

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Rationale

Language is a means of communication that is very important in daily human life. Human being uses language both written and spoken forms to express their idea. Language is one of the important devices of communication in any type of human activities; language support processing civilization and its progress day to day. Language is used to show their thought and feeling, wish and activities and to influence others. One's education background association, tradition and sign of family and nation can be explained by a language.¹

Language is many things-a system of communication, a medium for thought, a vehicle for literary expression, a social institution, a matter for political controversy, a factor in nation building.² And also the swift currents of globalization in our lives will impact the development and growth of language as a means of supporting the growth and development of culture, science and technology. In the era of globalization, every nation must inevitably come into play in the world of free competition, either in the political, economic, and communication. Concepts and new terminology in the growth and development of science and technology indirectly enrich the language.

¹ Mary Finocchiaro, *English As a Second Language: From Theory to Practice*, (New York, Regents Publishing Company Inc, 1974), p. 3

² William O'Grady and Mechael Dobrovolsky, *Contemporary Linguistics (an Introduction)*, (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1993), Second Edition, p. 1

It is important for us to learn language especially English since it is an international language which is used as a means of communication among nation in the world either in spoken or written interaction. In addition, the use of English is very important as a means of communication so that the interest in learning English grows very rapidly. Although English is not the largest number of native or 'first' language speakers, it has become a lingua franca. A lingua franca can be defined as a language widely adopted for communication between two speakers is using it as a 'second' language³. In this globalization era, Indonesian people in their daily life will frequently use English.

Based on school-based curriculum, English at senior high school taught as local content to serve the need of local community. Teaching-learning English has the purpose to develop four language skills; listening, speaking, reading, and writing. English language components: vocabulary, structure, and pronunciation are also important to teach.

People read for many reasons, such as reading for getting information, solving problems, and for pleasure. Reading ability enables people to express and develop their knowledge. Consequently, reading is crucial for human beings and is one of the most fundamental skills to be enquired in learning a language.

³ Jeremy Harmer, *The Practice of English Language Teaching*, (Cambridge UK: Longman, 2001) third edition, p. 1

Reading comprehension is a kind of reading that is done silently (unvoiced) and the readers are accurately and precisely to be able to understand or comprehend the information contained in the text.⁴

Reading can develop and improve the reader's competence with reference to his major or profession. It is accordance with the message of Allah the Almighty in the Holy Quran: Al-Alaq verses 1- 5 as follows:

أَقْرَأْ بِأَسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ ۝ خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ ۝ أَلَمْ نَكُنْ مِنْ دُونِكَ أَعْمَارًا ۝ فَادْعُنَا يَوْمَ الْمَعَادِ ۝ تَتَذَكَّرُ أَلَمْ نَكُنْ مِنْ دُونِكَ أَعْمَارًا ۝ خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ ۝ أَلَمْ نَكُنْ مِنْ دُونِكَ أَعْمَارًا ۝ فَادْعُنَا يَوْمَ الْمَعَادِ ۝ تَتَذَكَّرُ أَلَمْ نَكُنْ مِنْ دُونِكَ أَعْمَارًا ۝

Those verses contain of an exclamation and also signal of the urgency of reading. The word “Iqra” that means, “read” is repeated until twice with definite purpose. The meaning of reading in above verse comprises and to discover knowledge that in our surroundings.

Reading must have a purpose, someone who reads with the purpose, pare the purpose of reading, base on the reality in the school, the students' abilities in reading comprehension in the second grade students of SMPN 1 Murung Pudak is not successful yet.

The problem of students' ability in reading comprehension is because of so many students that are not able to determine the main idea and conclude what the story tells about into some sentences. Therefore, the result of that study is not

⁴ Henry Guntur Tarigan, *Membaca Sebagai Sebagai Suatu Keterampilan Berbahasa*, (Bandung: Angkasa, 1990) p. 7

efficient. The teacher also did not use an interesting method to the students in the understanding of reading activities.

The teaching strategy of Cooperative learning can improve the students' abilities of understanding text or story in the English of second grade students of SMPN 1 Murung Pudak. Cooperative learning is a teaching strategy in which small teams, each with students of different levels of ability, use a variety of learning activities to improve their understanding of a subject. Each member of a team is responsible, not only for learning what is taught but also for helping teammates learn, so creating an atmosphere of achievement. Students work through the assignment until all group members successfully understand and complete it.

From the above explanation, the writer would like to specify her research especially in teaching reading by using cooperative learning. Using that method, the teacher is able to motivate the learner and the writer is interested in doing a research about **“Improving the Reading Comprehension Using A Small Group Cooperative Learning Strategy in Second grade Students at SMPN 1 Murung Pudak Academic Year 2011/2012”**.

B. Reason for Choosing the Title

This topic has chosen based on the following reasons:

To teach reading skill, it is not enough for teacher just to give an explanation to the students, but it is necessary for them to be brought in an experience in practicing the language in a real situation, therefore the teacher needs a way of teaching that is enjoyable and practical. For students by

implementing cooperative learning will motivate them to support each other and help each other. Cooperative learning engage students learn by constructing knowledge gained from studying their own and sharing with the friends group.

C. Statement of the Problem

The problem of study can be stated as follows:

- 1) How is the students' ability/mastering in reading comprehension
- 2) Does teaching using cooperative learning improve the students' abilities in reading comprehension in second grade students of SMPN 1 Murung Pudak academic year 2011 / 2012?

This study planned to implement cooperative learning to solve the problem of low student learning outcomes in reading comprehension. Application of Cooperative learning is done by following these steps :

1. Delivering learning and motivate students.
2. Presenting information
3. Organize students into study groups
4. Guiding the group
5. Evaluation
6. Giving awards

D. Objective of the Study

Based on the problems stated above, there are some objectives in this study:

1. To improve that reading comprehension of the text in second grade students of SMPN 1 Murung Pudak
2. To determine the activity of teachers in using cooperative learning in second grade of SMPN 1 Murung Pudak academic year 2011 / 2012.

E. Significance of the Research

The writer gets some experience and knowledge and as a student-teacher, the writer can improve her teaching method so that she will teach English more effectively.

The teacher will know that it is important to use special tricks to make the students motivated in learning English. The teachers should make an enjoyable teaching and learning process so that the students can integrate themselves into English. Hopefully, the teachers can apply it in their teaching process. Finally, they can achieve the objectives of teaching reading skill using cooperative learning.

The technique that used in this research can help the students to improve their reading comprehension of the text.

F. Organization of the Content

This study consists of five chapters as follow:

The first chapter contains of introduction, which is consisting of rationale, reasons for choosing the title, statement of problems, objective of the study, significance of research, and organization of the contents.

The second chapter presents review of related literature. It consists of theories underlying the writing of the study.

The third chapter deals with research methodology. This chapter covers four subchapters. They are research approach, sources of data, data and procedures of analyzing data.

The fourth chapter is report of the research, which consists of description of research location, description of data presentation and data analysis.

The fifth chapter is closure, which consist of conclusion and suggestion.