

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This study deals with the implementation of numbered head together technique to improve students reading comprehension at the second grade of SMP Plus Al-Mubarak Kalisat. This chapter concerns with the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the objective of the study, the scope and limitation of the study and also definition of key terms.

#### 1.1 The Background of Research

Reading plays essential role in the context of teaching of English as foreign language in Indonesian. In fact, it is one of supporting skills that students should master if they want to acquire a good mastery English. It is known that, reading has placed itself to be one of the major skills to be tested in the final test. Almost the entire question which has appeared in the test is testing student's reading skill. So, students must be able to adequate reading ability to comprehend text to accomplish English lesson. Later they can comprehend the given texts in the test and they will be able to answer the question related to the text and finally they can pass the test.

In the practice of teaching and learning English, however, comprehension seems to be hard work for students. So many students fail in acquiring comprehension in reading due to some causes as (Nety 2009:163), school students sometimes are unable to get the complete understanding of text. This might be caused by the fact that many of those students do not know the essential

information needed to understand a word, including how a word combine with other words.

Based on Pre-test in pre-liminary study and class observation it was found that the students' reading comprehension was low. Their avarage score was 64, while the target score of this research is 70. They still had some difficulties in comprehend the text. There are some factors that might come from vocabulary mastery, background knowledge of the students, experience in reading and also the teacher. Most of the students admitted that they often felt bored when they had to read a text, especially a long and uninteresting topic text. When they read a long text, they were not so interested because they often did not understand the meaning of the words used in the text. It was difficult for them to understand the content of the text. They just waited until the teacher explained it for them or asked them about the difficult words. Moreover, it was students of vocational high school of SMP Plus Al-Mubarak Kalisat, where it more focusses to vocational education. So that to improve their comprehend in reading, teacher must use interesting teaching strategy.

According to Lie (2002:58), one of the teaching learning strategies which can make student will be more active is cooperative learning. The writer plans to develop cooperative learning strategy to improve student's reading comprehension as an alternative way for the teacher to overcome the problem in the class. Cooperative learning strategy is chosen, because the strategy is designed to increase students' activity. Michael (1997:22), as cited in Solehatin and Raharjo (2007:4) stated, "cooperative learning is more effective in increasing motive and performance of student". Because cooperative learning is an organized

group learning activity, the learning process depends on the socially structured exchange of information between learner in groups and in which each learner is held accountable for his own learning and is motivated to increase the learning of others, Kessler (1992:24) says that learning by using cooperative learning can develop the students' quality especially their affective aspect. So that, using this technique student are expected to increase their ability in social interaction among students.

According to Kagan\_(2011:79) Cooperative Learning has many learning types. One of the techniques is Numbered Head Together (NHT). Numbered Head Together (NHT) is a type cooperative learning method which can be alternative variation of learning, where is built heterogeneity group. Each group consist of 4-5 members. Each member of groups has one number. Teacher gives question to be discussed together in groups. Teacher points one of members to represent his group without telling him first to present what has been discussed in his group. In this way, the researcher tries to solve the problem by implementing learning method that demands the existence of cooperation and responsibility of group. Besides students take apart directly n learning activity and forced to be active. In teaching learning process, teacher especially teacher of SMP PLUS AL-MUBARAK KALISAT is also forced to present fact condition into class so that students are able to comprehend materials and also gives vocabulary in the beginning of the class based on the material so that the students more easily in discussing with the group. in short, this is very good effort to increase individual responsibility in group discussion.

From what has been explain above, the researcher has done research entitled improving students' reading comprehension through Numbered Head Together (NHT) technique at the eight grade of SMP Plus Al-Mubarak Kalisat.

## **1.2 The Problem of the Research**

Based on the background of the study, the problem of the research is :  
How can Numbered Head Together technique improve the reading ability of the eight grade students at SMP Plus Al-Mubarak Kalisat?

## **1.3 The Objective of Research**

In relation with the statement of the problem, the objective of this study is to improve students' reading comprehension by using Numbered Head Together (NTH) at SMP Plus Al-Mubarak Kalisat.

## **1.4 The Significance of the Research**

Theoretically, the result of the study is expected to give advantage for English teacher, and further researcher, the result of the study can be one solution of teaching problem related to improve the students' ability in comprehending text at Eight Grade of SMP Plus Al-Mubarak Kalisat.

Practically, the research has many benefits. First, for English Teacher the result of this study can be one solution of teaching problem related to improve the students' ability in comprehending text at Eight Grade of SMP Plus Al-Mubarak Kalisat. Second, for further researcher the finding of the research can be used as valuable sources to conduct further research related to the implementation of

Numbered Head Together technique to improve the students' reading ability for all kinds of text. Moreover, further researcher can use the findings of the study as one of the references to conduct research on different grades or levels of education.

### **1.5 The Operational Definitions**

To make clear comprehension about the topic discusses in this study and to avoid the possibilities of misinterpretation, the researcher has tried to give the definition of each. They are:

- **Reading comprehension**

Reading comprehension is the student's ability to comprehend the narrative text. It is indicated by the ability to find out the orientation, word comprehension, text comprehension, sentence comprehension, paragraph comprehension and generic structure in narrative text. in the form questioner multiple choisse.

- **Numbered Head Together**

Numbered Head Together: is teacher divides students into groups of four up to five and gives them different number, then students discuss together to answer the question given by the teacher and at last, students present their answers one by one based on the number.

## **1.6 The Scope and the Limitation of the study**

This research focuses on the use of NHT reading activity on students reading comprehension. The subjects of the research are the students in eight grade that consist of 23 students in SMP Plus Al-Mubarak Kalisat in the 2019 academic year



