

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Human beings are social creatures that cannot live alone in fulfilling their daily necessities. They need to interact with others in their life. Everybody needs to communicate with his or her surroundings. The effective tool to communicate with others is language. Language as communication tool will make us be able to express our feelings, ideas, or wishes, and to know other people's feelings, ideas, or wishes.

Language is one of the most important things in communication and it is used as a tool of communication among the nations in all over the world. As an international language.

There are many reasons why it is important to learn. The most common reason is because of its role as a language of International communication. It is used in various aspects, such as in transportation, commerce, banking, tourism, and education. The use of English is in accordance with the aim of creating language as stated in the Holy Qur'an in Surah 13 of Al - Hujurat as follows:

يَتَأْتِيهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاهُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاهُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ

عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتَقْدَرُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ ﴿١٣﴾

It can be understood from this verse that Allah creates many different humans and nations with different cultures in the world. It is also explained that we are asked to know each other. Of course, we need some languages in order to understand when we communicate with each other, and one of International Languages is English. English is used as an International language and it has the largest number of uses all over the world.

English is very important and has many interrelationships with various aspects of life owned by human being. In Indonesia, English is considered as the first foreign language and taught formally from elementary school up to the university level.

English is one of the important subjects that are included in the curriculum. It has been taught from the primary up to university level of education. The Department of National Education has made English as a compulsory subject and positioned it as the first foreign language to be taught in school based on the curriculum. It has been evaluated from time to time, so as to prepare students to meet the challenges in the work-force. English is included as one of the subjects examined in the National Examination.

English lesson has four skills. They are listening, speaking, reading and writing. Reading is an ability which should be mastered by every person. Allah said in the Holy Koran in surah Al-‘Alaq verse 1-5 as follows:

أَقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ ۝ خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ ۝ أَقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ ۝
الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ ۝ عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ ۝

The verses contain some exclamations and signal about the urgency of reading. The word اقرأ which means “please read” is repeated twice with definite purpose. The meaning of reading in the verse above contains deep meaning. The word اقرأ is a command to read and to discover knowledge that exists in our surroundings. It shows to the human that reading is very important.

Reading is one of the four skills in studying English. A complex process involves not only reading the text but also their experience to comprehend it. For students from high school level, reading is something that has to be done. They have to read some books or other materials related to their lesson. For students who are studying languages, reading is one of the skills, which has to be learned and is considered as the most important one because it can influence other language skill. It is certainly not easy to present the English reading for Indonesian students whose language system is different. Reading is the window of the world. It is a foundation skill for learning, personal growth, and enjoyment. The degree to which students can read and understand text in all formats (e.g. picture, video, and print) and all contexts is a key indicator to success in school and life. As a long life learning skill, state that reading is the ability to draw meaning from printed page and interpret this information appropriately. It means comprehending and interpreting the information of the text are important. It implies that students need to learn a considerable amount of information from a text.

The students are supposed to master the four skills in learning English, one of them is reading. Reading is one of the important skills that should be mastered because students could develop their English vocabulary, get much knowledge, and learn many things by reading. there are two main reasons for reading: reading for pleasure and reading for information (in order to find out something or in order to do something with the information the readers get). Following this statement, the students will get much information about everything that they do not know or see before by reading. The information that the students will get is more details rather than they just listen to the radio, or watch the television. By reading, the students can find some specific information, understand the whole stories, and the students also can be entertained by reading especially when the students read folktales, comics, novel, short story, and etc.

Actually, most of the students found some difficulties in learning reading comprehension. They think that comprehending the text is a difficult task to do. This assumption is wrong because reading comprehension is an activity that has a lot of fun. Based on the experiences during the time spent in Teaching Practice Experience at the Islamic State Senior High School (MAN 2 TAPIN), many students had difficulties in reading comprehension. They had problems in comprehending the text and getting the main idea of the text.

Main idea is important for reading comprehension to help readers understand. Students begin by learning the definition of main idea and then applying this definition to identify the main idea in sentences and short texts.

Main ideas have global level that is explicit and implicit main ideas at the local level.

Main idea refers to the essence of the paragraph, or rather what the author is trying to get across to the reader. In the other words, the main idea may be important that the author develops throughout the paragraph. The function of the entire paragraph is to explain, develop, and support the main idea. The writer in one or more sentences within the paragraph usually directly states the main idea. Once the people can find the topic, they are ready to find the main idea. The main idea is the point of the paragraph. It is the most important thought about the topic.

