

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. The Background of the Study

Language is very essential for human being. It plays an important role in our life and society. It is used as a tool of communication, which means language is a means of communication that is used to interact and to strengthen relationships, such as getting or giving information and also to express their ideas or other activities. It is said so because language is a means of communication that is used to convey ideas, thoughts, opinions, feelings and other expressions which hold an important role in human life.

There are many kinds of languages all over the world; and each of them has its own characteristics and art of structure. People need to learn another language in order to make a social relationship with other people in different places or countries. All people in the world learn English as the second language after their mother tongue as a need of communication in this globalization era. As reinforcement, we can read the statement from *Clark & Clerk (1997:4)* that says, *one of kinds of language is English and it is an International Language*. English is also used in many aspects, such as social, economic, political, culture, education, and others.

In Indonesia, English is as a foreign language that needs to be learnt and taught in the school and university, not to be as the second language. The government of Indonesia inserted English language in the school curriculum. It

is very important for the students to operate computer, internet, and improve various kinds of knowledge. That is one of the reasons that we have to study English more seriously and try to be able to speak it fluently.

Reading is one of the four important basic skills in learning English as a foreign language. Reading is very important because it can influence other language skill (listening, speaking, and writing). Reading is defined as the level of understanding of a text or message. Reading is the ability to understand what we read -- where words have context and texts have meaning. Actually, reading skills allow us to read proficiently, learn effectively, problem-solve, strategize, conceptualize, and succeed in life. Without reading, many students are left behind. Unfortunately, Indonesian students' reading in English is still low. According to *Kustaryo (1988:2)*, it is certainly not easy to present the English reading for Indonesian students whose language system is different. Reading is a complex process which involves not only reading the text, but also their experience comprehends it. The students are not able to read English well, their miss pronounce the words in the text and their vocabulary is measly.

Grabe and Stoller (2002:9) elaborate that reading is a way to draw information from the printed page and interpret this information appropriately. It can be elaborated that through reading, the students can add their knowledge of new information from text books, journals, newspapers and magazines. From the quotation above, reading means to find out the message of the writer

put into a text as efficient as possible. The goal of learning reading is to enable the students in understanding the idea and meaning of the passage.

According to *Competence Based Curriculum*, reading is one four skills that should be mastered by students. They should be able to read English text or message. Reading is one of four difficult basic language skills to study. Reading comprehension and vocabulary are inextricably linked. The ability to decode or identify and pronounce words is self-evidently important, but knowing what the words mean has a major and direct effect on knowing what any specific passage means. Students with a smaller vocabulary than other students comprehend less of what they read and it has been suggested that the most impactful way to improve comprehension is to improve vocabulary.

In this study, the writer deals with reading as her topic because she observed that most of the students are not able to read successfully. The writer found that the students are not able to read in simple text. They are not confident to use their own English, because of their limited mastery on grammar and vocabulary, and they have no self confident to speak in front of their friends and especially their teacher. Moreover, in reading process, the students have to master the knowledge not only about the material but also about grammar and vocabulary.

Based on the background above, it is needed to know some techniques for helping students in reading ability. The appropriate and comprehensive technique for teaching reading is using *Focused Reading Note*. The writer believe that *Focused Reading Note* can help students to be master in reading

and vocabulary because the writer has been researched; and it is really helpfull.

The writer believe that it will also help the students in reading descriptive text.

### **B. The Problem of the Study**

Based on the background of the study, the problem is formulated as follows:

“Is the students’ reading achievement in descriptive text taught by using Focused Reading Note Technique higher than that taught by using lecture method?”

### **C. The Scope of the Study**

The research focuses its study on the Effect of Using Focused Reading Note Technique on Students’ Achievement in Descriptive Paragraph. In this case, the writer limits only in Descriptive Text.

### **D. The Objective of the Study**

The objective of the study is to find out whether Focused Reading Note Technique significantly effect on Students’ Achievement in Descriptive Text.

### **E. The Significance of the Study**

Results of this study are expected to be giving out the theoretical and practical significance. The significance can be described as follows:

#### **1. Theoretical**

The expected of this research is to enrich the learning of science reading especially in descriptive text by using Focused Reading Note Technique.

## **2. Practical**

### *a. For Students*

- 1) The students can read a good descriptive paragraph / text through using Focused Reading Note Technique.
- 2) The use of the technique can increase students' achievement in reading and vocabulary.
- 3) To motivate the students to be better in descriptive text.

### *b. For Teacher*

- 1) To give information for the English teacher of using Focused Reading Note Technique in teaching learning process.
- 2) To increase their own professionalism in teaching reading by using the technique.
- 3) The result of the study would be very useful for teachers of English and others who are concerning with assessment of teaching English.

### *c. For other Researcher*

- 1) The result of this study can be used as a basic information in doing further the technique to improve or increase the students' ability in vocabulary and reading comprehension, especially in descriptive text.
- 2) Develop insights and experience of the researchers.
- 3) To help the next researchers who want to conduct a depth research related to this study.