CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This research study focuses on the correlation between students' translation ability and their reading comprehension ability on news item texts. And for that reason this chapter discusses several points of aspects that related to the topic of the research. Those are the background of the research, problem of the research, objective of the research, significance of the research, scope of the research, and operational definition of the research.

1.1 Background of the Research

As a human with the social life must be need to communicate one and other, and the tools to communicate is language. Language is a system of communication that consist of a set of sounds and written symbols that are used by people of a particular country for talking or writing (Patel, 2008, p.91). In every nation must have their own language to communicate, and as we know that the international language today is English language. Therefore, each students need to be able to use English language for their second language for the academic needs or moreover on the daily.

There are several skills that been known as the basic skill that need to be learn by the students. Those skills are reading, writing, speaking and listening. And from those four basic English language skills are divided into receptive skills and productive skills. Reading and listening is categorized as receptive skills, which need to know the meaning to understand the discourse about, while speaking and writing is

categorized as the productive skills, in which the students need to produce language themselves (Harmer, 2007, p.265).

Reading is the window to the knowledge and students as a learner requires a good skill of reading. Harmer (2007, p.99) states that reading is useful for language acquisition provides that student more of less understand what they read, the more they read the better they comprehend it because they will understand a lot of things. In other words, as the receptive skill from the four basic skills English language, reading is a gate way to process of interpreting a message from any information such a book, newspaper, magazine and other sources. And also reading skill increase or help to get successful in the academic.

In the process of reading to comprehend the meaning from what they read, students will be translating the L2 text to understand the text. In this case, translation ability cannot be separated from the abilities in learning English language especially in reading skills. While the students reading, speaking, writing or listening English, as the L2 language, they are actually translating the meaning. They will translate from the L2 language into their own language.

The work translation is started by reading the original text in order to get understand and ends with re-writing it into the target language (Newmark, 1988, p.80). Furthermore, he explains that translation involves four processes: comprehension of the vocabulary of the original source-language, comprehension of the meaning of the source-language message, reformulation of the message in the target language, and judgment of the adequacy of the target language. The process of

translating comprises in its essence the whole secret of human understanding of the world and of social communication.

Basically, translation is the process of rendering meaning from source language or L2 into the target of language. And according to Grabe (2009, p.15) stated that reading is a receptive skill where the reader is expected to decode the visual form of the text into comprehension messages in the brain. And in order the students able to comprehend from what they read, they have to understand the vocabulary and the relation among the word concept, organize ideas, recognize the writer's purpose, make judgment and evaluating.

And according to the observation at one of senior high school in Bondowoso, the researcher founds that the majority of students find difficulties in translating English language as the L2 into their language. In accordance with Rindianti (2010, p.15), Indonesia students find the difficulties in translating English (Source language) to Indonesia (target language) or vice versa.

Based on the background of the research above, the researcher was interested to conducting a study entitled "The correlation between students' translation ability and their reading comprehension on news item text at senior high school". Since this topic is considered as the two basic skill for mastering English language, but also this topic and the material used to be have some difficulties for the senior high, and it is by the researcher found out when at the senior high school. However, there are some previous studies that has focused on students' translation ability and their reading

comprehension. Below is one of the examples from the previous study which have investigated translation ability and reading comprehension.

As a comparison to the research, the first study is by Rahemi et.al (2013) entitled "The correlation between reading comprehension and translation ability: A correlational study on fourth year students at English department of UNP". The purpose of the research was to reveal the correlation between reading comprehension and translation ability of fourth year students in English department of UNP. The population and samples of the research was the fourth years students who took translation subject in the seventh semester of academic year 2012 in English department of Universitas Negeri Padang. The instrument of the research was a reading comprehension test and translation test. The research revealed that the hypothesis which stated that there was a significant correlation between students' reading comprehension and their translation ability was accepted.

