

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **A. Rationale**

Language is an important thing in this life. Everybody needs to communicate with his or her surroundings. The need of communication is felt when they want to tell some information or message to others, also from the verse explain there are many different people, many different nations in the world, and many different languages too that they use to communicate. Anywhere and whoever can communicate each other use language. Therefore, language is together responsible among family, society and government. We need to know and to interact each other in our lives with language and knowledge.

Language is not only used to interact with another, but it is also used to give and to get some information or to tell the sciences and technologies. In step with the world civilization grow; communication has enabled human being to develop science technology. The development of communication technology likes building a spider net, everything must be interconnected. Not only does this communication network unity between countries, but also facilitate international connection.

Learning a language is very important, because language is one of the important factors in our life as tool of communication. By language human is able to understand each other, used to deliver message, express ideas, though and one's feelings to others. Robin Burling said that human being need a language not only



English is a foreign language that has been used by people in this world, besides it is a foreign language also it is a second language in many countries. As we know English is a language of knowledge, technology and art, it can be instrument to reach a high of economic condition, to relate among nation, to see social-culture and especially for education.<sup>2</sup>

In English language, there are four skills divided into two classifications. First receptive here are listening and reading skill, the second productive are speaking and writing skill.

To learn English language is inevitably to learn four language skills, as Henri Guntur Tarigan state that there are four skills which have to be developed and mastered by student, they are listening, speaking, reading and writing.<sup>3</sup> In this essay discusses about one of four language skills that mentioned above, that is reading skill.

Reading skill has inter-related reading skills. When reading the text, we have to understand the topic and main idea of the paragraph.<sup>4</sup>

Reading is process where our thoughts translate the written symbols become idea that the writer wants to inform, and try to understand the message in it.<sup>5</sup>

According to Schmitt, as quoted is divided into three passes, they are: Before reading, during reading, and after reading. In the beginning, he

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<sup>2</sup> Departemen Pendidikan Nasional, *Kurikulum Hasil Belajar*, (Jakarta: 2002), p. 1

<sup>3</sup> Henri Guntur Tarigan, *Membaca Sebagai Suatu Keterampilan Berbahasa*, (Bandung: Angkasa, 1985), p. 1

<sup>4</sup> A. Ghani Johan, *Reading & Translation*, (Yogyakarta: Pustaka Belajar, 1998)

<sup>5</sup> E. P. Hutabarat, *Cara Belajar*, (Jakarta: PT. BPK Gunung Mulia, 1995), p. 198-201

suggests that we should make a set of question about the topic which we will look for the answer on during phase. After reading phase is used to know whether the questions that submitted on before reading phase have answered well.<sup>6</sup>

Reading is important because it can help language learners to recognize words more quickly develop a larger vocabulary, understand grammar better, develop reading strategy, etc.

There are two important aspects in reading, as follows:

1. Mechanical skills by using reading aloud and oral reading activity
2. Comprehension skills by using silent reading activity.<sup>7</sup>

In this research, it focuses on reading comprehension to read the material. However, not all students could read and understand to the material well, some of them hard to do it and felts bored. So, it must be supported by some factors such as teacher's competence, learning media, facilities, good method and the other factors.

The writer is interested in doing research students' mastery in reading comprehension at SMPN 1 Pugaan Tabalong Regency. So, this research will be written with the title: **"STUDENTS' MASTERY IN READING COMPREHENSION OF THE EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS AT SMPN 1 PUGAAN TABALONG REGENCY ACADEMIC YEAR 2008 / 2009"**.

To avoid any misinterpretation toward the title in this study, the writer necessary to explain some term in title as follow:

1. Mastery: great knowledge about understanding of a particular thing.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> P. Istiarto Djiwandono, *Strategi Membaca Bahasa Inggris*, (Jakarta: PT. Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 2002), p. 76-77

<sup>7</sup> Henri Guntur Tarigan, *Op. Cit*, p. 12

2. Reading: the cognitive process of understanding a written linguistic message.<sup>9</sup>
3. Comprehension: the power of understanding.<sup>10</sup>
4. Students: they are eight grade students at SMPN 1 Pugaan Tabalong Regency academic year 2008 / 2009.

In this research, the writer wants to find out the result of English learning especially in reading comprehension.

## **B. Problem Formulation**

Based on rational above, in this research here are some problems as follow:

1. How are students' mastery in reading comprehension of the eighth grade students at SMPN 1 Pugaan Tabalong Regency academic year 2008 / 2009?
2. What are the factors that influence students' mastery in reading comprehension of the eighth grade students at SMPN 1 Pugaan Tabalong Regency academic year 2008 / 2009?

## **C. Reason for Choosing the Title**

There are some reasons that make the writer choosing the title, they are:

1. Reading is a language skill that should be improved continuously since on elementary school

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<sup>8</sup> A. S. Hornby, *Advanced Learner's Pocket Dictionary of Current English*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995), p. 788

<sup>9</sup> <http://ardictionary.com/reading/1307>

<sup>10</sup> A. S. Hornby, *Op. Cit.*, 235

2. Reading is an important component in learning language skill system
3. Reading can be helpful to improve our pronunciation and understanding
4. Most of the students at SMPN 1 Pugaan assumed to have some problem in learning English especially their ability in reading comprehension.

#### **D. Purpose of the Research**

Based on the problems above, the writer has two purposes for this research, they are:

1. To find out the level of mastery in reading comprehension of the eighth grade students
2. To know the factors that influence students' mastery in reading comprehension.

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

The result that going to be achieved in this research is expected to:

1. The teachers who is holding the English subject as an information and advice in English teaching especially for reading skill
2. The students to improve their reading skill based on teacher's wishes.

#### **F. Organization of the Content**

To enable the writing of this research, the writer makes the writing organization consist of five chapters as follow:

**Chapter I** : Introduction

Contains about rationale, problem formulation, reason for choosing the title, purpose of the research, significance of the research and organization of the content.

**Chapter II** : Theoretical Review

Contains about what is meant by reading and reading comprehension, technique of reading, kinds of reading activities, kinds of reading material, the tips for students to master the reading comprehension well, and the factors that influence students' mastery in reading comprehension.

**Chapter III** : Method of Research

Consists of subject and object of the research, data and source of data, technique of data collecting, design of measurement, technique of data processing and data analysis, and research procedure.

**Chapter IV** : Report of the Research Result

Consists of general description of research location, data presentation, and data analysis

**Chapter V** : Closure

Consists of conclusion and suggestion.