In teaching reading there are two techniques of reading: skimming and scanning. In this research the students read the text using skimming technique. Skimming is one of effective techniques that is useful to enhance the reading comprehension. that it is a technique to look for the “gist” of what the author is saying without a lot of detail. Besides, a certain amount of practice is necessary in order to skim and fulfill the purposes. To skim by reading key words, the students should be convinced that some words can be skipped words and reading can be continued. With concentration and practice, students can select key words or phrases, in order to absorb the materials rapidly. If these skills are mastered and practised, students will find that skimming, when used accordingly will help them in their study. The types of texts which should be learnt for Indonesian student are report text, narrative text, recount text, and descriptive text.

Based on researcher observation in the class some students are struggling reader, they cannot correctly identify the main idea when they read. Meanwhile, students need to be able to decode and comprehend what they are reading. So, there must be some difficulties that they have to overcome and the researcher decided to do a research about finding main idea and the difficulties that they will get in the learning process.

There are same previous studies that the researcher found. First, the research from Arianti Puspita (2014) entitled “*Students’ Difficulties in Comprehending English Reading Text at Second Grade Students of SMA N 2 Metro*” at English Education Study Program of Teacher Training and Education Faculty in University of Lampung. The similarity of this previous study with the present study is in type of research instrument, both of them use reading test and interview in investigation. However, the difference between two both is in the object of the research; the previous study explained about comprehending English reading text.

Second, from Rima Maulida AD (2013) entitled “*An Analysis of Students’ Problems in Finding Main Idea of Reading Text at MTSN 1 Kotabumi*” at the English Education Study Program, the Teacher Training and Education Faculty, Lampung University. The similarity of this previous study with the present study is in object both of them use students’ problems in finding a main idea as an object in investigation. However, the difference between this previous studying in object the present study conducted at MAN 2 Tapin.

the researcher gets students' difficulties in finding main idea of English texts, In connection with the explanation and in order to gain the reading comprehension and look for the "gist" of what the researcher presents without a lot of details, the researcher is very interested in conducting a study on students' reading comprehension by applying skimming technique. Under the title "The analysis of students' difficulties in finding the main idea of English texts at MAN 2 TAPIN"

B. Statement of Problem

Based on the topic that was explained above, there are two problems the researcher will identify as follows:

1. How is the students' ability in finding main idea of English texts at the eleventh grade of Religion major of MAN 2 TAPIN?
2. What are students' difficulties in finding main idea of English texts for the eleventh grade at Religion major of MAN 2 TAPIN?

C. Objective of Study

Based on the formulation above, there are two purposes of this research:

1. To know students' ability in finding main idea of English texts for the eleventh grade of Religion major at MAN 2 TAPIN.
2. To know the students' difficulties in finding main idea of English text for the eleventh grade of Religion major at MAN 2 TAPIN

D. The Significance of Study

The study about the analysis of the students' difficulties to find main idea in the English text hopefully will be useful to give some contributions to English language teaching and learning:

1. To give information to the students. By knowing their ability in finding main idea in the English text.
2. To help the English teacher to decide what the teacher should do in the next steps after knowing the students' difficulties in finding the main idea of English texts at MAN 2 TAPIN.
3. For the students, they can be motivated to practice more than they did before and they are encouraged to learn about main idea seriously so that they can work with various written text types without much difficulty.
4. To enrich the writer's knowledge and experience in the specific research especially about students' difficulties to find main idea in the English texts at the eleventh grade of Religion major at MAN 2 TAPIN.

E. Definition of Key Terms

In this study, the researcher needs to define some key terms to avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation. The definitions of terms provided are as follows:

1. Analysis

Analysis means the detailed study or examination of something in order to understand more about it and the result of the study. In this research the researcher analyses the students' difficulties to find main idea.

2. Students' difficulties in findings main idea.

In this research, students' difficulties mean when the students cannot find main idea. Finding main idea is important information that tells more about the overall idea of a paragraph or section of a text.

3. English text

In this research, there are many types of English texts. Report text is a kind of text which describes the way things are, with a reference to a range of natural, manmade and social phenomenon in our environment. Narrative is a text focusing on specific participants which tells an interesting story. Its social function is to tell stories or past events and entertain or amuse the readers. Recount text is a text that retells about a story, experience, and other, also uses simple past tense or past perfect tense in its phrase. Recount text retell about past event. Descriptive text is a text which says what a person or a thing is like. Its purpose is to describe and reveal a particular person, place, or thing.

4. MAN 2 TAPIN

MAN 2 Tapin is one of schools under the Ministry of Religious affairs.

This school is located on jalan Sarang Burung, Tungkap Kecamatan Binuang, Kabupaten Tapin.