

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of The Study

English is the international language which is used by the people to communicate throughout the world. It is used in many aspects of this life, such as culture, business, economic, law, education, and many more. In education, English is taught in every school in this world from the lowest grade until the highest one, in university level. It can be concluded that English has an important role in education. Because of it, people have to learn and master English to face the world globalization.

In Indonesia, English should be mastered by the students to have a good communication and to have wide world knowledge. The government, education ministry established English as a compulsory subject in schools so that all students have to learn English. By learning English, the students will comprehend many texts from all over the world to support their learning process. Comprehend the written scientific and technology texts, letters, announcements, instructions, etc, for instance. Consequently, without mastering English, students will be difficult to improve their wide knowledge.

In learning English, there are four skills that should be mastered by the students. They are speaking, reading, writing, and listening. Brown (2001:232) asserts that listening and reading are receptive skill, which means a process of

comprehending the materials given. In a contrast, the speaking and writing are the productive skill, which means a process of producing text (verbal and written text). The four skills are related each other so a students should master all skills to make their English achievement good. In this research, the writer will focus on the reading skill, especially to the reading comprehension.

Reading comprehension is a process of reading and comprehending a text. Specifically, in reading process, the readers must comprehend the text. If the readers read the text and comprehend the message and the meaning of the text, they comprehend a text. Grabe and Stoller (2002:17) assert that reading comprehension as the ability to understand information in a text and interpret it appropriately. The reading comprehension itself is quite complex and they vary in numerous way depending on the tasks, motivation, reading goals, language abilities, and the teaching reading comprehension process.

Reading comprehension in this era is really important. In Indonesia, the education ministry always reminds all Indonesia students to read more and more to have a wide knowledge. The new knowledge that got from the text will enhance the students' background knowledge after reading. It is explicitly defined in the purpose of reading comprehension which are to search simple information, to learn from text, to integrate information, write and critique text, and for a general comprehension (Grabe and Stoller, 2002:14).

Teaching refers to the work of teachers in transferring knowledge to students. Brown (2007:8) asserts that teaching is the way of showing or helping

someone to learn, how to do something, giving instruction, guiding in the study of something, providing with knowledge, causing to know or understand. A teacher should be creative and active to help the students know something that they never know before and improve their prior knowledge.

As the researcher's experiences when she was learning in senior high school, the English teachers just asked the students to read a text, then they had to answer the questions below the text. The teachers also asked the students to translate the reading text. The researcher also found the same case in SMA RK Serdang Murni Lubuk Pakam by interviewing the students. After doing the teachers' instruction, the students actually didn't know the meaning or the message delivered in the text, even though they had answered the reading task.

In the tenth grade of senior high school, descriptive is always taught. The text itself is not just to express about something, but it has a certain purpose for the readers. In learning descriptive text, students have to know the text structure and language features which build it and the content of it, so they can easily to identify the purpose. In this case, teachers must teach reading comprehension of descriptive text appropriately so the students can comprehend it well.

For the explanation above, the writer focused the study to describe the realization of the teaching reading comprehension of descriptive text which was done by two teachers. This study was done in SMA Parulian II Medan and SMA RK Serdang Murni Lubuk Pakam, on the 10th grade students because descriptive

text was taught on that grade. There was one teacher for each school as the subject of the research.

B. The Problems of The Study

In line with the background of the study, the problems of the study were formulated as follow:

1. How do the teachers teach reading comprehension of descriptive text to the tenth grade students?
2. Why do the teachers teach the way they do?

C. The Objectives of The Study

The objectives of the study are:

1. To describe how the teachers teach reading comprehension of descriptive text to the tenth grade students.
2. To reveal the reasons of why the teachers do the way.

D. The Scopes of The Study

This study is limited to describe the way of teaching reading comprehension of descriptive text and the reasons of doing it. There were two English teachers from two different schools, which were SMA Parulian II Medan and SMA RK Serdang Murni Lubuk Pakam.

E. The Significances of The Study

Theoretically, the findings of this study will be expected to be useful for the English teachers as the guideline in teaching reading comprehension of descriptive text by using the characteristics of the reading text. Practically, the appropriate teaching descriptive text in reading comprehension can be applied by the teacher to make the students have a deep comprehension in reading the descriptive text. This also can be a self-motivation by the teacher to be more creative and active to apply the appropriate teaching techniques for descriptive text in teaching reading comprehension so the teaching process runs effectively and efficiently.