And the next study is by Fatria (2020) with the title "the correlation between translation ability and reading habit toward reading skill". The research is to identify the connection between the ability to interpret and learn, the ability to read and read, the ability to translate and the tendency to read and read. The population of the study is the students fifth semester in Universitas Nahdatul Ulama Blitar. The sample are 52 students. Test and questionnaire is used to know the reading pattern of students. The results of this research reveal that 1) the correlation between interpreting and reading positive. 2) there is a positive correlation between reading habit and reading. 3) there is positive correlation among translation ability, reading habit and reading skill. The

results of this research indicate that the ability to interpret and read behaviors relate in particular to the student ability to read and address the question of the test. However, the researcher asserted that language skills and comprehension practice should also be applied in teaching and comprehension learning. A teacher of English has to organize certain activities in his curriculum that increase the ability to read and to read habits related to teaching.

The next research is by Hasdiyanti (2018) with the titled "The correlation between the reading comprehension and the students' translation ability at the tenth grade students of SMK Negeri 5 Pangkep". This research aimed to know the influence of reading comprehension of the students to their translation ability. And the research revealed there was a correlation between reading comprehension and translation ability. And its' stated that reading comprehension plays an important role in learning English, in order to develop language skills (especially in translation ability).

And for the very last previous research on this topic is held on Vietnam by Pham (2017) with the title "Reading Comprehension and Translation Performance of English Linguistics Students of Hung Vuong University: A Correlational Study". On this research, the researcher aimed to correlate the reading comprehension and translation performance of English linguistic students, then inform some pedagogical implications for the teaching of reading comprehension in translation classes in order to enhance the translation quality performed by the students. It was found that the Reading comprehension was closely related to translation performance. Along the

reading comprehension question types, translation performance was affected by the ability to determine gist and main ideas of the text, identify the vocabulary, infer the implied meanings and identify the writer's style and attitudes. The results were discussed, and implications for teaching reading comprehension to enhance translation performance were presented.

Based on the research above, this present research will differ from the previous study above, where this study uses a specific text "news item text" and conducted to the senior high school students. And based on the result of the observations, the researcher conducts this study on twelve grades at Muhammadiyah senior high school Bondowoso. The teachers at Muhammadiyah senior high school Bondowoso stated that news item text was one of the materials that considered difficult by the students. By that reason, students have lack understanding on the material about the news item text and affected to their reading comprehension. Furthermore, the present research employs a reading comprehension test and translation ability test in the form of multiple choices, since the research participant of this research is senior high school students who may not have sufficient knowledge in answering questions in the form of essay.

1.2 Problem of the Research

Based on the background of the research above, this study proposes the following research questions "Is there any significant correlation between students' translation ability and their reading comprehension ability on news item texts?"

1.3 Objective of the Research

Based on the research questions formulated above, therefore this present research aims "To find out whether there is any significant correlation between students' translation ability and their reading comprehension ability on news item texts"

1.4 Operational Definition of the Research

Several term that used on this research which be defined bellow to make it clear and prevent misunderstanding in this study:

1. Translation ability refers to the ability to communicate of the meaning of a source-language text by means of an equivalent target-language text.
2. Reading comprehension refers to the ability to read a text, process it and understand its' meaning.
3. News item text refers to English news text which inform readers about events that are considered newsworthy or important. The topics is focused on any news but not about politics, which used to be read or heard by the students.

1.5 Significance of the Research

The findings that revealed from this research are highly expected to give contribution to the English teaching and learning. There are two major significances; those are theoretical significance and practical significance:

1. Theoretical significance

   In term of theoretical significance, the researcher hopes this study will contribute to the related theories. Furthermore, this can be supporting the existing study and theories related to the topic of this study, and this can be additional references for the future studies.

2. Practical significance

   The results revealed of this research are highly expected to give teachers an overview about students' translation ability and their reading comprehension. In addition, teachers can make an evaluation based on the results of this study later.

1.6 Scope of the Research

The scope this research is being limited, started from the variables studied, research participant, and location of the research. Senior high school students become the participant of this research. Furthermore, this study only focus on how students' translation ability and reading comprehension ability on the news item text, and its' correlation.