

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

Reading is one of the language skills that needs to be considered in language learning. The students should master reading skills to gain knowledge of English. The reason is that reading significantly impacts a student's vocabulary, knowledge, spelling and writing. (Harmer 2007). It is also supported by Fauziati stated that reading skill refers to the capacity to connect textual content with one's knowledge through comprehension. Rahayu (2014) mentions that reading is a part of daily routines and is consistently practised by students. To comprehend a text, a reader must be capable of grasping the text thoroughly and linking units of meaning to create a cohesive message.

In hence, reading comprehension is the ability to understand the knowledge from a book, the internet, an article and a written passage of text. Reading is more than assigning foreign language sounds to the written word. It requires the comprehension of what is written. Therefore, the students must comprehend what they read to get the knowledge. Reading holds a significant position in English Language Teaching (ELT). Thus, reading skills are essential to develop the ability to comprehend English texts.

To realize optimal English learning, especially in reading skills, certainly cannot be separated from the role of a teacher in preparing, monitoring, and

evaluating the course of the English learning process. One important tool in this educational landscape is the reading worksheet. A reading worksheet is a structured resource to help students improve their reading comprehension and skills. It typically includes various activities, such as comprehension questions, vocabulary exercises, and creative tasks encouraging students to think critically about the text. Majid (2013) mentioned that reading worksheets serve as guides, providing clear instructions and tasks that align with the learning objectives that are expected to be achieved. A reading worksheet is a set of pages that help students improve their reading skills. Reading worksheets often include questions about a specific topic and may also include exercises to help students develop their reading skills. The students' English worksheets will greatly help teachers convey the knowledge to students. Darusman (2008) states that student worksheets offer directions for accomplishing designed activities to assist learners in expanding and deepening their comprehension of the content being examined. Students can become more involved in classes by engaging in diverse tasks, and educators can evaluate their understanding of the subject matter.

In teaching the material to the students, the teacher must provide appropriate and suitable material for the student's circumstances. Reading materials in an English student worksheet should provide texts, dialogue or any information data and become important materials input in reading sessions. Worksheets in education are essential since they include various types of exercises. Students' worksheets are one of the printed materials (other than handouts, modules and books) that can be used in the teaching and learning

process. Prastowo (2015) said that through the use of the students' worksheets, teachers can lure the students to engage with the material learned in the classroom actively.

In this era, teachers must embrace technology and develop teaching methods so that students enjoy the learning process. To be more creative and innovative, teachers must design interactive media to help the learning process, such as lesson plans, media, and students' worksheets. Embracing technology in the classroom is increasingly important, as it allows teachers to develop engaging teaching methods that capture students' interest and promote active learning.

The interactive worksheet that can provide well-designed reading worksheets is the "top worksheet". It refers to high-quality products that are both engaging and effective. These worksheets are tailored to meet the diverse needs of students, making the learning process more interactive and enjoyable. Top worksheets often incorporate interactive media elements, such as videos, audio clips, and online quizzes, which can enhance students' understanding of the material. Teachers can use these resources to create a comfortable classroom atmosphere where students feel motivated to participate and explore the content more deeply. For instance, a top worksheet might include a reading passage and questions encouraging students to think critically about what they've read. It could also feature links to relevant videos or interactive activities that reinforce the concepts discussed in the text. This combination of traditional reading materials and modern interactive media makes learning more enjoyable and helps students develop essential skills in comprehension and analysis.

In SMP Negeri 21 Medan, reading was a difficult skill for students. It was difficult for students to understand the text and do the worksheet in the textbook. The existing textbook did not provide proper materials and worksheets for students. Therefore, many of the students were not interested in reading the textbook. The worksheets in the textbook did not match for students to improve their reading skills and did not fulfil their needs. Based on the preliminary observation of the ninth grade at SMP Negeri 21 Medan was interviewed by an English teacher focusing on teaching descriptive text. According to the teacher, some students had difficulties comprehending the text given because of a lack of vocabulary. The existing textbook also did not show the text to describe something based on the context of descriptive text.

Furthermore, the teacher said that the worksheet in the textbook cannot be given to students because it's irrelevant to the student's needs. The teacher also said this book was unsuitable for the student's circumstances. Students need lots of worksheets that can enhance their reading skills.

Based on the preliminary data, the textbook didn't provide the appropriate worksheet. This is because worksheets refer to well-organized tasks with particular questions or guidelines for students to accomplish. Based on that, it is not suitable to depend on the exercise in the textbook since students will face reading limitations and will be unable to satisfy their needs. Then, the students' worksheets that the researcher saw that the students still use are conventional worksheets on paper, served by the school, making them bored when they answer

some questions. This argument was supported by the students' statement at the observation said the worksheets that were given to them were not interesting. There's no picture related to the description, and they didn't have any new words that could be added to their new vocabulary. They also didn't match their needs to improve their reading skills. Previously, teachers had also provided worksheets via online media, but they looked simple by only providing basic questions and answers based on the existing text. In addition, the worksheet is full of text without having any interesting features in it. So, with the advancement of technology, students need effective media to support their learning process more easily than only using the textbook.

According to the problem above, the teacher must develop the worksheet based on the student's needs. The researcher strongly believed that developing Top worksheets can significantly enhance students' descriptive reading skills. These worksheets are designed to be engaging and interactive, making them an ideal tool for addressing students' reading development needs. Teachers can create digital worksheets to achieve an effective and enjoyable learning environment by utilizing top worksheets. Therefore, the study is intended to develop a top worksheet as a descriptive reading worksheet for ninth-grade students at SMP Negeri 21 Medan.

B. The Problem of the Study

From the background of the study, the problem is formulated as follows: How is *the Top worksheet* developed for student's descriptive reading worksheet at SMP Negeri 21 Medan?

C. The Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is to develop Top worksheet for students' descriptive reading at SMP Negeri 21 Medan.

D. The Scope of the Study

This study focuses on genre of texts to grade ninth students at SMP Negeri 21 Medan. Some text genres were taught to grade ninth students, such as narrative, explanation, and report texts; however, this research will focus on creating worksheets for descriptive texts. The worksheets will be designed using the Top worksheet website. Although many digital tools are available for making English worksheets, like Edmodo, Kahoot, and Live Worksheet, this study will only focus on using Top worksheet. Additionally, while learning English involves various skills such as reading, writing, speaking, and listening, this research will specifically target descriptive reading.

E. The Significances of the Study

The significances provide context and reasons for why the study is relevant and valuable, with a clear rationale for why the research is worth conducting and how it fits into the larger academic or practical landscape. For this reason, the author describes the benefits of this research as follows:

1. Theoretically Significance

Theoretically, this study expects to give detail information on developing descriptive reading worksheets for grade IX SMP Negeri 21 Medan. It focuses on the needs of grade IX students at SMP Negeri 21 Medan by sharing practical steps, examples, and insights from the development of "Top worksheet."

2. Practically Significances

a. For the teachers

This study can encourage the teacher to develop appropriate descriptive reading worksheets for students. The worksheet materials are expected to enhance the learning activities.

b. For the students

Students will use this study in their English learning, and with these worksheets, the students can feel interested in learning English more effectively. From this, it is expected that students can increase their reading ability.

c. For other researchers

This study can give them some data and references for those who want to develop students' worksheets in descriptive reading skills.