CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter the researcher discusses the background of the study which covers the emergence of problem, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation on the main problem of the research and the definition of the key terms.

A. Background of the Study

Reading is something crucial and indinpensable for the students, because the success of their study depend on the greater part of their ability to read. If their reading skill is poor they are likely fail in their study or at least they have difficulty in making progress.

Reading is one of the essential skills to acquire knowledge. If they have a good skill in reading, they seem to have a better chance to succeed in their study. Cited in Insiyah, Underson states that:

Reading is very complex process; it requires a high level of muscular coordination, sustained effort and concentration. Reading is more than just visual task. Not only must the reader use and identify the symbols in front of her but he must interpret what he reads in the light of her background knowledge, associate it with past experience and project beyond their in term of ideas, judgments, application, and conclusion.¹

In reading skill, the students should be able to understand and comprehend the text. Now days, people receive a lot of information and knowledge from

¹ Insiyah, Teaching Techniques of Reading Skill For The Second Year Students Of MTs Miftahul Ulum Batang-Batang Sumenep (Unpublished S-1 Thesis. Surabaya: English Departement, IAIN Sunan Ampel, 2009), p. 2



many resources such as books, newspaper, television, internet, and other resources. By reading, we can develop our creativity, critical thinking and even writing skill. For the example, when we read the novel we will have imagination of the characters in the novel, and we can have an opinion on someone's writing. It also develops students' spelling and vocabulary.

Therefore, reading is important skill in learning English. There is a strong correlation between reading and academic success. Reading not only increases your knowledge but also it improves the vocabulary. By reading you will know several things that may be useful for your success.

In some Senior High Schools of Indonesia, reading skill seems to be the priority in learning. As stated in Curriculum, English helps students to comprehend what they read, and enhance students' oral and written communication ability.

Furthermore, there are many benefits if the students do reading activity regularly, for example it may develop vocabulary and improve students' reading comprehension.

Many students read slowly, do not enjoy reading, do not read much, and could not fully understand English text.

According to Brown reading comprehension is primarily a matter of developing appropriate efficient comprehension strategies for the majority of second language learners who are already literate in their native language.² It means that the strategies in reading are important to help students comprehend the text well. By comprehending the text well, students will have strong points of a text. It may help them to broaden their perspective, encourage their creativity and imagination. It also gives the opportunity to know the world as they get information from the text they read. Hedge said that lots of reading practice from different types of materials can increase the students' general understanding of language and their ability to understand Socio- cultural meaning.³ Therefore, considering the importance of reading, a good and interesting teaching reading technique is necessary.

In the last decade, many reading experts have investigated English reading strategies in order to solve the reading problems. Reading strategies are considered as one of the fundamental factors that promote the improvement of students' comprehension of the text. Furthermore, reading strategies "is the foundation of students' self-regulated reading". A motivated and self-regulated reader will encourage himself to set his own planning to determine his reading strategies which contribute a great deal of success to his reading comprehension.

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² H. Brown, Teaching by Principles; An Interactive Approach to Language Pedagogy. San-Fransisco Longman, 2011, p. 124

³ Ibid, p. 125

⁴ Syafrizal, The Corelation Between Students' Reading-related Language Learning Strategies and Their Reading Achievement. Unpublished Thesis at the post graduate studies, English Education Program, Indonesia University of Education.

Wenden, A. Rubin, J. Learners Strategies in Language Learning, London 1987 prentice/ hall international, p.11

Teacher is one of the crucial factors that may develop students' ability. Teacher is the person who is actually responsible for educating the students' in the teaching-learning process. In the case of transferring knowledge, teachers are required to design some incredible techniques that would make the students easy to capture and understand the lesson.

In the school where I do the research, the English teacher seems to only focuses on LKS (Lembar Kerja Siswa) and few teaching strategies. This doesn't reflect to some incredible techniques that would be likely help students to understand the lesson. Because of this reason, my research focuses on reading comprehensions.

In addition, Wiryodijoyo states that the national examination in English subject put a large emphasis on reading aspect, and this situation will assure students who cannot read or comprehend the text answered the question in the examination to face tremendous difficulties and overwhelm the students.⁶

In reading class the teacher should have many technique variations to prevent the boredom among students and make them interested. Because of that, the teacher insists to give the new variation in the class especially in the reading class.

In this case the researcher will use small group task because the teacher in this school is not creative in creating enjoyable and interesting activities. Small

⁶ Wiryojoyo, Suwaryono. Membaca: Strategi Pengantar dan Tehniknya. Jakarta: Depdikbud, p. 34

group is a group work consists of less than 6 students. In small group work the students offer mutual acceptance, support and encourage each other.7

With the small group it also builds the students chemistry. The students who are usually passive in class will encourage being active. This will help them to gain confidence and develop their reading comprehension. Some advantages of group work are: 1) the small group dramatically increases the number of talking opportunities for individual students; 2) the member of group work has more opportunity to share information or knowledge to other members; 3) group work promotes learner autonomy by allowing students to make their own decisions. Meanwhile, the disadvantages of group work are: 1) group work is likely to be noisy, and the students seem to lose control; 2) not all students enjoy group work since they prefer to focus on the teachers' attention rather than work with their peers.8

B. Problem of The Study

The problem of this study is to find whether small group task technique can improve students' reading comprehension at the eleventh grade of MA NEGERI 1 KOTA MOJOKERTO.

⁷ Jeremy harmer. The practice of English Language Teaching 4th edition. Longman: Pearson Education Limited, 2011, *P*, 161 ⁸ Ibid, *P*. 166

C. Object of the Study

Based on the problem statements, the researcher formulates the following objectives:

To know the improvement of students' reading comprehension at the eleventh grade of MA Negeri 1 KOTA MOJOKERTO.

D. Scope and Limitation

The scope and limitation of this study describes as follow:

 The scope of this research is the implementation of small group task in teaching reading comprehension at the eleventh grade of MA Negeri 1 KOTA MOJOKERTO

2. The limitations are:

The improvement of students' reading skills by small group task at the eleventh grade of MA Negeri 1 KOTA MOJOKERTO.

E. Significance of Study

This study may contribute to the institution and the practice of reading. If the result proves that small group task technique is effective in improving students' reading comprehension, the instructor may consider using this technique in teaching reading.

F. Definition of Key Term

1. Effectiveness

Effectiveness is supporting the goal to know students' achievements. In this case students' improvement refers to the effectiveness of students reading comprehension.

2. Small Group Task

Small group is actually used when doing the task, job, and others. A group is easy to do the task or job together, and they can help each other. Actually in the classroom, the teacher divide the student into several groups. Each group consist of less than 6 persons.

The improvement of students' reading ability in this study is to improve students' comprehension skills.

4. Reading

Reading is a way of getting information and understanding the content of text or written form. 9

5. Reading comprehension

Reading comprehension is the power to understand or the ability to get the meaning of something.

⁹. AS. Hornby, Oxford Achaeanced Learners Dictionary of Current English (New York; Oxford University, 1995), p.603