

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

Reading has a great position in learning English in the class. It shown by the quantity of test that faced by the students in the National Examination in Indonesia. English National Examination in Indonesia has included 20 listening questions and 40 reading questions.

Reading is a foundation skill for learning, personal growth, and enjoyment. Students must be able to read and understand text in all formats (e.g. picture, video, and print) and all contexts is a key indicator to success in school and life. By reading comprehension, the students are able to gain information and to improve their knowledge. The goal of learning English is to enable the students in understanding the idea and meaning of the passage. Nunan (2003: 68) states that reading is a fluent process of readers combining information from a text and their own background knowledge and to build meaning.

According to Grabe & Stoller (2002: 9), reading is the ability to draw meaning from printed page and interpret this information appropriately. It means useless without both comprehending and interpreting any ideas of the text. Students are expected to get knowledge and understand about the context that has explained in the text. It means that students need to learn a considerable amount of information from a text.

Most of the students get difficulties in learning reading comprehension. Based on the researcher's observation in SMA YPK Andreas on grade XI, the researcher found that the students cannot comprehend a text because they are lack of vocabulary knowledge and they lack of a direct tool to help them in comprehending the text. The problems are most of the students still have problems in comprehending the text and getting the main idea of the text. In order to solve the problem, a good technique should be used. Does in this study it is determined to conduct a research by applying herringbone technique to improve the students' reading comprehension.

Most of the students get the score below Minimal Completeness Criteria (KKM) of English lesson for Senior High School. The score of reading test from the students can be seen in table 1.1.

Table 1.1 The Eleventh Grade (XI) Students' Score of Reading Test

Semester	Score	Students	Percentage
1 st Semester 2013/2014	< 70	25	65,7
	≥ 70	13	34,2
2 nd semester 2013/2014	< 70	20	52,6
	≥ 70	18	47,3

(source: SMA Y.P.K. Andreas)

The Minimal Completeness Criteria (KKM) applied for the eleventh grade (XI) by school is 70. From the data above it can be fulfill that the students' ability in reading in that class is still low. It can be seen from the mean of the students' score where the mean is still under the Minimal Completeness Criteria (KKM).

Bouchard (2005: 54) stated that herringbone technique is a teaching technique which provides a framework upon which the *who, what, when, where, why, and how* questions to getting the details idea or the main idea of a passage. By applying herringbone technique it is expected that the students will easily comprehend the text. Another benefit of using herringbone technique is to help the students organize the information and write a summary paragraph.

B. The Problem of the Study

Based on the background of the study, the problem of this study is formulated as the following: “does applying herringbone technique significantly affects the students’ reading comprehension in reading narrative text?”

C. The Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is to find out whether herringbone technique significantly affects the students’ reading comprehension in reading narrative text.

D. The Scope of the Study

Based on the background above, this study will be limited to the effectiveness using herringbone technique in teaching reading comprehension on grade XI at SMA YPK Andreas Sunggal.

E. The Significance of the Study

As the study concerns with the used of herringbone technique to affect the students’ reading comprehension, the finding of this study are expected to be useful as:

1. Theoretically, for the teacher to improve the quality of the students' reading comprehension and for the researchers to use this study as reference for next researchers.
2. Practically, to improve the students' reading comprehension and widen their horizon about the function of herringbone technique in affect their reading comprehension.

