

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **A. Background of Study**

Language is an arrangement of phonetic symbols that are used regularly to express the feelings and thoughts of the people who use the language. We use language to be able to interact and communicate with others in order to convey information. With the presence of language, it can facilitate the daily life of man, and it is certain that the place of language can no longer be replaced by other ways of communication. Because of the importance of language to humans, humans are also required to learn how to speak correctly and correctly.

The use of language will be better with people who are speaking and those who listen who understand the language used. Today, different countries have many different languages used in each country. To be able to communicate with people in different countries, people have to use the same language, so that the information they want to convey is well received. In this case, English is the language required to communicate with people from all over the world.

Opening up opportunities to connect with people from other countries also indirectly opens up opportunities that will ultimately benefit ourselves. One of the advantages of having English language skills today is

that you can get scholarships to continue your studies abroad. There are many advantages to

be had if people have the ability to speak English in terms of economics, education and politics. With these advantages, it is undeniable that the importance of learning foreign languages, especially English, is growing.

Even in Indonesia, there is a growing need for the ability to speak English not only for educational purposes but from economic, social and political fields that are growing day by day along with the development of an increasingly advanced age. However, in Indonesia today, the presence of such a large area makes the development and spread of the English language uneven. The spread of the English language is concentrated only in cities or regions where only modern technology has access. Because the need to use the English language itself is very minimal with the slow development of technology in the region. To learn English today, teachers use different methods with the aim of increasing the efficiency of the learning itself. There are many teachers who use methods from simple to technically demanding methods such as electronic devices and the Internet today.

In learning English there are also various aspects to be learned such as speaking, listening, writing and reading. These four skills need to be taught and developed by teachers to students, so that they have sufficient ability to master the English language. A useful skill in improving general skills or English language skills is the ability to read. By having the ability

to read, students can explore more sources of knowledge such as international books, magazines, articles and novels in English.

When students read a text and can get used to the reading, students can get some things about the language, both grammar and vocabulary used in the text. This is in line with what Harmer (1998) said that students can get many words from a language from the effect of reading.

Harrison (2004) also said that thinking ability and knowledge can be affected by reading. This will of course have an impact on what students will become through their ability to regulate the way they talk, behave with others and their emotions. This makes reading important for students' development in terms of knowledge, ways of thinking in terms of emotions, morals, and speaking skills.

There is a discussion in Islam related to reading, and the researcher feels the need to give a surah from the Qur'an called Surat Al-Alaq in the first and third ayat.

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ اقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ (العلق/ ١: ١-٣)

In the first ayat, Allah SWT. He directly mentions the importance of reading for human life, through reading humans can learn new things that they do not know. Of course, before reading, one should also pray that whatever is being studied or in this case what is being read, gets the pleasure of Allah SWT. The third ayat, again, emphasizes the importance of reading

by asking people to read again, and this can show how important learning is for humans, one way is reading.

However, to be able to read efficiently and get maximum results, a strategy in reading is needed. As we explained earlier, teachers use different strategies and methods that teachers use in teaching English. One method of teaching that is compatible with current technological developments is to use the Internet as a basis for learning English in the classroom, either individually or in groups. Using the Internet as a base, the strategy used is to use blogs as an educational medium.

There are several studies that have discussed the use and utilization of technology in improving reading skills, especially Blog Websites as learning media. First, research has been conducted by Kartika Aprilia Ulfa (2020). Kartika Aprilia Ulfa's research aimed to find out whether there was an effect of using a web blog on students' ability to write descriptive texts. In the research that has been done, Kartika Aprilia Ulfa has found that there has been an effect of using a blog website on students' ability to write descriptive text.

The second study was conducted by Rosmaini (2020). Rosmaini's research has aimed to find out whether there is a significant effect of using newspapers on students' reading comprehension. From the research that has been done, Rosmaini has found that there has been a significant effect of using newspapers on students' reading comprehension. And in her research,

Rosmaini has concluded that newspapers can be an effective medium in teaching reading, especially in reading comprehension.

The third research, research that has been conducted by Riana Yuliansari (2020). Riana Yuliansari's research has aimed to find out the strategies English teachers use in teaching reading comprehension in schools. In this study, Riana Yuliansari has found that each teacher has different characteristics and strategies in teaching each student at school.

From the several studies that I have mentioned above, all of them discuss strategies and the use of technology to teach English. Against some of the research above, the difference in this study is in the use of Blog Website which are generally only used for Writing Skills but teachers are known to use this media in teaching reading skills to students at Madrasah Aliyah Negeri 2 Tabalong.

This is also the reason why the researcher chose the research location and the topic of this Blog Website, because at the Madrasah Aliyah Negeri 2 Tabalong there are teachers who teach English using website blogs as teaching media and it is not yet known how these teachers apply them to teaching reading. So researchers want to learn more about how the media can be used to improve students' reading skills. Therefore, the researcher chose "The Use of Blog Websites in Teaching Reading at Madrasah Aliyah Negeri 2 Tabalong" as the title of the study.

## **B. Research Questions**

Based on the background that the researchers wrote, the researchers set the following research questions:

1. How do English teachers use Blog Website in Teaching Reading at Madrasah Aliyah Negeri 2 Tabalong?
2. How do the student think about Blog Website in teaching reading at Madrasah Aliyah Negeri 2 Tabalong ?

## **C. Objectives of Study**

The research objective is the end point to be achieved in this research. Based on the research questions above, this research aims to:

1. Describe how teachers use blog website in teaching reading at Madrasah Aliyah Negeri 2 Tabalong
2. Knowing what student think about The use of blog website in teaching reading at Madrasah Aliyah Negeri 2 Tabalong

## **D. Significance of Study**

Researchers hope that this research can provide benefits to several parties who need this research either in theory or practice:

1. Theoretical Benefits

Theoretically, the results of this study are expected to provide useful and referential contributions in provide general knowledge about how to use

a blog website as a medium for teaching English reading during face-to-face learning or using asynchronous learning.

## 2. Practical Benefits

- a. For Students, Can better understand the methods used by teachers in teaching reading in class, so that learning outcomes become more optimal.
- b. For Teachers, the results of this study can be used as an additional consideration in teaching so that the method used can be even more perfect.
- c. For Researchers, Can be a source of reference and information for further researchers who want to continue this research

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

So that the reader does not have a ambiguous understanding in reading, below is the meaning of the main terms in this study:

### 1. Blog website

The blog website in this study refers to a the blog website that is used as a teaching media by a teacher at Madrasah Aliyah Negeri 2 Tabalong. The blog website used is a free blog that can be used by anyone and can be accessed by anyone.

## 2. Teaching Reading

Reading referred to in this study is the ability to speak English which is wanted by the teacher to be mastered by students who have not mastered English. By reading, students can pick up a lot of information related to other skills in English so that it is easier to learn. Reading is also an active activity consisting of readers and books or reading materials to be able to understand the meaning to be conveyed. This research mainly focuses on the theory of teaching reading from Mukhroji (2011) about pre, while and post reading activities. This study looks at how teachers at Madrasah Aliyah Negeri 2 Tabalong teach reading using the Blog Website media and are limited by the theory proposed by Mukhroji (2011).

## 3. Teaching Media

The teaching media referred to in this study are the media used by teachers at Madrasah Aliyah Negeri 2 Tabalong in teaching English reading in the classroom. In this case the media in question is the Blog Website used by teachers in teaching. This study mainly discusses how the teacher's steps in teaching reading in using the Blog Website in the classroom.