENGLISH TEXT OF THE FIRST YEAR STUDENTS AT SMA PGRI PEKANBARU.”
1.2 Identification of the Problem

Based on the explanation in the background about the problem faced by the students in comprehending English text, the researcher presents their problems. There are some problems that students faces in comprehending English text that make them can not reach out the purpose of reading.

Firstly, the students have problems in language knowledge, because limited knowledge of vocabulary and sentence structure. The students must acquire language knowledge before they can read in second and foreign language because the word knowledge is the most important element for reading comprehension. The students can not comprehend the sentence without attaching the meaning to the word. The students know vocabulary, the more comprehension they will achieve.

Secondly, the students have problems in background knowledge. It means the students lacks prior knowledge in reading a text. they can not follow and understand it because they do not know what the text is about.

Thirdly, the students did not have motivation. It means the students did not have motivation in reading and they did not have interest the topic from the text. It give influence their reading achievement.

Fourthly, the students have the lack of reading strategies. The students did not have the reading strategies with the result that the students have problems in how they perceive or comprehend, how they can process to read and do what they do when reading comprehension become difficult.
Fifthly, the students have problems in reading process. It means the students fail to interacting with the text. the students can not decode the text, deciding what it means and how parts relate to each other.

1.3 Focus of the Problem

Since the students have problems in comprehending English text, so many things can be discussed in accordance with it but limitation is still needed too. So that, the researcher especially focused on the students’ problems in comprehending English text of the first year students at SMA PGRI Pekanbaru includes problems in language knowledge, background knowledge, motivation, the lack of reading strategies and reading process.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

Referring to the research problem above, the writer intends to make the formulation as follows;

1. What are the students’ problems in comprehending English text?

1.5 Objective of the Research

The main objectives of carrying out this research are as follows:

1. To analyze the students’ problems in comprehending English text of the first year students at SMA PGRI Pekanbaru
1.6 Assumption

The researcher assumes that the students have problems in comprehending English text of the first year students at SMA PGRI Pekanbaru.

1.7 Significance of the Research

The significance for study are as follows:

1. The finding of this research is expected to find the students’ problems in comprehending English text of the first year students at SMA PGRI Pekanbaru.

2. To enlarge writer’s knowledge in field of research in the future.

3. To share information about the students’ problems of comprehending English text by the first year students of SMA PGRI Pekanbaru.

4. To provide some meaningful information to the students of SMA PGRI Pekanbaru level about the importance of mastering reading comprehension.

1.8 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation about some terms used in this research, the writer needs to redefine them as follows:

1. **An analysis** is the study of something by examining its part (Oxford Learner’s Pocket Dictionary, Fourth Edition). In this research, analysis means the writer analyze the students’ problems in comprehending English text.
2. **Reading Comprehension** is a complicated process in which readers have an important role in making meaning from the text through applying existing skills (Block (2004) and Graves, Juel, and Graves (1998)). It means that the reader as an important role in making meaning from English text through any skills in reading comprehension.

3. **Students’ Problems** is a person get difficult to deal with understand who is studying at college or university (Oxford Learner’s Pocket Dictionary, Fourth Edition). In this research, the students have the problems to understand the contents of the text in comprehending English text of the first year students at SMA PGRI Pekanbaru.