

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

In this chapter, the researcher will explain the background of the study, the study's problem, the study's objective, the significance of the research, and the scope of the problem.

### **1.1 Background of Study**

Many people are required to speak English because it is an international language. Mastering English can positively impact social, educational, and professional life. For starters, when people have a good command of the English language, they can readily communicate with others. As previously stated, English is an international language that a large group speaks of people; therefore, if people understand English, they will interact easily with foreigners. Second, understanding English can assist people in obtaining a higher education and a better job. Furthermore, for students, English has become a significant factor in getting a scholarship, allowing them to achieve the education they choose.

English is a foreign language in Indonesia that needs to be taught from elementary school until university. The Indonesian government has declared that English is essential in all public schools. The Indonesian government has recently modified the curriculum. The former curriculum was KTSP (Kurikulum Tingkat Satuan Pendidikan), or the 2006 Curriculum. However, the 2013 Curriculum is now being used in Indonesia. English subjects are still required in the 2013 curriculum, but their forms have been reduced. Furthermore, the curriculum takes center stage in the teaching-learning activities. Regardless of changes in the curriculum, English remains one of the courses in the Indonesian National Examination. Many schools now use Curriculum 2013 in their lessons. One among them is SMPN 7 Medan, which forms the focus of this study.

There are four primary skills that the teacher at the school should teach. Listening, speaking, writing, and reading are all examples of skills. Students

must be able to master all skills. Grammar, pronunciation, phonology, and vocabulary are only a few aspects of English that should be well-understood. "Without grammar, very little can be conveyed, and nothing can be conveyed without vocabulary," Wilkins (in Thornbury, 2002:13) notes. Then, to be good English learners, students must understand all components. When students understand all of the elements, they will utilize English as effectively as possible in their daily lives.

Reading is one of the English skills. According to Tarigan (2008: 7), reading is a process through which a reader acquires a message that a writer delivers through words that the reader can see and understand. It's crucial to read effectively, and students will get a lot of knowledge by reading. Students can also learn new things via reading periodicals, newspapers, tabloids, and other publications. Moreover, students might also pass the time by reading novels, short stories, and other literary works. Learning English can also help them become more creative. Students can use their imagination to write if they are creative. For this reason, understanding English, particularly reading, is critical.

There are many issues that teachers and students face when teaching and studying reading. Teaching reading is a difficult task for teachers. English teachers have a significant responsibility to ensure that their students comprehend an English text. Teachers should select a suitable teaching approach for their students when teaching English. In reality, teachers teach their students by old methodologies such as reading books and regular practice. Students will be bored if they have to attend an English class. Teachers used to teach a book by having students read it and then complete the task in the classroom. These strategies have little impact on students' comprehension of the text. Students are lacking in vocabulary. One of the major issues is that they cannot memorize new words. Vocabulary is crucial in the teaching and learning of reading. Students can readily learn and comprehend the content if they have a large vocabulary.

One alternative to teaching reading is to use a game to overcome these issues. Huyen and Nga (2003) also agree that "Students benefit from games

because they help them relax and have fun. They make it easier for kids to remember and understand new words ". The Spelling Bee Game is an excellent game for increasing kids' vocabulary. According to Uranga (in Rahayu, 2009), a Spelling Bee is a competition where participants correctly spell words. Teachers can quickly and successfully teach their students with this game. Students will gain more vocabulary by accurately spelling the terms and comprehending their meanings. Students will be more motivated to participate in the English class learning process if they use this game.

In the end, according to the researchers, using the Spelling Bee game as a strategy for teaching reading comprehension will be more effective. The writer is interested in conducting a study under the title "**THE EFFECT USING SPELLING BEE GAME ON STUDENTS' READING COMPREHENSION OF THE EIGHT-GRADE AT SMPN 7 MEDAN.**"

## **1. 2 The Problem of Study**

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

1. Does the spelling bee game affect the students' reading comprehension of the eighth grade at SMPN 7 Medan?

## **1. 3 The Objective of Study**

Based on the research problem, the researcher devised the following research objectives:

1. To determine if the spelling bee game affects the students' reading comprehension of the eighth grade at SMPN 7 Medan?

## **1. 4 The Significance of Research**

The following are some of the implications of teaching and learning to speak that this research field is expected to carry out:

1. For teachers

The Spelling Bee is one media that may enhance reading comprehension, create a new environment in the classroom, and increase the teachers'

ability to teach English, particularly reading skills. It is expected that the spelling bee will be used as an alternate medium for teaching reading.

2. For students

Spelling Bee is expected to help students memorize new vocabulary. It will improve their vocabulary to comprehend and understand the English texts well.

3. For other researchers

This research can be used as an example when conducting research on games in the classroom to enhance reading comprehension.

### **1. 5 The Scope of Study**

The study focuses on the effectiveness of using the Spelling Bee of eight-grade students' reading comprehension. The study will be conducted in one of the junior high schools in Medan by selecting two classes as a control group and an experimental group.