

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

Language is an important element in communication. There are many languages in the world. People communicate one another using language whether it is native language or foreign language. People need a language not only for communicating but also for getting knowledge, culture, science and technology. With language people can express our ideas, opinion, discussion and transferring information to the other people and others.

In Indonesia, English becomes the first foreign language that should be learned by the students. Learning English as the first foreign language is not easy. It will be more difficult than learning English as the second language because English is only used in the classroom when the students study it. They seldom use English in their daily life. These conditions occur in our country because people always use their mother tongue and Indonesian in their daily life.

So far, English still becomes one of the difficult subjects at Junior High School up to university. Reading is one of the skills that the students have mastered. The students who have good skill in reading will be easy to get information, knowledge, and idea from sources they read. But so far, the learners still find difficulties to improve their reading comprehension because they seldom do the reading activity at school and material for

reading is not interesting for them. Most of the students think that knowing every word in the passage would improve in comprehending the passage.

Language holds an important role in human activities. Almost all human activities need language as their media in communicating with others. People in society express and receive thoughts and ideas also use language. Language and its development year by year become meaningful. In this modern era, when everything grows up faster, the role of language becomes more important. By language the development of technology could transfer from one people to another easily. Beside that, language also helps people in communication with others in their business such as trade, research, education and others.

The role of language in the development country, such as in Indonesia is very important. Many countries expand their business here. It means that foreign languages grow up and willing or not, it motivates people in this country to improve their language skills in order to compete with others. There are a lot of languages that are used by people in making communication with others here, for instance: French, Japanese, and English. Commonly English become the favorite choice. It is reasonable because English is an international language and almost all countries use it. Besides that, almost all information.

English is one of foreign languages which are taught in Indonesia from elementary schools to universities. It is not only as an international language

but also considered as language which is rich with its modern culture. Every person may have different reasons and purposes in learning a foreign language. To master it, learners need to learn both spoken and written forms of the target language. They will not only deal with oral activity, but also with reading activity.

Reading is one of language skill, it should be mastered well by the students because reading is an essential factor that influence activity, so that people usually say that reading is the window of the world, by reading, people can get information widely without going anywhere. Richard and Renandya (2002, p.273) stated that in many second or foreign language teaching situations, reading receives a special focus. The reason is many foreign language students often have reading as one of their most important goals because they want to be able to read for information and pleasure, for their career, and for study purposes.

Reading subject is defined as the level of a text or message. Therefore, to gain the aim of reading subject is not only done by students but also by teacher, because it is impossible for students to master this skill without helping from teacher, and this is the only reason to teacher to provide the right strategy, method, and technique in teaching English especially on reading subject.

Reading is one of the skills that students should have in their life. It is generally accepted that reading is one of the most crucial skills needed by the students of secondary school, junior high school, senior high school and

university. By reading, the learners can have further practice of language that they have already met through listening and speaking, they will also get much information, such as education, science, technology and culture, they require from the text as well.

Reading skill is no doubt a means of gaining information and knowledge. In the process of reading, information is understood through the sight of eyes, discrimination of letter shapes, association of letter with language and association of text with meaning. The reader applies many strategies to reconstruct the meaning that the author is assumed to have intended. The reader does this by comparing information in the text to his or her background knowledge or prior knowledge. Understanding a written text is not enough to understand the gist of the text, but more detailed comprehension is necessary.

Reading can be challenging, particularly when the material is unfamiliar, technical or complex. Moreover, for some readers, comprehension is always challenging. They may understand each word separately, but linking them together into meaningful ideas often does not happen as it should. These readers can decode the words, but have not developed sufficient skills to comprehend the underlying, deeper meaning of the sentences, the paragraphs, and the entire text.

Reading is practical, purposeful accomplishment that is vital to learning in school and all through life. Most information is still passed through the written word, and anyone who finds reading difficulty is seriously

handicapped in the civilized struggle for a place in the world. One of the fundamental conditions of successful extensive reading is the employees have to read materials which they can understand.

In fact, a lot of students get low in reading comprehension result. It means that they are not complete yet in learning English. Those problems are about reading habit, reading technique, motivation and reading interest. Maximal reading skill cannot be achieved if there is still any bad habit when they are reading. Interpret word by word of the text is one of the readers' bad habits. It is not effective because they need much time to interpret all the words of the text.

However, there is another skill whose role in teaching and learning English as foreign language cannot be ignored. That skill is translation which is defined as a process of replacing the textual material in one language (the source language) by equivalent textual material in another language (the target language).

