ABSTRACT

FAJAR NYOTO, 2015. *Improving the Eighth Grade Students' Reading Comprehension by Using Crosword puzzle at SMPI Darusalam Jambearum Jember in the 2014/2015 academic year.* Thesis. English Education Program Language and Art Education Department, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Muhammadiyah University of Jember. Advisor (1) Hendi fathurrohman M.Hum. (2) Fitrotul mufaridah M.Pd

Key words: students' reading comprehension and using crossword puzzle.

English is a compulsory subject that has been learned by students from Junior High School up to university level for years in Indonesia. There are four language skills in English namely listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students have to master the four language skills in order to be able to use English fluently, written and oral form. It seems that riddles can be used as media in teaching English especially teaching reading in junior high school. Based on the opinion above, it is clear that crossword puzzle can make students' interest to study English, especially in teaching reading text.

The problem of this research is *how can the use of Crossword puzzle Improve the Eighth Grade Students' Reading Comprehension by Using Crossword puzzle at SMPI Darusalam Jambearum Jember in the 2014/2015 academic year.*

The design of this research is classroom action research (CAR) which has four steps those are: Planning, Acting, Observing and Reflecting. To collecting the data, the researcher uses interview and test method to get data about students' reading comprehension.

The result of data that Based on the result of the reading test in the first cycle, showed that, there were 6 students or 30 % of the students got score 65. It means that not all the students got target score. Besides, there were 14 students or 70 % of the students got score 65. It means that not all of students achieved the target score. The result of students' reading test was reached the target score, the mean score is 66.75. And the result of the vocabulary test in the second cycle showed that, there were 4 students or 20% of the students got score 65. It means that not all the students got target score. Besides, there were 16 students or 80 % of the students got score 65. It means that not all of students achieved the target score. The result of students' reading test was reached the target score, the mean score is 73.00. It can be concluded that using crossword puzzle in teaching reading text brings positive effects not only for the students but also for English teacher. It means this activity will be done effectively and meaningfully for those students who learn English as foreign language; especially in this research the students score of vocabulary test by using crossword puzzle to improve students' reading comprehension.