

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problem

English as an international language is spoken in most international events and is used as the medium of information flow on science, technology and culture. As the readers understand that learning a foreign language is more difficult than learning a national language or learning a mother tongue. It is because the foreign language has completely different aspect and system. Besides that the readers also remember that there are some important factors in foreign language learning, which will mostly influence students, or learners in mastering the language.

In addition, English learning has four language skills that should be mastered by foreign language learners as basic competence in English achievement. Those language skills are listening, speaking, reading and writing skill. The mastery of those skills will give direct contribution to the students' in learning English.

Reading is one of the four language skills that have to be mastered by students in learning English in order to set the information from the English paragraph. In reading, the readers got important things such as knowledge, news, and etc. In reading, reader do not only get scientific knowledge, but also the readers got pleasure activities such as to read short story, novel, and comic. Moreover, in reading skill readers can increase their ability in other language components such as vocabulary and grammar. Reading is an active process of understanding print and grapich text. Effective readers know that when they read, what they read is supposed to make sense.

The main purpose of reading is to make connection between what readers already know and what the readers need to know. Knowing why readers read will greatly increase their chance of understanding the material. Students usually find some difficult process of learning English, which influence their achievement. Reading is one of the important parts in getting achievement in English. However, it is not easy for the students to comprehend text. They should have the ability to comprehend the author's message. In reading activity, language learners should have purpose in order the reading process run smoothly and they read the text efficiently. Beside, reading is a complex process, moreover they read in foreign language, they have to be able to comprehend it because each language has different structure, meaning and vocabulary. In fact, many students still get confused in comprehending and interpreting the ideas of paragraph.

Many aspects determine the success of teaching reading for junior high school, for example reading materials, facilities, teachers, the students themselves and the way of teaching. Therefore, teacher should apply appropriate reading strategy to increase the students's ability in comprehending reading text. Reading should be taught in effective and efficient way. The strategy used by the teacher should be appropriate to the students' level so that they can apply the strategy and comprehend English text well.

There are some phenomena from the observation that the researcher done at SMPN 34 Pekanbaru. The first phenomena is about the teacher's strategy that is used in the classroom. By observing the classroom, the researcher found that teacher could not able to handle the class by using an appropriate teaching strategy. This becomes the main problem of the students to reach the target of teaching reading comprehension. The second phenomena is the facilities for teaching and learning process. The equipment that is used in the classroom could not support the

students in teaching and learning process. Students need more equipment such as: multimedia, appropriate English text book as the references, and the other thing that can support the students' teaching and learning process.

There are many kinds of reading activities. One of them is English reading paragraph to get information or ideas existing in paragraph or text. The students who are studying should realize that there are many school subject written in English. It means that the students should be able to read English. Furthermore, they are not only reading but also trying to understand and find the information from the English paragraph because the aim of reading is to understand and to get information from the paragraphs.

According to Klinger (2007) "Reading comprehension is the process of constructing meaning by coordinating a number of complex processes that include word reading, word and word knowledge, and fluency. Reading comprehension means understanding what has been read. It is active, thinking process that depends not only on comprehension but also on the student's experience and prior knowledge. Comprehension involves understanding the vocabulary seeing the relationship among words as concepts, organizing ideas, recognizing the author's purpose, making judgment, and evaluating. There are three activities of reading comprehension, they are pre-reading, whilst-reading, and post-reading.

Announcement text is a noticed writing addressed to the general public or specific group that contained the information or news notification. There are some text that must be taught in junior high school especially at the second grade. The text that must be taught by the teacher were; short functional text and monolog. In this case, the text were Announcement text, Descriptive text and Recount text. In this subject the teacher must help students to understand the

component of each text. Besides that the students must be able to use the various written text accurately and fluently.

Based on the researcher's pre-research observation at the school especially the second year students of SMPN 34 Pekanbaru, the writer found that there were many students of this school think that reading is one of the language skill which is hard to be mastered. It can be seen from their reading score that do not reach the minimum score of reading text where the students' score have gotten from daily test and final test at school. It was caused by several factors, such as students uninteresting, difficult to comprehend text, and lack of vocabulary.

From the explanation above, there were some general problems in reading announcement text. Firstly, the students were uninterested in reading. It is because of the teacher do not use the appropriate approach and less facilities that make students could not understand and interested in reading. When the students were studying reading; students bored at the time. This problem can be assumed that it was caused by the traditional way that the teacher used in teaching English. The use of traditional method and strategy could make students difficult to get the point of teaching material.