Translation has become an important aspect of the world for the exchange of information ideas. Cook (2011) argues that translation is also useful skill in itself. And not just professional translator and interpreters. In multilingual societies and globalized world translation is all around us as an authentic act of communication: from families, school, hospitals, courts, clinics, to business meetings, and the United Nations.

Beside comprehension, translation process also happens in reading. Translation cannot be separated from the other abilities in learning a foreign

language. When students are reading, listening or speaking English, as a foreign language, they are actually translating. They translate from the source into the target language.

Actually, translation is an exertion of finding suit meaning of a text into the target language. Based on the definition above, it can be concluded that it has an aim to look for the equivalent meaning from source text to the target text. That is why translation emphasizes the meaning equivalence. In the process of interpretation, the other languages, translation becomes an urgent component that should be mastered.

Based on the description above, the writer would like to conduct a research entitled “The Correlation between Reading Comprehension and Translation Ability of the Students at SMP Islam Al Mukmin”. In this research, the writer would find out whether there was a significant correlation between the reading comprehension and translation ability of the students at SMP Islam Al Mukmin

B. Question and Scope of the Research

1. The Question of the Research

Is there any correlation between Reading Comprehension and Translation Ability at SMP Islam Al Mukmin?

2. The Scope of the Research

This research focused on the Reading Comprehension and the Translation ability. Reading Materials are descriptive text. The student

comprehension in reading especially in simple definition (lexical) significance or meaning (the goal of the author), and evaluate the text (the contents and form of the text) in descriptive texts. While in students translation ability especially in translating a text from English into Indonesian focus on descriptive noun.

C. Research Hypothesis

Cresswell (2009, p.132) described that, "Quantitative hypotheses is a prediction the researcher makes about the expected relationship among variables." In addition, Rasinger (2013, p.11) mentioned that a hypothesis is a statement about a particular aspect of a reality which is based on findings of previous study and the aim of a newer study to prove or disprove it. Therefore, there are two hypotheses in this research:

1. Alternative Hypotheses (H_a)

There is a relationship between comprehension reading and translation ability

2. Null Hypotheses (h₀)

There is no significant relationship between reading comprehension and translation ability.

D. Objective and Significance of the Research

1. The Objective of the Research

To identify the correlation between Reading Comprehension and Translation Ability at SMP Islam Al Mukmin

2. The Significance of the Research

There are two kinds of benefits theoretical and practical benefits.

Theoretically, the result of this research can be used as a reference for the who wants to take the same title but with more discussion and more detailed.

Practically, the result of this research can increase the knowledge of the researcher and for the parties involved. Especially for the student at Al Mukmin can get some advantages in Reading Comprehension and translation ability. It will help them to provide all necessary skill and background knowledge whether it is in reading or in translation skill. It can be used as a reference for continuing to improve the quality of the school. This paper also can be use to add the collection for library and provide the information to the readers.

E. Operational Definitions

The data collecting of the research is using documentation technique which based on written sources. Finding information with method of data collected through the books and internet. The writer obtains the information about the data collecting relevant to problem that will examines. The writer attempts to explain the operational definition as the theories which received from source books as follow:

1. Reading Comprehension

Reading comprehension is often conceptualized as functioning at different levels of sophistication and referred to, for example, as literal, inferential and critical. The most basic level is where the reader is able to understand the factual information presented in a passage of text – for example, he or she can tell you the name of the main character and what he does for a living, because that information is stated explicitly in the text. The next level is referred to as the inferential level.

2. Translation Ability

Translation is the process of conveying the meaning of a text written in the source language through a text written in the target language. The English language makes a terminological distinction between translating the act of translating a written text and interpreting the act of communicating orally or symbolically between speakers of different languages. According to this distinction, translation can start only after writing first appears within a language community.

F. The Systematization of the Research

To get easier view of this scientific paper, the writer arranges it into five chapter which are summary of writing is called systematic of the paper. The five chapter are as follows:

Chapter I is Introduction. It consists of background of the study, the scope of problem, the question of research, the objective of the research, the significant of the research, and the systematic of the paper.

Chapter II is Theoretical Description. It explains of some theories taken from many references to support the research such as the definition of Reading comprehension and Translation ability

Chapter III is Methodology of the Research. It explains about time and place of the research, procedure of the research, technique of data collection,

Chapter VI is Research finding discussion. It explains about the data description and the data analysis, and the data interpretation

Chapter V is Conclusion and Suggestion. It summarizes and gives suggestion based on the previous chapters and give suggestion for the students and other researches