

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Rationale

Language is a thing to gain many sciences and technologies in the world. On the other hand, language is used to deliver message, express ideas thought and one's feeling to other.

According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, "*language is system of communication in speech and writing that is used by people of the particular country*"<sup>1</sup>. Then in practical target, language is used to perform and relation among people in everyday relation ship<sup>2</sup>.

Language is uniquely human activity. It is often characterized as species, i.e.; it is an instrument processed only by man. All normal people in the world can speak. No group of people without a spoken language has been discovered. Language is universal. All normal human being in community understand and speak well enough to carry out every activity of human life<sup>3</sup>.

Every state in the world consists of regions, and the regions have different languages. It's one of some characterized of state. Human as a social culture has to instruct with another, not only in his community or region, but also outside it. So that, human should master language at least understand the language outside his community or region.

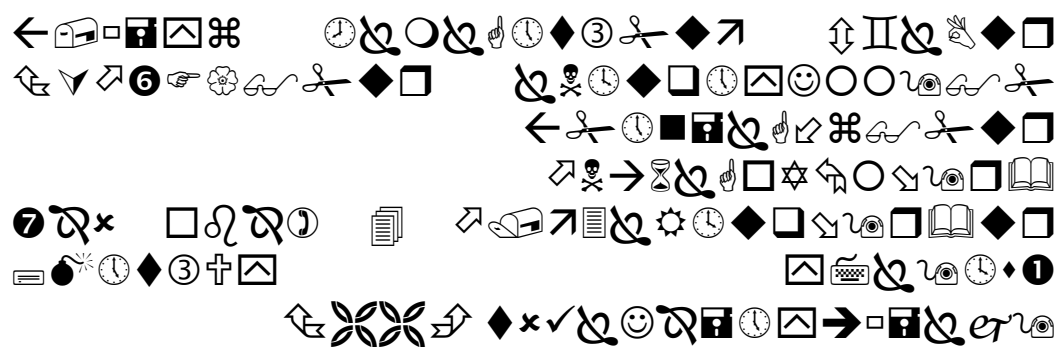
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<sup>1</sup> A.S Hornby, *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2002), p. 752.

<sup>2</sup> Sumandi Mulyanto, *Pengajaran Bahasa Asing Sebuah Tinjauan dan Segi Metodologi*, (Jakarta: Bulan Bintang, 1974), p. 13.

<sup>3</sup> Marry Pinochiaro, *English as a second Language From Theory to Practice*, (New York: Regent publishing Company, Inc. 1974), p. 2

Allah SWT created different languages for human, as Allah said in holy Koran, Ar-Rum 22:



English as an international language has to be mastered if a human wants to build a good communication with people internationally. Mastery should be started since in a young age. Nowadays, Basic English is also thought in some kindergarten in Indonesia. It means that mastering English is very important for facing year by the year in this global era.

Some people think that English is complicated language because there are many difficult words when they study it. It will be true all if we study hard and seriously.

Madrasah Aliyah is as same as Senior High School (SMA) in the level of education. The curriculum of this school is not different from SMA, except the Islamic lessons. Besides Arabic, English is a foreign language that is taught in Madrasah Aliyah as a compulsory subject. The goal of teaching English at Madrasah Aliyah or Senior High school is to develop student's ability of communicating in English that comprises listening, speaking, reading and writing.

English program has four skills to develop; those are understanding, speaking, reading and writing<sup>4</sup>. If she will to master English she has to learn those skills intensively.

Marry. P states “Reading is one of the important skills in English. It is the way of getting meaning from printed or written material”<sup>5</sup>. Henry Guntur Tarigan in his book states: “Tujuan utama dalam membaca untuk mencari serta memperoleh informasi mencakup isi dan memahami makna bacaan”<sup>6</sup>.

Reading activity is really important to all of the people because it gives knowledge and it makes people think over and over again about many things that face and also it helps them to be aware of making a careful decision in their life particularly for the student in order to get technical knowledge in reading the text that will support the other subjects. Some students usually read the text word by word, they are going to open dictionary directly. Absolutely, it takes time to understand the whole text, because they try to find word by word on it. It is dear that the students understand the paragraph effectively and to understand the content of the text in a short time. They do not have to use dictionary every time in order to find their meaning.

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<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, p. 77

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, p. 55

<sup>6</sup> Henry Guntur Tarigan, *Membaca Sebagai Suatu Keterampilan Berbahasa*, (Bandung: Angkasa, 1984, p. 9.

The first sura of holy Koran that was revealed to the prophet Muhammad PBUH is Al-Alaq (1-5) the sura goes as follows:

اِقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ (١) خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ (٢) اِقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ  
الْأَكْرَمُ (٣) الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ (٤) عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ (٥) (العلق ١-٥)

Those verses contain of an exclamation and also a signal of the urgency of reading. The word اقرء that means “please read” is twice repeated with definite purpose. The meaning of reading in above verse comprises deep meaning. The word اقرء is a command to read and to discover knowledge that exists in our surrounding.

