

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Human beings couldn't live alone in this world. They always need help from others. To interact with others they need language. People can understand others and take information from others by using it. The language is important to build or tell information or messages. Language also used to expand science, to express our ideas, thought, opinions, and feeling to others in oral or written form. In this regard, Finocchiaro stated that "Language is the means by which results of human thought and action are passed on". (Finocchiaro, 1974, p. 15)

According to A. Haidar Al Wasilah, in his book of *SosiologiBahasa*, he said that "Communication is a process by which information is exchanged between individuals through a common system of symbols, sign or behavior". (A. Haidar Al Wasilah, 1985, p.9). There are many languages used for communication in the world. One of them is English. Language is one of communication tools especially among human beings. Without language, people cannot make any relationship with others, because language is the most effective tool of communication. It is related with the holy Qur'an (Al-Hujurat; 13):

لَا يَأْتِيكُمُ الْيَقِينُ إِلَّا مِنْ رَبِّكُمْ فَاصْبِرْ لِحُكْمِ رَبِّكَ وَلَا حَسْرَةَ عَلَىٰ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَمْرُهُمْ مُضَمَّنٌ فِي مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ

becoming an important language in educational field, not only in the universities, but also in primary and secondary schools in Indonesia and other developing countries.

This is why the Indonesian government chooses English as the first foreign language to be taught in schools. In the world of education, English is one of the subjects that are compulsory to be learned in Elementary School, Junior High School, Senior High School, and also in the university.

According to Brown in the book, "*Teaching by Principles*" explained that "Practice in English language teaching has identified the four skills: Listening, speaking, reading and writing". (Brown, 2001, p.1).

English has four skills, one of its crucial skill is Reading. Everybody ever read, hear, see, and tell something occur around us in daily life. People in the 21st century have a strong desire to learn more knowledge and read more original books and newspapers. So people should be encouraged to do more reading in English. Reading English books, magazines, newspaper can improve reading ability step by step, speeding up cultivating and forming good reading habits. Then people can realize how English is used in reality by reading.

To study reading is very important. Because there are many advantages from study it. By reading, be able to increase our knowledge on culture. As Gurreystates by Reading, the reader can learn about the lives of other people, lives in other lands or country, and she/he can improve and develop her/his mind and imagination with new and significant ideas and experiences. (Gurrey, 1975, p. 113).

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

اِقْرْ بِاَسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ
 الْاِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ
 اِقْرْ وَرَبُّكَ الْاَكْبَرُ
 الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ
 اِقْرْ وَرَبُّكَ الْاَكْبَرُ
 الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ
 اِقْرْ وَرَبُّكَ الْاَكْبَرُ

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 verse above comprises and discovers knowledge that exists in our surroundings.

In MA RAKHA for female the students who are still studying at Tenth Grade of MA RAKHA for female come from different educational backgrounds or heterogeneous capabilities. Graduated students from Junior High School (SMP) and Islamic Boarding School from the difference of educational background will have an impact on the knowledge and experience gained by each student especially for English subjects. Number of hours of English subjects among student in SMP and Islamic Boarding School is the different, which is a six-hour lesson each week in SMP and four-hour lesson each week in Islamic Boarding School. Even so, the curriculum between these two educational backgrounds is same, but that is the number of English subjects that exist in SMP more than the number of subjects in Islamic Boarding School, especially at MTs RAKHA. This will have an impact on

the level of absorptive capacity of different students for understanding a number of lessons learned.

As an educator, it is important to know about students' educational background, because it is an aspect that influences teaching and learning process. An educator can know characteristics of students and determine the appropriate methods or strategies process in order to be successes in teaching and learning English.

The writer is interested in conducting the research above since considers that students at tenth grade of MA RAKHA for female as learners often have difficulties in learning English, although in previous levels of secondary education they have gained knowledge of English (reading). It can be caused by the quantity and quality of the experience of learning English which is owned by students who come from SMP and Islamic Boarding School are different. While the act of learning is given in MA is the same.

Currently, the students, especially students in senior high school level must deal with many kinds of texts. One kind of texts that must be learned by the students in junior high school is narrative texts. This research focuses on the in understanding narrative texts.

Based on the reason above, for the determining the subject and object of the research, the writer checks the syllabus about the target lesson. The writer found that the narrative texts have been programmed for the second year students at the second semester of eighth class in Junior High School.

This research measures the level of understanding narrative texts of students in MA RAKHA for female from different educational background, from different background so that the understanding narrative texts of students is different too.

Based on the background of problems above, so the writer interested to do this entitle: “The Comparative Study between Students Graduated from Junior High School and Islamic Boarding School in Understanding Narrative Texts at the Tenth Grade of MA RAKHA for Female of Amuntai Academic Year 2013/2014”.

Prior observation has been conducted at the MA RAKHA for female Amuntai. It has two types of classes that graduated from Junior High School and Islamic Boarding School. The first is generally known as the X-A class and the second as known the X-F class. The X-A class who is graduated from Islamic Boarding School of MTs Rasyidiyah Khalidiyah Amuntai, and the X-F class is a special class who is graduated from Junior High School. The writer tries to compare understanding in narrative texts of students based on their graduated because they studied reading lesson in different Junior High School before.

