

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

English is an international language that used by people in the world. People use English to face the globalization era that is why English become one of the languages that is needed to be learned by students. In learning process, students will process the knowledge. Besides, the way of learning of each student is different, such as their learning style, method of learning, etc.

Learning style is one of important things in students' learning process. The use of learning style is that make it easy for teachers to incorporate them into their teaching. DePorter & Hernacki (1992) divide learning styles into three; they are visual learning style through what they see, auditory learning style through what they hear, and kinesthetic learning style through how they move and touch. While students use all of their sense to take in information, they seem to have preferences in how they learn best.

Wang (2007: 409) defines "learning style as an individual's preferred or habitual ways of processing the knowledge and transforming the knowledge into personal knowledge". It is an educational condition under which a student is most likely to learn. Thus, learning style is not really concerned with what the learners learn, but rather how they prefer to learn the materials. Furthermore, each person has his or her own best way to learn, governing how they prefer to receive and process the knowledge. Some learners may rely on visual image or presentation,

others prefer listening to the music while learning; still others may respond better to hand-on activities.

Learning styles are found to affect the students' learning behaviors. Students who have different learning style preferences would behave differently in the way they perceive, interact with, and respond to the learning environment. Since the learner differ in their preferences to the certain learning styles, it will be important for an educator to know the variations of students on the features of their learning styles because the information about students' learning style preferences bring to the classroom (Wang 2007:410 in Pratiwi, et.al, 2013).

The characteristic of learning styles differ one learner from another, such as visual, auditory, and kinesthetic. It will help learner to determine their strategies in learn subject. Strategies are general characteristics that differentiate one individual from another. It helps learner to solve their problem in certain learning. Both learning style and strategies have strong influence in learning. Based on the explanation above, learning style and strategies have correlation and influence by each other. Students, who understand learning style, will find certain strategies in certain subject and use in effective way. It helps them to improve their achievement in learning.

Learning style also needs in reading comprehension. In learning language, one of aspect that should be improved is reading. In daily life, it is very important to get information from every reading passage, especially in learning English. Therefore, when the students learn to read, they should be able to comprehend

reading during the process of reading. They need to comprehend reading deeply. Reading is a part of language skills that need to be increased by the students. Reading is one of the language skills that cannot be separated from other language skills because the students' ability in one aspect will support their ability in mastering others. It is an important educational goal, as without reading, one's language would not improve. The ability of students in reading is important because by having the ability to read, they will be able to improve general language skills in English; reading can enlarge the students' English vocabulary and it can help to improve the students' writing or speaking abilities. So, it can be concluded that reading is one of the keys to success for everyone who wants to be an educated person (Pratiwi, et.al, 2013).

Grabe & Stoller (2002:29) define reading comprehension is an extraordinary feat of balancing and coordinating many abilities in a very complex and rapid set of routines that makes comprehension a seemingly effortless and enjoyable activity for fluent readers. It means that is not only recognizing word but also thinking responding. An individual's ability to comprehend text is influenced by their traits and skills, one of which is the ability to make inferences. If word recognition is difficult, students use too much of their processing capacity to read individual words, which inferences with their ability to comprehend what is read. There are a number of approaches to improve reading comprehension, including improving one's vocabulary and reading strategies.

Saadi states reading difficulties is a common problem of students. He stated that there are many students encounter difficulties in reading. Having good

competence in reading is very important for English foreign language students. Likewise, students in Senior High School, they also encounter reading difficulties. They also supposed to master reading skill because reading is one of primary subject matters and they will find a lot of reading materials. However, acquiring reading is not easy for students. Thus, reading becomes common problem among students in Senior High School.

Rebecca states one of main factors that help to determine how and how well students learn a second language or foreign language which can influence their comprehension in listening, speaking, reading and writing is learning styles. Thus, it can be concluded that learning styles relates to skills comprehension.

Nolting emphasized on Saadi, students academic achievement positively increases if they are aware of their learning style and how they learn best. Moreover, Dorris states students' learning styles influence their own academic achievement. Based on statements above, learning styles plays crucial role in the learning process and influences students' reading achievement for learning styles relate to the way people acquire and comprehend information. They will learn easily through their own learning styles.

The observation has done in SMA Negeri 1 Namorambe, the writer found that the students have difficult in understanding reading in English, so the students confused what they have read. They try to find out the difficult word in a text in dictionary. Beside, the students feel monotonous in learning reading; also they cannot use their learning style in learning reading. From the problem above it is

necessary to identify learning styles at eleventh grade students in SMA Negeri 1 Namorambe based on visual, auditory, and kinesthetic especially in reading.

B. The Problem of Study

The problems in this study are formulated as follow:

1. What is the most dominant learning style in reading comprehension of grade XI in SMA Negeri 1 Namormabe?
2. Which is the fastest students' learning style in reading comprehension of grade XI in SMA Negeri 1 Namorambe?

C. The Objective of Study

This study therefore has following objectives:

1. To find out the most dominant learning style in reading comprehension of grade XI SMA Negeri 1 Namorambe.
2. To find out the students' fastest learning style in reading comprehension of grade XI in SMA Negeri 1 Namorambe.

D. The Scope of Study

The scope of the study will be focused on students' learning style in reading comprehension by applying VAK (visual, auditory, and kinesthetic) VAK is one of the simplest models that includes vision, hearing and feeling. Visual

learning style preferred learning through seeing, auditory learning through hearing and kinesthetic learning by doing.

E. The Significance of Study

The study is expected to have both theoretical and practical perspectives:

Theoretical Perspectives

1. The result of the research will be useful to improve the teaching learning process, especially in reading comprehension.
2. This study can be used as references for students who want to conduct the research about learning style in reading.

Practically Perspectives

1. This study will be inspired for English teachers to know students' learning style in reading comprehension
2. This study is also expected to encourage the students to know their learning style, especially in learning reading.

THE
Character Building
UNIVERSITY