Now, to know each paragraph has a topic sentence that states a main idea of paragraph. If the students have good ability to found the topic sentence, they will get easier to understand the paragraphs, or even the reading text.

From the first observation research, the writer find that teaching learning activity in learning English is less of interaction between students and teacher, especially in reading comprehension, when students learn an English reading text they can not understand the content of the reading text exactly. So, they also feel difficult to find the topic sentence in the reading text.

So that, in the writer wants to know further how is the student’s ability in finding the topic sentence in reading text at MAN 2 Martapura, because their ability in this case is not known yet, Eventhough some of them has to express their difficulties in finding the topic sentence, but in cannot be concluded that their ability is low, fair or good without more research.

Based on description above the writer is interested in conducting research and knowing further about the students' ability to find topic sentences in reading comprehension at MAN 2 Martapura which entitled "THE ABILITY OF THE SECOND YEAR STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE PROGRAM TO FIND THE TOPIC SENTENCE IN READING COMPREHENSION AT MAN 2 MARTAPURA IN ACADEMIC YEAR 2006/2007".

In order to avoid any misinterpretation toward the title of this study, the writer hereby feels necessary to explain some terms in regard of the title as follows:

1. Ability means "power or skill required to do some thing"<sup>7</sup> in Indonesian, ability is called "*kecakapan, bakat atau kemampuan*"<sup>8</sup>.
2. To find means "is we find some thing we are trying to obtain we manage to get it"<sup>9</sup>.
3. Topic Sentence is a subject and verb, which expresses a complete statement, question or command.
4. Reading comprehension here means is a kind of reading that is done silently (unvoiced) and the readers are expected accurately and precisely to be able to understand or comprehend the information contained in the text (reading).

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<sup>7</sup> *Loc. Cit*, p. 2.

<sup>8</sup> John M. Echol and Hasan Shadely, *Kamus Inggris – Indonesia*, (Jakarta: PT. Gramedia Utama, 1996, p. 2.

<sup>9</sup> Elaine Higgleton and Anne Seaton, *Chambers Essential English Dictionary*, (Greet Britain: Cambridge Unuversity Press, 1995), p. 353.

5. MAN 2 Martapura is located in jalan Pendidikan Martapura district of Banjar regency, this school as same as Senior High School (SMA) in level of education but this school uses the Islamic education and national education system.

Thus the title in this study as mentioned above refers to an research activity to know further how is the student's skill of the ability in finding topic sentences in reading comprehension especially in a paragraph and reading text of the second year students of language program at MAN 2 Martapura and what are influential factors.

#### **B. Statement of Problem**

In order to get clear information for the fact of central problem that need to be study are:

1. How is the ability of the second year students of language program to find the topic sentence in reading comprehension at MAN 2 Martapura in academic year 2006/2007?
2. What are the influential factors of the students' ability in finding the topic sentence in reading comprehension?

#### **C. Reason For Adopting Title**

1. The student achievement in finding the topic sentence plays an important role in the reading comprehension.

2. Finding topic sentence is one of the problems faced by students in learning reading at MAN 2 Martapura.
3. More specifically, English is one of the main subjects taught at school, so that gaining successfully to teach the language is really expected.
4. MAN 2 Martapura is the one of state Islamic education center in Martapura and it has good activity in teaching learning process.
5. the second year students of language program is the especially class that is learning about language, and English is one of language that learned.

#### **D. The purpose of Research**

The purposes of this research are:

1. To find out the ability of the second year students of language program at MAN 2 Martapura in finding the topic sentences in reading comprehension.
2. To find out the influential factors of students' ability in finding the topic sentence in reading comprehension.

#### **E. Significance of Research**

The significant of the research is some advantages that can be obtained are:

1. To give information about students' ability in finding the topic sentence and also to give the evaluation about students' ability in finding the topic sentence.

2. To give information about students' problems in reading a text for any body who are interested in the result of this research.
3. Be information for the English teacher at MAN 2 Martapura to improve their student's ability in reading.
4. To enrich the writer's knowledge.

## **F. Organization of Content**

This research is divided into five chapters as follows:

Chapter one is introduction, which consists of rationale, statement of problem, reason for adopting research, purpose of research, significance of research and organization of contents.

Chapter two is theoretical review consist of theoretical review on related field which covers definition of topic sentence, reading and reading comprehension, kind of reading activities, strategies to find the topic sentence in paragraph, influential factors of students ability in reading and curriculum of English (reading) at Madrasah Aliyah.

Chapter three is method of research, which consists of subject and object, data and source of data, technique of data collection, presentation of data and analysis, basic framework of research, design of measurement and research procedure.

Chapter four is report of research result which consists of description of research location, data presentation and analysis.

Chapter five is closure which consists of conclusion and suggestion.