

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

There are four skills of language, they are listening, speaking, reading and writing. This study is focused on the reading skill. Reading is one skill which has much contributions in improving the students' knowledge. The main goal of reading is comprehension. Reading comprehension refers to reading by understanding the vocabulary, seeing the relationship among words and concepts, organizing ideas, recognizing the author's purposes, making judgment and evaluating. Moreover, reading has formed part of syllabus in teaching English where students are expected to be able to comprehend the meaning of written text, such as descriptive, recount, narrative, procedure, report and etc in the context of daily life.

In fact, reading comprehension is not as easy as people think. Based on the experiences of the preliminary researchers, the students faced some difficulties in reading comprehension. For example, the students read the text without understanding the information from the text. They have difficulties in comprehending, and getting the main idea (Ginting, 2013). The writer concludes that there are some factors that make the student have problems in reading comprehension, such as, the students' vocabulary is poor, reading activity is done as personal, the prior knowledge of students is still low, so that they have difficulty to comprehend a text, and also the teaching method that teacher uses to

teach reading is less creative or still uses conventional method, such as speech and demonstration method.

In addition, based on the observation in grade X SMA Swasta HKBP Sidorame Medan, through interviewing the English teacher, Mery Simanjuntak S.Pd.,. The writer found that the students got low score in reading comprehension. It can be seen in 29 of 40 students or 72% students could not pass the Minimal Completeness Criterion (KKM) namely 70 points which is decided in the school for English subject. Moreover, in the school still use conventional method to teach reading, for examples, speech method and lecturing method, it makes the students do not motivate and encourage them in teaching learning process. The data above indicates the achievement of students in reading comprehension is still low. Beside that, many students were struggling in comprehending text. Although, the text was explained several times, some of the them were really hard to understand the content and they showed uninteresting feeling in the teaching and learning process.

In this case, it is necessary to find the method that can help students to enhance their reading comprehension for students at junior high school. When the writer read some theories about teaching method, the writer found a teaching method that is expected to solve these problems namely Group Investigation Method. It is a part of cooperative learning method that organizes plan in classroom where students work in small groups using cooperative inquiry, group discussion, cooperative planning and project.

Ivy (2006) states that the constructivist perspective asserts that knowledge is acquired through the person's interactions with the social and material environment, thus writer in this case proposes group Investigation Method as a solution for this problem. Group Investigation method is an organizational approach that allows a class to work actively and collaboratively in small groups and enable students to take an active role in determining their own learning goals and processes. And also the students will have opportunities to discuss what topic they are interested to investigate or to discuss the topic that is given by the teacher in group.

Sari (2012) has conducted a research and found that Group Investigation Method can help the students to solve their problem to improve writing ability. This condition becomes the reason why the writer would like to conduct a research by using Group Investigation Method. Pasaribu (2013) also conducted a research about Improving Students' Reading Comprehension Achievement in Recount text through Group Investigation Method. She concluded that Group investigation Method is one of the effective method to improve students' reading comprehension, and also made teaching learning process enjoyable and more active.

Responding to this situation, the writer considers that although the previous researchers have conducted the group investigation method to teaching reading text and writing recount text and achieving a good result, but in this study the writer tries to use group investigation method in teaching reading report text, because there is significant difference about the contents for each genre.

Based on the explanation given, the writers hopes Group Investigation Method can be expected to help the students to solve their difficulties in reading comprehension. There are some kinds of genre namely recount, report, exposition spoof, analytical exposition, news item, anecdote, narrative, procedure, hortatory exposition, disccusion, reviews and explanation. In this study, the writer focuses on reading report text as a subject on learning material. The writer uses report text because report text is an informative text that provides useful information which can enhance and enrich student' knowledge.

Therefore, this study is designed and conducted to identify the effect of applying Group Investigation Method on students' achievement in reading comprehension in report text.

B. The Problem of the Study

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

“ Is there any significant effect of applying Group Investigation Method on students' achievement in reading comprehension in report text ?”

C. The Objective of the Study

The objective of the research is to find out the effect of Group Investigation Method on the students' reading comprehension in report text, appropriate with the research problem.

D. The Scope of the Study

According to Gerot and Wignell (1994:192), texts are divided into several types that known as genre; they are spoof, recount, report, analytical exposition, news item, anecdote, narrative procedure, descriptive, hortatory exposition, explanation, discussion, reviews. This study is focused on reading report text by applying Group Investigation method. The researcher uses report text because report text contains useful information which can enhance and enrich students' knowledge, and also this study focuses on four levels of reading comprehension, they are:

1. Literal comprehension
2. Interpretative comprehension
3. Critical comprehension
4. Creative comprehension

E. The Significance of the Study

The benefits of the study are:

1. Theoretical benefits
 - a. The result of the research can give information on how to solve the problems in teaching and learning English and to find out the effect of “ Group Investigation method” on students ‘ reading comprehension.
 - b. The result of this research can enrich the knowledge of basic education, particularly the English subject.

2. Practical benefits

- a. The students: the students can improve their reading comprehension
- b. The teachers: the teachers can apply this method in their teaching process to solve the students' problem in learning English, especially reading comprehension.
- c. Other researchers: It is expected that this research will give benefits to other researchers to develop the next research and as references about Group Investigation Method in applying.