

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter explain about (1) Background of the research, (2) Problem of the Research, (3) Objective of the Research, (4) Operational definition, (5) Significance of the Research, and (6) Scope of the research.

1.1 Background of the Research

In English teaching there are some skills that the students have to comprehend, one of which reading. The students will be easy to learn foreign language if they are fluent in reading English. Rivers (1981:422) stated that “reading is the most important activity in any language class, not only as a source of information and a pleasurable activity, but also as means of consolidating and extending one’s which are knowledge of the language”. It mean, reading is a source of knowledge and it is one of the important skills to communication, the students can get a lot of information if they often read books or other media. In Indonesia, English reading is most important skill that has been learn in every school. The main important thing that the reader should have the ability to comprehend what they have to read.

In Indonesia, English reading must be taught maximally by the teacher to the students. Reading is also one media of communication. Reading is one of difficult subjects at school because there are many aspects to be considered in reading comprehension such as , word comprehension, sentance comprehension, paragraph comprehension and text comprehension in reading texts.

In fact, there are many difficulties faced by students in reading comprehension as they are good at reading comprehension. Shofia (2001:2) fine in her research that the weaknesses of students in reading speed and reading comprehension has two elements or factors, namely, the students do not fully understand how to read text quickly and how to comprehend it well. Reading is one of difficult skill to master because it is complex skill to learn. The students not capable to good reading. the reason that they cannot a good reader is caused by poor vocabulary, difficulties in comprehending the meaning of word and sentence , do not fully understand how to read text quickly and how to comprehend it well. In reading texts, students often find some difficult word, setence that they do not know its meaning. Before they translate the word, they must know or understand though comprehension so that they can discribe their ideas or can give conclusion from English reading texts though their comprehension. Although, reading seems to be the most important skill in academic area, English reading is not easy for students to comprehending the meaning of English reading texts in short story or textbooks. Most of students in SMP have problems in English reading texts. They find difficulties to comprehending a short texts for example to the meaning of the word.

In SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Jember, students always found the English textbook in academic class, reading is very diffilcult subject for the students of SMP Muhammadiyah1 Jember. The reason is because the student feel that and they have problem when they read English texts, such as : students are difficult to find the main idea of the texts, difficult to find word meaning from the texts that they read and do not understand and comprehending of the texts well when they

read. In this research, the researcher was to investigate which a difficulties comprehension of eight grade students in comprehending word, sentence, paragraph and text in english reading comprehension texts.

Based on the explanation above, it was known that students at SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Jember still had some difficulties dealing with their reading comprehension, the researcher concluded a research study entitled “ An Investigation of English Reading Comprehension Difficulties of the Eighth Grade students at SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Jember in the 2017/2018 academic year”

1.2 Problem of the Research

Based on the background of the research above, the problems of the research could be formulated as “What are the main Difficulties Comprehension encountered by Eighth Grade Students in Reading Comprehension?”

1.3 Objective of the Research

According to the statement of the Problem, the purpose of the research is “To investigate the difficulties comprehension in Reading Comprehension by Eighth Grade students at SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Jember”.

1.4 Operation Definition

To get definitive understanding of the concepts of this study, the following operational definition of the terms is given:

- 1.4.1 Reading comprehension difficulties refers to the difficult comprehending in reading of the reader encountered while they read English texts.
- 1.4.2 Word comprehension refers to understanding the meaning of words in English reading texts.

- 1.4.3 Sentence comprehension refers to understanding the meaning of sentences in English reading texts.
- 1.4.4 Paragraph comprehension refers to understanding the meaning of paragraph in English reading texts.
- 1.4.5 Text comprehension refers to understanding the meaning of text in English texts.

1.5 Significance of the Research

Since reading is a very important skill in learning and teaching a second language and due to the existence of many problematic areas in reading.

This study intends to make a perception about some ESL reading comprehension difficulties among learners and teacher. Such perception help teachers adapt their teaching style. Futhermore, the study also strives to offer some remedies for reading comprehension difficulties, paving the way for ESL learners to overcome so many difficulties they may face in their reading comprehension texts.

1.6 Scope of the Research

The scope of this research to investigating the difficulties comprehending of English reading comprehension by Eighth Grade students at SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Jember in the 2017/2018 academic year.