#### **CHAPTER I**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter describes the introduction of this study. They are background of the study, research questions, objectives of the study, significances of the study, definition key term and scope and limitation.

# A. Background of The Study

As stated in Draft Reading Literacy Framework PISA 2015, reading literacy is comprehending, utilizing, and indicating on written texts, in order to reach the purpose, to develop one's knowledge and potential, and to participate in society. The PISA 2009 adds engagement into reading literacy definition.

"Reading literacy is understanding, using, reflecting on and engaging with written texts, in order to achieve one's goals, to develop one's knowledge and potential, and to participate in society".2

AwaluddinTjalla summarized the results of internasional study that showed low level of Indonesian students' reading literacy. In 2006, reading literacy achievement of Indonesian students was in 39 of 40 member countries.3 In 2006, the achievement of Indonesian students' reading literacy

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>PISA 2015 DRAFT READING LITERACY FRAMEWORK... 9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>PISA 2015... 9

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>AwaluddinTjalla, *Potret Mutu Pendidikan Indonesia Ditinjau dari Hasil-hasil Studi* Internasional. 2.

was in 50 of 57 countries.<sup>4</sup> Meanwhile, Indonesian students' ability score in reading literacy was 395, of International average score was 403.<sup>5</sup>

From the facts above, we know that Indonesian students need more references to read. They have to develop their passion for reading in order to increase the knowledge. Literate civilization is marked by willingness and ability of the people for reading. If they are low in literacy, it is dangerous for future generation. In Maman Suryaman's journal, Teew said that nation which has low literate society will get gloomy civilization. It is clear that Indonesian students have to be motivated to read. Because of reading, they will get many profit of it. From the importance above, reading has many benefits for students' future. It is being necessity for adolescent realm, such as students in Junior High School.

In this research, the researcher helps the teacher to measure students' reading literacy to know students' proficiency level. To assess students' reading literacy, the researcher uses PISA as instrument. If the result is in high level, the teacher has to defend it. In other hand, if the result is in low level, the teacher has to improve students' reading literacy in order to be better. So that, students' reading literacy in SMPN 2 Sukodono contributes the progress of Indonesian students' reading literacy.

PISA (Program for International Students' Assessment) is chosen as instrument to assess students' level of reading literacy proficiency because it

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>AwaluddinTjalla... 2

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>AwaluddinTjalla... 18

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>Maman Suryaman, "Analisis Hasil Belajar Peserta DIdik dalam Literasi Membaca melalui Studi Internasional (PIRLS) 2011". *Litera*. Vol 11 No. 1.2015, 171.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>Teewas cited in Maman Suryaman...171

is appropriate with the subject in junior high school. PISA focuses on three subject lessons: Mathematics, Science and Reading and it is for fifteen years old students. Other international studies are The Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) which focuses on mathematics and science for thirteen years students and Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) which focuses on reading for fourth grade of Elementary School students.<sup>8</sup>

Based on the reason above, the researcher chooses SMPN 2 Sukodono as the subject of this research. The researcher observed that this school has not provided international assessment yet. So that, the researcher wants to introduce PISA to the students and analyze students' reading literacy by conducting this research about students' level of reading literacy proficiency. If the result of their level of reading literacy proficiency is in high level, they can keep their reading literacy achievement with some enrichment/extensive reading. Otherwise, if their level of reading literacy proficiency is in low level, they have to improve their English especially in reading literacy.

The research will be conducted in class VIII-A because PISA assessment is only for students fifteen years old. Those students are classified as the eighth graders of Junior High School. The researcher chooses class VIII-A because based on the discussion with Mr. Khusnul as English teacher on May 14<sup>th</sup>2016, it is one of excellent classes in SMPN 2 Sukodono. This class is the best class among eighth grade. Because of the superiority, the

<sup>8</sup>Awaluddin Tjalla...5

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researcher interests to conduct the research in that class. Hopefully, students in this class can also introduce PISA to other classes. Thus, students' reading literacy in this school will be better.

There has been a lot of research in the field which focused on reading literacy, such as research which is done by MamanSuryaman. In this research, Suryaman analyzed Indonesian students' ability in reading literacy; students' ability in solving literate question and illiterate question; and the factors that influenced solving question ability. <sup>9</sup>

There are also some researches related to the students' reading literacy in Indonesia. Mashulah has more specific analysis. She focused on students' difficulty in understanding English reading text. This research was conducted to know the students' difficulties and also the factors causing the difficulties in understanding English reading descriptive text. This research is a case study and it uses descriptive quantitative method.<sup>10</sup>

This research will be different from all of those researches because in this research the researcher will analyze the level of reading literacy proficiency of junior high school students and the factors influence students' levels of reading literacy proficiency. Furthermore, this research will focus on the students' reading literacy assessed by PISA. Therefore, the researcher chooses this topic with the title of "Students' Level of Reading Literacy Proficiency" with the expectation that the result of this research can increase

<sup>9</sup>Maman Suryaman, "Analisis Hasil Belajar Peserta Didik dalam Literasi Membaca melalui Studi Internasional (PIRLS) 2011", *Litera*.Vol 11 No. 1.2015, 171.

<sup>10</sup>Mashulah. *An Analysis of Students' Difficulties in Understanding English Reading Text*. (Unpublished S-1 Thesis. Surabaya: English Teacher Education Departement, UIN Sunan Ampel, 2013).

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students' and the teacher's knowledge in improving the English teaching and learning process.

#### **B.** Research Problems

- 1. What is students' level of reading literacy proficiency in class VIII-A of SMPN 2 Sukodono?
- 2. What are the factors which influence students' levels of reading literacy proficiency?

# C. Objectives of The Study

Based on question above, the purposes are:

- 1. To describe the students' level of reading literacy proficiency atSMPN 2 Sukodono.
- 2. To explainthe factors influence students' levels of reading literacy proficiency.

# D. Significances of The Study

There are significances supposed by the researcher as follow:

1. Theoretical significance

The result of this research is supposed to give knowledge theoretically to the teacher, students and also to the researcher herself about how to measure students' level of reading literacy in Middle School.

2. Practical significance

For the teacher, he becomes know his students' level of reading literacy proficiency level so the teacher will be easier to teach.

# E. Definition Key Term

- Reading literacy is understanding, using, reflecting on and engaging with written texts, in order to achieve one's goals, to develop one's knowledge and potential, and to participate in society.<sup>11</sup>
  In this research, reading literacy is one of skill which measured to determine students' proficiency level.
- 2. Reading literacy proficiency is a competence that should be reached by the students.
- 3. Reading literacy proficiency level is standard of a high-level qualification in interpreting written texts.

# F. Scope and Limitation of The Study

The scope of this research is the researcher using instrument adopted from PISA Released Items – Reading 2006 to assess students' level of reading literacy proficiency.

The researcher limits the focus of reading literacy into PISA 2006 by the theme Graffiti and Warranty. These themes are chosen because they include descriptive text and card which are similar to syllabus of Junior

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup>PISA 2015 DRAFT READING LITERACY FRAMEWORK. 9

High School for the eighth graders in English lesson KD (base competence) 3.10 and 3.13 about descriptive text and notice.

