

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

Reading comprehension is one of English skills that focused on how to understand a text. Students are able to get many information if the students have good reading comprehension. There are many sources of reading that can be useful for the students. Sources of reading can be taken from the library, whether it is online library or offline library. Reading comprehension is an activity done by the reader to get information from the text that had been read by the reader. Farrel (2009) stated that reading is not passive activity done by the readers, but it is activity done by the readers. The readers are able to interact with the text. Hobbs (2001) mentioned that the readers have to able to have images of mental form which is there in the readers' mind when they are reading a text. This activity enables them to be able to construct the meaning that can be taken from the text.

In fact, there are many students who still have problems when reading the text. It is very hard for students to read the texts and know the information which have been read before. There are many reasons why the students do feel hard to comprehending the text. Several problems are faced by the students when comprehending the text. The students had limited English vocabulary mastery and having less English grammar mastery. Especially for EFL learners, English is still a foreign language. It means there must be more effort to understand the text which is read by the students.

To facilitate and solve the problem, there are some researchers who have done the research and tried to give solution in improving the the ability of the students in comprehending a text. To support this research, the writer read some researches and got conclusion from the researchers. Firstly, a research was carried out by Musdizal (2019), it could be concluded that visualization strategy was able to help the students in comprehending the text (recount text). From the research result, it can be seen that the students' mean scores were better after learning by applying Visualization Strategy. Secondly, David, Masliza and Sulaiman, Nur Ainil (2021) carried out a research. After carrying out the research, it was concluded that Visualization Strategy helped the young learners in detecting the level of words, level of sentences, and level of texts. Visualization Straregy enabled the studentrs in learning reading comprehension. The students also were enabled in solving the problems when the students were learning reading comprehension. The students as the readers were able to make better decision before creating the product of visualization after reading a text.

Based on the curriculum applied by the government of Indonesia nowadays, reading comprehension is the basic level that must be mastered by the learners. The students are expected to have ability in comprehending a text, especially the students who were from Junior High School and Senior High School. In many examinations, there are many reading comprehension questions. According to the result of the text, it was found that there were many difficulties faced by the students when answering the questions, so the students need to learn more about reading comprehension.

The writer had carried out an observation before at SMA Swasta Nurcahaya Medan at grade XI. This observation was used as the pre-liminary study. From this observation, the writer

concluded that the students were still hard to understand the reading comprehension. When the English teacher invited the students to read a text, the students got problems in comprehending the text. Several problems were faced by the students after reading a text. The students felt hard in comprehending the content of a text. From an observation conducted before, it can be known that the students were still hard to understand a text. It can be seen from the students' scores after joining a test. The students need to be taught by applying new concept of teaching model.

According to the situation seen by the writer, there was an interest from the writer to carry out this research by implementing Visualization Strategy. This Visualization strategy was expected to help the students in comprehending a text. According to Goudis and Harvey (2000), it was stated that visualization is an activity by the readers by creating pictures in their minds when the readers are reading a text. The readers must be able imagine that there has been a picture when the readers are reading a text. By seeing a picture, the readers can understand what picture is being read. In supporting this idea, Debbie Miller (2001) explained that reading is an activity that has meaning in it. The readers are able to visualize a picture in readers' mind.

The students can feel bored when the students are joining a reading class. The students cannot make that reading is a challenge and an interest to do. Because of this situation, the reading comprehension class cannot be undertaken well by the English teachers. According to this situation the writer had interests in carrying out this research. The research entitled: *"The Effect of Visualization Strategy on the Students' Reading Comprehension at SMA Swasta Nurcahaya Medan"*.

The writer formulated the problem of this research as "Does Visualization Strategy affect the students' reading comprehension at SMA Swasta Nurcahaya Medan?". The objective of this research was to find out the effectiveness of the implementation of Visualization Strategy on the students' reading comprehension at SMA Swasta Nurcahaya Medan. The focus of this research was on the reading comprehension. This research focused on the Descriptive text in the reading comprehension. The writer taught descriptive text to the students who were from grade ten at school year 2022/2023.

There were two major significancies in carrying out this research, theoretically and practically. From the theoretical aspect, this research was expected by the writer as one of references which can be used by the next researchers who are going to carry out the researches, especially focusing on this topic of research. Practically, it was expected that this research will give benefits for English teachers and students at SMA Swasta Nurcahaya Medan. The students were expected to be motivated and have more interests and spirits in learning reading comprehension. English teachers also were expected to apply this research as one of references in teaching reading comprehension to the students.