

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses some aspects dealing the topic of the research. They are background of the research, problem of the research, objective of the research, operational definition of the terms, significances of the research and scope of the research.

1.1 Background of The Research

The role of English in Thailand is quite important as it is in many other developing countries. New technology and the adoption of internet have resulted in a major transition in terms of business, education, science, and technological progress, all of which demand high proficiency in English. Thailand is a developing country with many famous tourism places. So, the people are demanded to read, speak, and write English well. Therefore, it is important in teaching the learning process. The students from Elementary School until University study English as a foreign language.

Commonly, English has four skills those are listening, speaking, reading and writing. In learning English the students have to master four the skills. One of those skills which have to be mastered by the students is reading skill. Reading is

important for people as the source information to know something. It is not only a source of information and a pleasurable activity but also as a means of consolidating and extending one's knowledge of the language. It is very necessary to widen the mind, gain and understanding of the foreign culture.

Teaching reading at Junior High School grade eight is to provide the students with the ability to understand English written texts. To be able to understand those texts the students must have good reading comprehension ability.

The main purpose of reading is to get comprehension. When the students read a passage, they decode written information and it is combined with the students' background of knowledge in their brains to produce comprehension. Reading comprehension or an internal construction of meaning as the understanding, evaluating, and utilizing of information and ideas gained through an interaction between the reader and the author.

However, most of Junior High School in Thailand's students found difficulties in comprehending English text. They find it confusing to understand the meaning of unknown words in the text. When they found the unknown words, they tried to look up the words in the dictionary. They also often asked the meaning of the unknown words to the teacher. The teacher did not use various resources in the teaching and learning process. She always used textbook and worksheet as the main resources. She did not vary the materials or gave the additional materials from other resources. The activity was done until the class over. Moreover, the teaching technique in the teaching and learning process was monotonous. Based on preliminary study that only 3 of 26 students could

comprehend the English text well but others were not. The students' reading score from school is about 40. Fortunately, the score already focused reading score.

Extensive reading is the best way to improve students' reading comprehension. It is activity makes the students to read better. This activity is a key to students gain especially in reading comprehension. It can help students get away from their tendency to overanalyze or look up words they do not know, and read for understanding.

Based on the problems stated above, the researcher believes that the students need an effort to facilitate them to comprehend English texts well. For this reason, the researcher is interested in improving Students' reading comprehension by extensive reading activity of the eighth grade students in Charoen Suksa School Songkhla Thailand in 2016/2017 academic year.

1.2 The Problem of the Research

Based on the background and preliminary study of the research mentioned above, that the problems of eight grade students (2/1 boy's class) of Charoen Suksa School is from 26 students, only about 3 of them could comprehend the English text well but others were not. This research focuses to solve this problem;

How can the use of extensive reading activity improve students' comprehension of the eight grade students of Charoen Suksa School – Hat Yai Songkhla Thailand in the 2016 / 2017 academic year?

1.3 The Objective of the Research

The objectives of the research referring to the research problem above are:

To examine how extensive reading activity can improve the reading comprehension activity of the eighth grade students of Charoen Suksa School – Hat Yai Songkhla Thailand in the 2016/2017 academic year.

1.4 Operational Definition of the Terms

The operational definition will guide the reader to understand the concept about the research. It enables the researcher and the readers to get mutual understanding of the concept studied. It is necessary to define operationally reading comprehension and extensive reading.

1. Reading Comprehension

Reading comprehension is understanding the text to find required information in accordance with the reader's purpose. In order to find that information, readers must be able to find the writers' ideas whether it is explicit or implicit stated in the text by applying the most effective strategies of reading comprehension.

2. Extensive Reading Activity

Extensive Reading activity is carried out to achieve general understanding of usually somewhat longer texts (book, long article, long essay, crowded advertisement, newspaper, magazine, story etc.). Extensive reading activity can be conducted in the class or outside the class. In this research, extensive reading activity is reading a narrative text or the story.

1.5 The Significances of the Research

The result of the research is expected to give the following benefits:

1. The result of the research can be beneficial reference for teachers as a consideration in teaching reading comprehension in classroom.
2. The result of the research can be beneficial reference for students in learning reading comprehension especially using extensive reading activity.
3. The result of the research can be beneficial reference for other researchers who want to observe how to improve students' reading comprehension thought extensive reading activity.

1.6 Scope of the Research

This research focuses on the use of extensive reading activity on students reading comprehension. The subjects of the research are the students in eight grade (Matthayom 2/1) that consist of 26 male students in Charoen Suksa School – Hat Yai Songkhla Thailand in the 2016/2017 academic year.

