

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter explains about Background of the Research, Research problems, Research Objectives, Operational Definition, Significant of the Research and Scope of the Research.

#### **1.1 Background of the Research**

Learning English as a new language is usually divided into four large domains (language skills), namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing (Canal and Swain in Lems et.al 2010: 5). Reading, one of the four English language skills, is regarded as the most important skill for students. According to 2013 Institutional Level Curriculum of junior high school students, one of the four English skills that the students should be able to master is reading skill. It is because reading can help them develop other skills. Therefore, the students are expected to be able to understand what they are reading in their daily life.

Williams (1984: 2) defines reading as a process whereby one looks at and understands what has been written. In other words, reading is a process of getting the idea or the meaning from written text.

Reading a text always relates to comprehension. McMeans (2004: 2) states that reading comprehension means the act of making sense out of what you read. In other words, reading comprehension is the activity to elaborate the content of

the text which has been read by someone. In addition, reading for comprehension is the primary purpose for reading; raising student awareness of main ideas in a text and exploring the organization of a text are essential for good comprehension (Grabe in Richards and Renandya, 2002: 277). It means that the students should be able to know the main idea and the organization of the text to comprehend what they read.

Based on the preliminary study that was conducted on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 with the seventh grade English teacher of SMP Muhammadiyah 3 Rambipuji, the researcher got information that the English teacher. Used bilingual (English and Indonesia) in teaching reading to her students. In addition, the teacher had taught descriptive text to the seventh grade students which is suggested in 2013 Institutional Level Curriculum for the seventh grade students in the first semester. Furthermore, she said that the students' usually got difficulties in identifying main idea especially if the idea of the paragraph in the text did not straight to the point (implicit meaning). Therefore, based on those explanations above, the researcher was curious to investigate the reading comprehension achievement especially on the seventh grade students in identifying main idea and identifying supporting details of the text. The information that the researcher got from the preliminary study was useful to prepare the research instrument.

Pinker (2007) as written in Lems, *et al* (2010) says. "Language is an instinct, but reading is not". People are able to acquire language unconsciously, but they cannot acquire the ability of reading unconsciously. That is why reading needs to be taught and practiced. Reading is useful not only for mastering the reading skills required in reading activities but also for giving pleasure for the

students who learn English. Besides, reading texts provide good models of English writing for the students in arranging sentences, paragraphs, and texts. According to Harmer (2007) the reading texts also provide opportunities to study the other language components such as vocabulary, grammar and punctuation.

To get the information about the practice of teaching English done by English teacher, a preliminary study was done by doing interview. From the interview, some information was revealed. The English teacher (Mr. M) taught English twice a week and each meeting lasted for 80 minutes. He used Lecturing and Question-Answer teaching methods. In practice, he asked the students to read the reading text first, and then they had to find the meaning of difficult words in the text. Usually he let the students opened dictionary. After that he pointed some student to read the text aloud. Next, he gave some tasks related to the text. The students did the exercise sometimes individually, in pair or in group. According to the English teacher, when students worked in pair or in group they were able to work together, so it helped them to do the task better and faster. Finally, he gave some questions orally to the students to know whether or not they understood the text well. Once in a while, he assigned the students to do homework for example finding descriptive text or narrative text from the internet at home. He asked the students to submit the homework in the next meeting.

It was important to conduct this research because the researcher was curious to know how well the seventh grade students' reading comprehension achievement especially to get the evidence whether the students' ability in identifying main idea and identifying supporting details of the descriptive text was good or not because those aspects were important for good comprehension in

reading text (Grabe in Richards and Renandya. 2002: 277). Later, the findings of this research can be useful for the future researchers as an information or reference for conducting further research, such as giving a certain treatment to obtain whether that treatment can give an effect or not on the students' reading comprehension achievement (experimental research) or a treatment that can overcome the students' difficulties in identifying main idea and identifying supporting details of the descriptive text and increase the students' achievement in reading descriptive text.

Reading comprehension is an active cognitive process which involves reasoning to construct meaning from a written text and understanding it effectively and comprehensively Nakamoto & Lindse (Ed.2008: 38). Enabling EFL learners to deeply and adequately understand the written language, necessitate teaching them the reading comprehension skills that comprises reading proficiency.

Based on the background above, the research entitled "A descriptive study on the Seventh Grade Students Literal Reading Comprehension Achievement at SMP Muhammadiyah 3 Rambipuji in 2017/2018 Academic Year" is to be conducted.

## **1.2 Research Problem**

Based on the background stated above, the research problem in this descriptive research formulated as follows.

“What is the literal reading comprehension ability of finding main idea and specific details of the seventh year students of SMP Muhammadiyah 3 Rambipuji in the 2017/2018 Academic year?”

### **1.3 Research Objectives**

Based on the research problem, the objectives of this research are to describe the seventh grade student literal reading comprehension of finding main idea and specific details at SMP Muhammadiyah 3 Rambipuji.

### **1.4 Operation Definition**

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

- a) Reading is an active process that requires a great deal of practice and skill (Moreillon, 2007: 10).
- b) Reading achievement refers to something achieved or done successfully with effort or skills.
- c) Literal reading refers to the ideas and facts that are directly stated on the printed page (Kustaryo, 1988: 12).
- d) A descriptive text is a text which lists the characteristics of something Loos *et al* (in Anggun, 2016: 149).

### **1.5 Significance of the research**

It is expected that the research result have some benefits, both practically and theoretically.

a) Practical significance

The result of this research can be used as information for the English teacher to know better about her students' literal reading achievement. It may be used as a consideration to improve or to increase the Students ability and the students' score.

b) Theoretical significance

The future researchers can use the research result as information or reference when they are going to conduct a further research on the same topic. It could be in the form of experimental research, but with more focus on different type of reading skill such as inferential reading, or reading for summarizing.

### **1.6 Scope of the research**

The scope of this research to investigating the Students achievement in literal reading comprehension by seventh grade students of SMP Muhammadiyah 3 Rambipuji in the academic years 2017/2018.