

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Research

Every human in the world needs language and language is important for human life. Besides expressing thoughts and emotions, language is also used to communicate with other human beings. The importance of language is also mentioned in the Holy Quran Al-Hujurat verse 13 as follow:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ

﴿١٣﴾

The most important language to learn is English, since the students from many places around the world learn English. Nowadays, English is considered as an International language, learning English has become necessity for everyone who wants to engage in international interactions. Mastering this language is not a simple thing to do. There are some skills that should be learnt and practiced, such as listening, speaking, reading and writing. Listening and reading skills are regarded as receptive skills while speaking and writing are considered to be productive skills. Those are the basic language skills especially in teaching and learning English as a foreign language at schools, courses or other educational institutions whether they are formal or informal. (Jeremy, 2007 p. 16)

In learning a foreign language, particularly English, there are two parts of skills that must be mastered by the students. Macro-skills and micro skills. Macro

skills are listening, speaking, writing, and reading. And micro-skills are grammar, pronunciation, spelling, and vocabulary. Therefore, students are needed to train these two parts of skills for mastering English well.

In learning English people cannot only master one skill. They have to master all of them. The reading skills, however, are viewed as a tool of communication in the written language through the form of magazines, newspapers, textbooks and others. So it can be concluded that the reading skill is very important for people who mostly learn English through written texts. Muaka (2007) stated that learning to read is an important educational goal. For both children and adults, the ability to read opens up new worlds and opportunities.

Reading is process of interpreting a message. Everyone needs this skill to get the information from book, letter, novel, newspaper, magazine and others. Having reading skill will ease people to understand information and knowledge. Having this skill will also useful to get successful on the academic.

Reading comprehension means understanding what has been read. People who has high skill of reading will understand the academic textbook easily, and then getting important information of it. Meanwhile, people who have low skill of reading will get the difficulty in understanding printed media. They will feel difficult to get information from book or magazine or newspaper. They have to improve their reading comprehension in order to get information or idea from the text.

Reading is a good thing in life because it is a factor of great importance in the individual development and the most important activity in school. It is needed

in every level of field of study. We know the success in reading is the most necessary because it is a basic tool of education. All the subjects of elementary school such as mathematics, science, language, and others depend on the ability to read. In high school and college, reading ability becomes even more important.

The successful reading is influenced by some factors. They are internal factors and external factors. Internal factor comes from all personality of student include self-esteem, inhibition, risk taking, anxiety, motivation, mastery (vocabulary and grammar). While external factor comes from outside of students self, include teachers, facilities of learning situation of school, learning material, or the economic condition of parents.

Vocabulary is one of internal factors that influences in students' reading comprehension. Vocabulary should be learned by the students. Vocabulary has important role for all aspects language skill. David Wilkins in Thornbury (2002) states that without grammar very little can be conveyed, without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed. In reading, students' vocabulary affects the ability of students to understand the text and get the important information from the text. Mastering vocabulary does not only mean knowing the meaning of the vocabulary but knowing vocabulary also means knowing how to use it, knowing combination of word, formation of word and grammar of word.

Vocabulary is a crucial component in acquiring and understanding language. When we read something it will sound good if we understand the words or vocabularies in our reading. It will help and guide us in pronouncing, reading, and grasping the idea from our reading, so we will understand better. Vocabulary

is the stock of words used in a language. The more students have stock of words used in a language, the better it will make their performance. Mastering vocabulary is the ability to get or to receive lots of words. By having and mastering vocabulary we will know the meaning of vocabulary in the context. It can also help to avoid making mistake in understanding a text.

Good mastery of vocabulary is important for anyone who learns the language used in listening, speaking, writing and reading. A learner of a foreign language will speak fluently and accurately, write easily, or understand what He or she reads and hears if He or She has enough vocabulary and has the capability of using it accurately.

