

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the research

Language is a means of communication in humans' life. As in *Oxford Advance Learner's Dictionary*. "language is the system of sounds and words used by humans to express their thought and feeling." In addition, Carlyle in Milward defines language as a systematic and conventional means of human communication by way of vocal sounds. The writer may infer that language is a common way in which people can exchange information both oral and written. With language people can share their ideas and express their feelings besides its social function in order to communicate and socialize with each other.

Brown (2000 : 284) said that language is not only enable people to communicate each other such as stating, requesting, responding, greeting and etc. but also language is used to express their ideas and feeling, wish and effectives and to influence others and also mirrors one's identity and is an integral part of culture.

It is reality that the human beings of the world have various language. Every race has its own language, so does a country. The variety of language is one of Allah's greatness as His word in Holy Qur'an surah Ar-ruum verse 22 as follows :

وَمِنْ ءَايَاتِهِ خَلْقُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاخْتِلَافُ أَلْسِنَتِكُمْ وَالْوَلَوَاتِكُمْ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ

لِّلْعَالَمِينَ ﴿١٦٠﴾

Based on the verse above we know that how important language in this life to communicate with each other. God creates many languages so humans can communicate to exchanges the information in their life.

This verse also explains that humans should learn about many languages in the world. So they can make their life easily.

English as the first foreign language in Indonesia has an important role both in social aspect and educational aspect. Nowadays, English has become a need in social aspect since many job institutions place a good english ability as one of the requirements of good positions. English fluency both oral and written tends to be a marketable skill in Indonesian trade world. Beside that, English also has an important role in educational aspect since English has become a subject in every educational level in Indonesia. English in Primary School is as a local content, a compulsory subject in Secondary School, and a complementary subject in university. Moreover, English in Secondary school is as one of the subjects in the National Examination.

In English learning, a student has to master the four basic language skill, namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing. One of the important skill is reading. Reading is crucial skill for students both English

as a second language (ESL) and English as a Foreign Language (EFL). By reading, in the writer's review, the students can get information that is needed and they can broaden their horizons. Moreover, ESL/EFL reader will make greater progress and attain greater development in all academic areas.

According to Anderson (1999 : 1), reading is an active, fluent process that involves the reader and the reading material in constructing the meaning, furthermore, he notes that meaning does not reside on the printed page, nor is it only in the head of the reader. It means that reading can be constructed by combining the words on the printed page with the reader's background knowledge and experiences. Consequently, the teaching of reading should involve activities which connect the ideas on the text to what students already know.

Reading is a complex process, complex to learn and complex to teach (Carnine, Silbert, and Kameenui : 1990 :3), so there must be a technique which can help them to read effectively and interestingly. Teaching comprehension strategies explicitly was seen as a possible approach to tackle the problems faced by the students. in this case, the writer tried to find interesting and effective way for the students and the teacher so that they can do their reading activity well.

One of techniques which are available is information gap which is one of the teaching technique in communicative approach as Freeman States, "the most obvious characteristic of the communicative approach

that almost everything that is done is done with communicative intent”. Furthermore, the activities that are truly communicative according to Morrow have three features : information gap, choices and feedback. It means that according to Freeman and Morrow, information Gap is one of the activities in communicative approach which provides students with communicative purposes.

The definition of information gap activities according to Hilles and Murcia is in the course of doing the activity, one participant should be in position to tell one or more other people something that the other do not know yet. It can be inferred that information gap activity is the activity that provide a gap between one and the other students in order to share information they need.

Information gap activity can both motivate and stimulate students by interesting picture and exchanging information that could be held in pair or even in group. Scriviner states, “Such gaps of information between people gives us a need and desire to communicate with each other.” The writer may infer that according to Scriviner, Information Gap activity is a stimulation to create communicative class activity between one student and other.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher choose the school that researched by researcher, is SMP NEGERI 33 BANJARMASIN. The researcher choose that school because in the interview with the English teacher, some of students have less motivation in reading skill and not

understand with the explanation of teacher every the teacher explain in front of the class.

And based on the phenomenon described above, the writer is interested in doing a research in the school under the title : THE USE OF INFORMATION GAP IN TEACHING READING BY ENGLISH TEACHER AT THE EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS OF SMP NEGERI 33 BANJARMASIN.

B. Statement of the problem

The writer specifies the research in teachingreading using Information gap at the eighth year students of SMP NEGERI 33 Banjarmasin. Then to make the study easy to understand, the writer formulates the problem as follow :

- 1.) How is the use of information gap in teaching reading by the english teacher in that school ?
- 2.) How is the student's responses toward the use of information gap in learning english ?

C. Purpose of the research

The purpose of the researchare to know how is the use of information gap in teaching reading by the english teacher, and the student's responses toward the use of information gap in learning english.

D. Significance of study

From the research in SMP NEGERI 33 Banjarmasin, the writer performs is expected that it can be useful in terms of :

1. For the students, it assists them to solve their problems in reading activity and it can help them to increase their reading skill.
2. For the teacher, it gives the alternative solution in teaching reading.
3. For the institutions of SMP NEGERI 33 Banjarmasin, it can be beneficial regarding to improve the education quality.

E. Definition of Key term

1. Teaching is something that is taught : the ideas and beliefs that are taught by a person.
2. Reading is a process when readers learn something from what they read and involve it in an academic context as a part of education (Grabe, 2009:5).
3. Information gap is the activity that provide a gap between one and the other students in order to share information they need.