Secondly, the students difficult to comprehend the text. It was happen because of students difficult to comprehend announcement text especially the components of announcement text. teacher just read the text and give some explanation about it. Students still got confused and could not understand about the text. To comprehend reading text, students need more reference and English text books to make them easier to analyze the text. Some students could comprehend the text, but some other students could not because they still got confused about the components

of the text. The way of teaching strategy at class also the main point to help students mastering the teaching material.

Thirdly, students have lack of vocabulary. This is the major problem for students in teaching and learning English especially in reading comprehension. Mostly when the students have an English reading text, they do not bring dictionary. The students could not get the meaning of vocabularies of the text and the result of this problem is students only use limited vocabularies and they could not improve their Reading skill. Less vocabularies make students less progress in teaching and learning reading text.

Based on explanation above, the researcher is interested to conduct a research entitled “ **A Study on Students’ Reading Comprehension of Announcement Text of the Second Year Students at SMPN 34 Pekanbaru.**”

1.2 Setting of the Problem

Based on the problems that was explained in the background above, there were some general problems in reading comprehension of announcement text. The problems were:

First, students got uninterested in reading. Students could be uninterested during teaching reading in the classroom because the teacher only used a simple teaching strategy. In this situation, the students just listen to the teacher explanation. As the readers know that in teaching and learning process in the classroom both teacher and students needs interaction to each other (students center and teacher center).

Second, students got difficulties to comprehend announcement text because the way the students in reading the text of the announcement is not clear, so the listener cannot understand

the contents of the announcement. And usually at the school students are less actively involved in making the text of the announcement, because that usually makes the text announcements only for students and teachers. And usually the school announcements are often written in Indonesian so when written in English language students find it difficult to understand the contents of the announcement text, especially the components of announcement text.

Third, the students have lack of vocabulary. This is the major of English problem in teaching reading text. When the students learning about reading text, they have a lot of idea on their mind but they could not explore it because of vocabulary problem. This is a very serious problem in teaching reading text. Students need to improve their vocabulary list to make more additional vocabularies. By having more vocabulary, students would like to be easier to understand the text and explore their ideas.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

In this research, the researcher focused on students' difficulties to comprehend announcement text. In this case, the researcher tried to solve the students' problems by conducting the research. Students still find it difficult in identifying the components of announcement text. Students comprehend announcement by identifying its components that was taught by the teacher. The problem on these research students did not understand the purpose of announcement text.

The purpose of announcement text is to inform us what has happened or what will happen. There are two types of announcement: written and speech. Students should be able to have good reading, besides they are able to understand the functional texts particularly in announcement

text. There are some indicators of announcements text such as writer, content, time, place and receiver.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

Based on limitation of the problem above, the problem was formulated as follows:

1. How good are the students' Reading Comprehension of announcement text at the Second Year Students at SMPN 34 Pekanbaru?

1.5 Objective of the Research

1. To find out the students' Reading Comprehension of announcement text at the Second Year Students at SMPN 34 Pekanbaru.

1.6 Need of the Research

The need of the study could be described and classified as follows :

1. For students: the study is conduct in order to help students get an alternative reading comprehension strategy which can be used by them for solving their problem in reading comprehension
2. For teacher: the study is also expect to result in alternative reading comprehension strategy which can be adopted and used by them during the teaching of rading comprehension which aims at improving their students' reading comprehension.

3. For readers: it is also hope that the study may be beneficial to any reader or research who has an interest in the same topic.
4. For writer: to help the writer accomplish the purpose of getting sarjana degree inenglish language education. in short,to help the writer complite the requirement for a graduate degree.

1.7 Definition of the Terms

1. Reading Comprehension

Waintwright (2007) states that reading comprehension is a process in which the reader has to decide linguistic symbol and reconstruct them up to meaningful whole intended by the writer. In this research, reading comprehension is not only read the text but also understanding the contents of the text by exploring many ideas. Reading comprehension on announcement text is the process to get the meaning of each component by understanding the text given by the teacher.

2. Announcement text

Announcement is a noticed writing addressed to the general public / specific group that contains the information or news notifications (Cartledge, 1975).For example: Teacher announce about the school English Debate Competition for all students. Mustriana and Kurniawati in Ratna (2014:25) mention that “an announcement is something said, written or printed to make known what has happened or what will happen. It includes the following points: the title/type of event, date/time, place, and who to contact.”