CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents some aspects related to the topic of the research. They are Background of the Research, Problems of the Research, Objectives of the Research, and Significance of the Research.

1.1 Background of the Research

English as an international language has an important role in international community. It is used in many sectors all over the world, for instance; business, science, technology, computing, and medicine. As Carson (2007) adds that English is a vital language of diplomacy, banking, computing, business, science, technology, medicine, aviation, engineering, and tourism.

In Indonesia, English has been taught formally in schools from junior high school up to university level. According to the 2006 Institutional Level Curriculum (*Kurikulum Tingkat Satuan Pendidikan/KTSP*), English is one of the compulsary subjects that must be taught from junior high school up to senior high school. Even, teachers in elementary school also teach English as a local content subject. The general aim of teaching English is to develop students' achievement to communicate both in spoken and written forms. In learning English, the students should be able to master four language skills. They are listening, speaking, reading and writing. Besides, the students should be able to master three language components namely; vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation.

Reading comprehension is the core of the reading activity. By having comprehension, the students are able to make sense of what the texts tell about and the purpose is for the students to understand the written language. Comprehending the texts refers to understanding their context, not only comprehending words, but also paragraphs and text. Comprehension is the process of deriving meaning from connected text. It involves word knowledge (vocabulary) as well as thinking and reasoning (Pang et al., in Yanti, 2014:2). Readers read the text to get opinions or ideas that are related to the text. They try to understand what it tells about. It means reading is a process to understand the content of and to get information from the reading text.

Reading is really important for human's life especially for educational world. By reading students can understand the content of a text and it can help them to understand their lesson's material easily. Reading can also bring students to write anything that they got from what they have read. Those all show how important reading is for students and for those reasons teacher should try to make reading interesting, enjoyable, and meaningful. In fact, there are often some phenomena in many schools, in which many students find difficulties in comprehending the text.

Nowdays, English has been introducing from elementary school, junior high school, senior high school until university. Especially in junior high school, there are many schools which have involved English subject as one of local content. Teaching students in junior high school is very different from teaching adult in university. Student in junior high school have certain characteristic and need a particular treatment in teaching learning English. Some students think that

English is very difficult to learn, so they feel bored and loss motivation in learning English and do not pay attention to the materials. This method makes the students sometimes feel bored and sleepy especially when it is taught in the last session. The other cause is that the students never practice the language whether when they are in the classroom or at home. They are afraid of making mistakes when they speak English. They prefer to speak Indonesian or Javanese language to their teacher or friends. For the slow learners it is difficult for them to memorize the materials and need more time in understanding and accepting the materials. Besides, they need explanation in understanding the instruction when doing the test. Lack of vocabulary mastery, lack of facilities in teaching media and lack of student's motivation to master English are the other causes that possibly make the problem occur.

Considering that, the writer wants to give a solution especially in increasing the student's reading comprehension, so that later the students will be able to speak in English well. The solution is by teaching reading using crossword puzz1e. Because the crossword puzzle offers a challenge that will motivate the students to try to fulfill the puzzle. It gives much opportunity for the students to practice and repeat the sentence pattern and readig. Besides, the crossword puzzle is a kind of games that will makes the teaching-learning process more attractive than before. The students will feel fun, relaxed and enjoyable, and they will memorize the reading in different way, that is by rewriting them.

One of the activities of teaching and learning reading which is believed to be effective is through games. Wright Andrew (2006:2) state that games help and encourage many learners sustain their interest and work. One of them is

crossword puzzles. They feel that doing crossword puzzles is like a game rather than learning. They are interesting because they use some clues to find out the correct words to fill the squares both vertically and horizontally. They are challenging because the students have to finish doing crossword puzzles based on the time given by the teacher and they should compete with others to finish it.this research is intended to improve the VIII grade students' reading comprehension at SMPI Darusalam Jembearum Jember in the 2014/2015 academic year.

