

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of Study

Human beings are social creatures that cannot live without other help to fulfil their daily necessities. People need to interact to each other in their lives. Everybody needs to communicate with his or her surrounding.

The need of communication is felt when someone wants to tell some information or messages to other. The effective tool to know each other is language. Language as communication tool will make people able to express their feelings, ideas or wishes, and to know feelings, ideas or wishes

Language is not only used to interact with others but also to communicate, to share the information and to develop sciences and technology. Language becomes an important thing and people around the world use it. Language is also the given by God to human beings as stated in the Holy Qur'an in surah Al-Hujarat verse 13 as follows :

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ ﴿١٣﴾

The surah above shows that Allah the Almighty has created languages used by mankind to communicate with their surrounding. One of them, of course, is English that is not only used to communicate but also to learn and to teach.

Now days, English has become an international language and studied in many countries, either as the first language, second language, or as a foreign language. There are four skills that should be mastered by the English learners. They are listening, reading, speaking, and writing. The four skills are important to learn and to mastered by every individual.

The writer is interested to do a research focusing in reading skill. There are some reasons why she has to study it. First, reading is one important skill in learning English. Second everyone must read frequently to obtain information and knowledges. Third, reading is an ability which every individual should master it. Forth, because of the importance of reading, Allah ever said in the Holy Qur'an in surat Al-Alaq verses 1-5 as follows :

أَقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ ﴿١﴾ خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ ﴿٢﴾ أَلَمْ يَكُنْ أَكْرَمَ ﴿٣﴾ الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ ﴿٤﴾ عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ ﴿٥﴾

From the surah above, it can be understood that reading is very important. As the purpose of the fifth verse, God teaches something which people don't know before learning it.

According to Harmer (1998, p.68) "Reading is useful for language acquisition. Providing that students more or less understand what they read, the more they read, the better they get it. Reading also has a positive effect on students' vocabulary knowledge, on their spelling and on their writing. In

Longman Dictianory (2007, p.751), “ Reading is the activity of looking at and understanding written words.

In reading skill, there are standard competences as stated in the KTSP (Curriculum- Based on Education Unit Level). Standard competence of reading for Junior High School level is that students are able to understand interpersonal and transactional meaning in written form, formally and informally, in short functional text and monologue text. (BNSP, 2010, p. 315).

Nowdays many kind of those texts were taught by teacher in junior high school or senior high school. For junior high school lesson usually short functional text it has some types such as letter, notice, greeting card, short message, post card, inviting card, label, announcement and advertisement. These texts give us some informations about something that we dont know previously.

The observation is located in SMPN 23 Banjarmasin on jalan Harmoni Komplek Bumi Raya Permai I No. 31 Rt. 57 Pekapuran Raya, based on the writer’s prior observation and consultation with the English teacher of SMPN 23 Banjarmasin, she said the short functional texts is difficult for the students, because it has many types and has own characteristic which are different from one and another texts.

In this research the writer focus on five types of short functional texts they are advertisement, announcement, invitation, letter and notice.

Then the writer assumes it is important to know the students' ability in reading short functional texts at the eighth grade of SMPN 23 Banjarmasin and the most difficult types of short functional texts the student have at the school.

Based on the opinion and informations, the writer intend to do a research entitled : **THE EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS' ABILITY IN READING SHORT FUNCTIONAL TEXTS AT SMPN 23 BANJARMASIN SCHOOL YEAR 2016/2017**

To avoid misinterpretation about the title, it be will nice to explain some terms in the title As follows :

### 1. Ability

Ability is the quality or skill that you have which can makes it possible for you do something (Kipfer, 1999, p.2) in this research, it means students' ability in Reading short functional texts at the eighth grade of SMPN 23 Banjarmasin.

### 2. Reading

Reading is a receptive skill. Receptive skills are the ways in which people extract meaning the discourse they see or hear (Harmer, 2001, p.199).

### 3. Short functional texts

It is a short text that has particular meaning and purpose, and can be use in our daily life. It may be in the form of : Annoucement, Advertisement, Invitation, Letter, and Notice.

## **B. Statement of Problems**

Based on the background of study above, this research is aimed to figure out the problems that would be studied. The problems are as follows :

1. How is the students' ability in reading short functional texts at the eighth grade of SMPN 23 Banjarmasin ?
2. What is the most difficult types of short functional texts for the eighth grade of SMPN 23 Banjarmasin ?

## **C. Reasons for Choosing the Title**

There are some reasons that adopting the title, they are :

1. Many students still have difficulties in reading texts.
2. Reading is one of the important skills in learning English.
3. Short functional texts is one of the texts that should have to master by students in Junior High School.
4. For the eighth grade SMPN 23 Banjarmasin, lesson English language class only twice in a week.

## **D. Objective of Study**

Based on the problems above, the purposes of this research can be set as follow:

1. To know the students' ability in reading short functional texts at the eighth grade students' of SMPN 23 Banjarmasin in school year 2016/2017.

2. To know the most difficult types of short functional texts at the eighth grade students' of SMPN 23 Banjarmasin school year 2016/2017.

#### **E. Significance of the Research**

This research has contributions :

1. As an information for the teachers to formulate a syllabus based on the teaching English material on the reading section.
2. As an input for the writer herself and other students to improve our reading skill.
3. As consideration for the next researcher who will study the same object but different point of view.