B. Statement of Problems

Based on the reason of the study above, the statement of the problem as follows:

1. How is the understanding narrative text of graduated students from Junior High School at the tenth grade student of MA RAKHA Amuntai for female?
2. How is the understanding narrative text of graduated students from Islamic Boarding School at the tenth grade student of MA RAKHA Amuntai for female?
3. Is there any difference between graduated students from Junior High School and Islamic Boarding School in understanding narrative texts at the tenth grade student of MA RAKHA Amuntai for female?

C. Reasons for Choosing the Tittle

There are some reasons for choosing this tittle, they are:

1. Reading is one of the elements of language.
2. Knowing that English is an international language for communication all over the world and in Indonesia it has been taught to students from kindergarten till university level.
3. Considering that nowadays, students are expected to have good English especially reading which can help them to improve their English.

D. Objective of Study

Based on the problem above, there are three objective of study of this research:

1. To know students' understanding narrative texts graduated students from Junior High School at MA RAKHA Amuntai for female.
2. To know students' understanding narrative texts graduated students from Islamic Boarding School at MA RAKHA Amuntai for female.
3. To know any significant difference in understanding narrative texts between graduated students from Junior High School and Islamic Boarding School at MA RAKHA Amuntai for female.

E. Significance of Study

From the result of this research, the research expects it can be useful as:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The result of study can be used as an additional reference by other researcher to arrange further research related to observe in different point of view.

2. Practical Benefit

The writer hopes that the result of this research can give some contributions to the process of teaching English and for the English teacher and students.

- a. Give information for English teachers, especially at MA RAKHA for female English teacher and educators to take appropriate strategies in constructing and improving students' interest in English. It will be useful as an additional reference.
- b. For the students, they can feel more comfortable and easier in studying English.

F. Hypotheses

The quantitative research approach needs a prediction about the answer of statements of the problem which is known by hypothesis. Hypothesis is just a prediction about problem of research. It must be tested to know the answer empirically. According to Azwar, the purposes of hypothesis are to give direction and also give limit for the variable used. Norkubo and Achmadi stated the same explanation about it in their book "*Metode Penelitian*".

"Hipotesis berasal dari kata hipo berarti kurang atau lemah dan tesis atau thesis yang berarti teori yang disajikan sebagai bukti. Dalam pembicaraan ini hipotesis diartikan sebagai pernyataan yang masih lemah kebenarannya dan masih perlu dibuktikan kebenarannya. Jika suatu hipotesis setelah terbukti kebenarannya, ia akan berubah namanya menjadi tesis, jadi merupakan teori". (Norkubo and Achmadi, 2001, p. 55).

Thus, hypothesis is needed as problem explanation to look for the problem solving. Norbuko and Achmadi also said that comparative study has two hypothesis including Ho (Zero Hypothesis) and Ha (Alternative Hypothesis).

“Kalau ingin menyatakan hipotesis, kata dapat menyatakan “ada” dan “tidak ada”. Hipotesis nihilata adalah hipotesis yang menyatakan “tidak ada” perbedaan atau tidak ada hubungan antar sampel yang satu dengan yang lain, atau prosedur satu dengan yang lain, atau ukuran satu dengan yang lain. Sedangkan hipotesis yang lain adalah hipotesis hipotesis alternative yaitu hipotesis yang menyatakan adanya perbedaan atau hubungan antar dua buah ukuran atau prosedur antara sample yang satu dengan yang lain. Hipotesis nihil biasanya diberi kode Ho dan hipotesis alternative biasanya diberi kode Ha dalam statistik uji hipotesis.” (Norkubo and Achmadi, 2001, p. 57)

Thus, the hypotheses of this research are:

1. Ho: There is no different in understanding narrative texts between graduated students from Junior High School and Islamic Boarding School at tenth grade students of MA RAKHA Amuntai for female.
2. Ha: There is different in understanding narrative texts between graduated students from Junior High School and Islamic Boarding School at tenth grade students of MA RAKHA Amuntai for female.

G. Definition of Key Terms

1. Comparative study is connected with studying things to find out how similar or different they are (Oxford Dictionary, 1995, p. 57). Thus, comparative is also known as a study between two object and subject that we want to know about

the ability in each other, with some test or research. So, the comparison intended in this study is to compare the students' understanding narrative texts between Junior High School and Islamic Boarding School at tenth grade.

2. Study is the act or process of studying or the pursuit of knowledge, as by reading, observation, or research. (American Heritage Dictionary, 1998, p. 7095)
3. In Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English (1995, p. 939) understanding is the ability to understand something.
4. NarrativeTexts: Is any account of connected events, presented to a reader or listener in a sequence of written or spoken words, or in a sequence of (moving) pictures (www.wikipedia.org)

So, The Comparative Study of Students' Understanding in Narrative Texts means research to compare or find out how similarity or different between students' application of understanding narrative texts and the students' implementation in writing skill in teaching-learning process in the classroom.