Based on the results of a preliminary study by interviewing teachers of English students in class VIII SMPI Darussalam Jembearum Jember, said that the reading is taught integrated with other language skills, especially reading. The students had some problems in learning reading.reading is one component in the teaching of English. in addition to other components such as struktuk, pronunciation and intonation, vocabulary plays an important role vital. With the lack of vocabulary, students will have difficulty in communicating thoughts and ideas, especially in expressing their opinions in either written or speaking.VIII grade students' can not communicate Mind and ideas clearly both orally and in writing. of 17 students of class VIII , only 5 students who can communicate thoughts and ideas clearly. It was proved that the readingof students still need to be improved. VIII-grade students also do not understand very well the content of the discourse, because the students of class VIII lack a vocabulary that form words spoken verbally and in writing, and to read and hear news or conversations from various sources.

Based on the results of tests conducted by teachers of English subjects 75% of students do not meet the criteria of completeness minimum value of 70, while

25% of the number of students already meet the minimum completeness criteria. In remembering, memorize and understand the vocabulary that is not easy, needed assistance in the form of media that is designed to stimulate student learning VIII class'. the media used to overcome this problem is a crossword puzzle.

Might seem plausible that the use crossword puzzles to teach and improve reading would be an effective strategy. From these reports it can be concluded that the crossword puzzle is a visual medium that can be used in teaching, especially in improving students'reading achievement and their active participation. From all the explanation above, the researcher tries to conduct a research which emphasizes on the use of crossword puzzle to improve the students' reading in English. The researcher conducts a classroom action research entitled ",

According to the explanation above, a classroom action research entitled *"Improving the VIII-A Grade Students' Reading Comprehension by Using Crossword Puzzles at SMPI Darusalam Jembearum Jember in the 2014-2015 Academic Year"* will be conducted.

1.2 Problems of the Research

Based on the research background, the researcher problems are formulated as follows.

How can the use of crossword puzzles improve the VIII grade students' reading comprehension at SMPI Darusalam Jembearum Jember in the 2014/2015 academic year?

1.3 Objectives of the Research

The research objectives are formulated as follows.

To improve the VIII grade students' reading comprehension by using crossword puzzles at SMPI Darusalam Jembearum Jember in the 2014/2015 academic year.

1.4 The Operational Definition of Variables

1.Reading Comprehension

Reading comprehension means extracting the required information from it as efficiently as possible (Grellet, 1996:3). Reading comprehension in this study refers to the ability of the eighth year students of SMPI Darusalam Jambearum Jember in identifying general information, finding specific information, recognizing textual meaning, and recognizing textual reference of the reading texts.

2.Crossword Puzzle

Crossword puzzle is a learning media in which word have to be written into boxes vertically (from clues down) and horizontally (from clues a cross). To fill the box with correct answer the students must read and think the clue. In this research the clues in crosswords puzzle are given in the form of phrases or a sentence or with the help pictures or using the first, the middle or last letters of each word.

1.5   Significance of the Research

It is expected that the result of the research will give some advantages to the following people:

1. For the English Teacher

The finding of this research can be used for the English Teacher as the suitable media to teach reading to the students through crossword puzzles. It is because crossword puzzles can make the students be more interested and motivated in learning reading.

2. For the Students

The result of this research is expected to build up the students' interest and motivation in learning English. Especially, crossword puzzles can solve the students' problems in mastering reading and improve the students' active participation during the teaching learning process of reading. Further, they can also learn reading through crossword puzzles by themselves.

3. For the Other Researchers

The result of this research can be useful for other researchers who have similar problems as a reference, consideration and source to conduct further research but different research design.

1.6 Scope of The Research

The research is conducted at seventh grade student of SMPI Darusalam Jembearum Jember in the 2014/2015 Academic Year. This research design is Classroom Action Research with Using crosswords puzzle to improve students'Reading Comprehension. And the preliminary study conducted at eight grade student of SMPI Darusalam Jembearum Jember.