

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of Study

Language is the component of communication that is used by people in the world to tell what are their minds to others such as opinion, ideas, information, etc. According to Oxford dictionary, language is system of communication in speech and writing used by people of particular country.

Language is important to be learnt because it is a tool of communication, that are many kinds of nations and tribes in the world, which need a communication tool to know one other. As Allah said in holy Qur'an (Q.S. Al-Hujarat:13):

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ

لِتَعَارَفُوا ۚ إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَىٰكُمْ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ ﴿١٣﴾

From the verse above we know that Allah created human from a man and a woman and from different nations and tribes so that human need to know each other, everyone must use the language for communication every day.

English is an international language. English has important position in every aspect of the life, it is not only in education but also in business, social, tourism, etc. the importance of English can be seen from other side. Nowadays

many things have been written printed in English such as magazine, newspaper, and scientific book.

In education English has been chosen as one of the subjects that should be mastered by the student; in junior high school, senior high school, and university level. In Indonesia teaching English focus on four basic skills, namely; listening, reading, speaking and writing.

Grabe and Stoller (2002, p. 9) defined that reading is a drawing meaning ability from the written and suitably translate the information. It could be concluded that reading is understanding or getting the ideas what are written on a page.

The importance of reading is already Allah said in the Holy Qur'an at the Surat Al-Alaq verses 1-5 as follows:

أَقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ ﴿١﴾ خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ ﴿٢﴾ أَلَمْ يَكُنْ أَقْرَأَ وَرَبُّكَ

الْأَكْرَمُ ﴿٣﴾ الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ ﴿٤﴾ عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ ﴿٥﴾

In those verses, the word “iqra’ that means “read” is repeated until twice with definite purpose. As the first verse, mankind are commanded by Allah the Almighty to read. This verse also command the human about how important searching knowledge, practice the knowledge and how important reading and learning in our life.

According to Clark and Starr (1986: 270-271) Reading is a difficult skill that takes students to master. For most of us it is skill we must continue to learn well into our adult lives. Undoubtedly most of best students will not have mastered all the skill they need to, because the efficient, effective readers and some of students will be truly disabled readers.

According to Harmer (1995: 6) Reading for detailed comprehension, whether looking for detailed information or language, must be seen by students as something very different from the reading skill such as scanning and skimming. When looking for details, we expect students to concentrate on the minutiae of what they are reading.

Ability to understand text is called comprehension. Reading comprehension is a process of understanding the text content and to get information. Reading comprehension involves at least two people, they are the writer and the reader. Not only the writer does a lot of work to make written text, but also the reader work hard to comprehend the text, because reading without comprehending is a useless activity. If the reader reads something without knowing the meaning and the idea or without a purpose, the reading will get nothing. Good readers have a purpose for reading, and they are active in thinking processes that make understanding text is possible.

Unfortunately, some researchers findings in technology, culture and enhance international relationship indicate that English reading of most Indonesian students is still far from being sufficient. In other words, they have poor English reading comprehension. Many students get difficulties in

comprehending the English reading text. The difficulties are such as: getting the main idea, general information, specific information, factual information, reference, inference, and vocabulary (includes synonym and unfamiliar word).

MTs. Nurul Islam Banjarmasin is one of private schools in Banjarmasin, which the students have many weaknesses in studying and learning including studying English. The English teacher of eighth grade students of MTs. Nurul Islam Banjarmasin explained that the eighth grade students have many difficulties in studying English, especially in reading comprehension skill. She said that their reading score is between 50 until 60. The score is considered as low score due to the *KKM (Kriteria Ketuntasan Minimal)* of English subject of MTs. Nurul Islam Banjarmasin is 60.

Based on some literature and considerations above, the researcher is interested to do this research entitle **“Students’ Difficulties in Reading Comprehension at The Eighth Grade Of MTs. Nurul Islam Banjarmasin Year 2013/2014”**.

**B. Statements of Problem**

Concerning with the topic, the problems of this research can be formulated as follows:

1. What are the students' difficulties in reading comprehension?
2. What are the factors that influence students' difficulties in reading comprehension?

**C. Objectives of The Research**

The objectives of this study are:

1. To find out the students' difficulties in reading comprehension.
2. To know the factors that influence students' difficulties in reading comprehension.

**D. Significance of Research**

1. The teacher is able to know more what difficulties her students have in reading comprehension and what factors that influence them. Furthermore, the teacher helps their students in overcoming students' difficulties in reading comprehension, either by developing the learning techniques and strategies and paying attention to the factors influence.
2. The students are more aware about their difficulties, so that they will be motivated to improve their ability in reading comprehension and to be more active in learning English.

3. The readers or the next researchers can get inspiration, information and knowledge from this research especially about reading comprehension, the difficulties, the factors, or things that are connected.

#### **E. Definition of Key Terms**

To avoid misunderstanding the researcher needs to clarify the title as follow:

1. Difficulties are specific problems or things that are hard to do and understand.
2. Reading is an activity of looking at the written words in text, then thinking it, processing it in our mind, so that we can get information from it.
3. Reading comprehension, which is the main goal of reading that should be achieved when studying reading, means an ability to understand what we read and get the information what we want to get by reading any certain written text.