In line based on the statement above, the connection between vocabulary mastery and reading comprehension is determined in learning foreign language and vocabulary knowledge it is necessary to comprehend the text and establish how well students comprehend the text. It is impossible for students to comprehend the text but they do not know the meaning of vocabulary in text. However, students should have vocabulary knowledge ability to comprehend the text. Comprehension is far more than recognizing words and remembering their meanings. However, if a student does not know the meanings of a sufficient proportion of the words in the text, comprehension is impossible.

Many studies have been conducted in Indonesia on EFL students about reading. The studies mainly focused on researching reading in classroom settings with the basis to see the facts of the problems arousing in teaching and learning of reading, the reasons behind those problems and the ways to solve those problems.

For example, Samrotul Muawanah on her research in 2014 entitled *The Relationship between Students' Reading Habit and Their Reading Comprehension*. She stated that reading habit is proven as one of the factors that influence students' reading comprehension. On the other hand, students' bad reading habit attitudes show impairment on their reading comprehension. However, she did not explain whether students' reading habit is also as a great significance factor in students' vocabulary mastery.

Moreover, the study of Syaifudin in 2016 which entitled, *The Correlation between Reading Habit in English and Vocabulary Mastery on the Second Semester Students of English Department in IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin*. The finding of this study stated that to practice reading habit in and outside classroom or to improve student vocabulary mastery students should build a good reading habit in their daily life and maintain it by doing continual reading activity.

In this research, the writer tries to observe Darul Hijrah Islamic boarding school for boys. It is a private school that exists for learning English and Arabic which is located at Cindai Alus in south Kalimantan. Most of the students face some difficulties because of some factors. One of the factors is they just get limited time in learning English during school hours, and did not get optimal to learn English especially in reading.

At MTs Darul Hijrah Putra, Students study some kinds of text in reading, it means they have to do the reading comprehension, because it is stated on syllabus that students enable "*Membaca nyaring bermakna teks tulis fungsional dan esei*

berbentuk descriptive dan recount pendek dan sederhana dengan ucapan, tekanan dan intonasi yang berterima yang berkaitan dengan lingkungan sekitar”.

Based on the elaboration previous, , the researcher determines the topic entitled: The Correlation between Vocabulary Mastery and Reading Comprehension of the Second Grade Students of MTs Darul Hijrah Putra Martapura.

B. Research Question

The statement of problem in this research is :

1. How is the reading comprehension in English of second grade of MTs Darul Hijrah Putra Martapura ?
2. How is the vocabulary mastery of second grade of MTs Darul Hijrah Putra Martapura ?
3. Is there any correlation correlation between reading comprehension and vocabulary mastery of second grade of MTs Darul Hijrah Putra Martapura.

C. Objectives of the Study

1. To analyze the reading comprehension in English of second grade of MTs Darul Hijrah Putra Martapura ?
2. To analyze the vocabulary mastery of second grade of MTs Darul Hijrah Putra Martapura ?
3. To analyze is there any correlation between reading comprehension and vocabulary mastery of second grade of MTs Darul Hijrah Putra Martapura.

D. Significance of Research

The significances of the result of the research are expected as below :

1. For students are to comprehend how strong does the vocabulary support their reading skill for English text comprehension.
2. For teacher is to give attention to students` reading skill, and help them to enrich their vocabulary mastery.
3. For researcher is to get a good understanding in English especially on reading and also to get a new knowledge about the correlation study in English.

E. Definition of Key Terms

1. Correlation

Correlation is an association between two or more variable, that is, where changes in one variable are reflected in changes in the other (Creswell, 2008, p.358). The correlation in this research means the relationship between reading habit in English and vocabulary mastery of second grade of MTs Darul Hijrah Putra Martapura.

2. Vocabulary mastery

Vocabulary is a set list or a set words for particular language, or a list of words that individual speaker of language might use. Mastering vocabulary in this study is the students understand about word meaning, part of speech, word and grammar, word formation, collocation, and idiom.

3. Reading comprehension

Reading is about understanding written texts. It is a complex activity that involves both perception and thought. Reading consists of two related processes: word recognition and comprehension.

2. Students

A group consists of some boys and girls that study at a class of school. In this research, class two students of MTs Darul Hijrah Putra Martapura.