

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Research

In this era of expanding globalization, scientific and technical advancements cannot be overlooked as crucial aspects in the acquisition of foreign languages, particularly English. However, there are many students whose proficiency in studying English is inadequate. Typically, there are four essential English skills that one must become proficient in. Listening is the act of perceiving a signal in the form of a voice through the listener's senses (ears). Reading is the act of perceiving information through the sense of sight (the eyes). Writing is the act of receiving and transmitting a signal through a series of sentences or words. Speaking is the act of transmitting a signal through the sense of speech or perception. Oral cavity. Among the four skills, reading is a crucial aspect of achieving mastery of the English language due to its ability to facilitate the acquisition of information and knowledge (Barus, 2017).

Reading is the act of processing information from text and previous knowledge to create understanding. Reading is an essential skill that everyone should have. It is an educational exercise that enhances students' knowledge. It helps students acquire expertise in the use of English. Reading is a sophisticated cognitive activity that involves understanding the meaning of words and written messages. Reading involves interpreting printed or verbal symbols in meaningful ways. This phenomenon arises from the interaction of graphic symbols that represent language, reader language skills, cognitive abilities, and global knowledge. Reading is the ability to understand text at a deeper level. The following tasks focus only on reading comprehension, requiring the individual to understand a variety of text elements, including key concepts, information details, references, conclusions, and dictionaries (Hutahuruk, at all, 2022).

One of the four key parts of the text that should be highlighted is the descriptive text, which refers to the act of explaining or describing an event or occurrence. Essentially, a description text is a type of text that students should become proficient in, as its purpose is to elucidate or depict an occurrence or happening. However, the truth is that a significant number of high school students require improvement in their ability to comprehend and analyze descriptive language. This can be attributed to several factors, including the

insufficient engagement of students in activities such as reading, spelling, and selecting appropriate terminology, both in the title and the content of the book. Furthermore, the students lack of attentiveness towards the teachers explanation of the subject matter regarding descriptive texts is another contributing aspect that needs improvement in reading comprehension (P, 2017).

Reading comprehension is the process a reader goes through to find information and understanding that information in a book they are reading. According to (Linse, 2005), understanding reading means reading to learn, have fun, or understand something. (Zimmerman, 2014) says that understanding reading is simply being able to understand what you have read. Additionally, one meaning of reading comprehension says that it is a set of steps that a reader takes to find information and understand that information in a reading text. Suwandi, writing in (Supriyono and Abu Ahmadi, 1991), defines interest as the state of liking or disliking an action. When someone wants to learn how to do something, they will put in even more effort. The same thing happens when someone is really interested in reading. If someone is really interested in reading, he will try harder to understand what he reads.

Obtaining the skill of reading and regularly engaging in reading activities is crucial, as it familiarizes students with a wide range of knowledge, facilitates the acquisition of new information, and enables effective written communication with others (Auzia Ramadhanti Azahrah, 2021). Students are required to acquire proficiency in the English language through exposure to several forms of written material. During English lessons, the students engage with a substantial amount of text, resulting in reading being the primary focus of teaching and learning activities in the classroom. This emphasis on reading also impacts the development of other skills. There are many reasons why reading skills are good for students, the first one can build new words for students. When students read texts, they will find lots of new words and from this benefit they will increase their word stock in their brains. Besides, they'll also learn the meaning of those words. Second, students can improve their understanding of language structures like English. Third, they get some information from written text and get a lot of ideas from it.

Therefore, the researchers focused on conducting research at the VIII-I Grade of High School Pangeran Antasari Medan. The research is looking to assess students' comprehension of reading by evaluating their capacity to interpretation descriptive reading materials.

1.2 Identification of The Research

Based on the above background, there are some problems that can be identified as follows:

1. Some students have a lower capacity to comprehend significant information that are presented in descriptive texts..
2. Students are only capable of reading texts but they can't comprehend them.

1.3 Research Problems

Based on the background description above, in the writing of this article the author gives the formula for the problem as follows:

1. How is students reading comprehension on descriptive text?
2. What challenges students in reading comprehend on descriptive text?

1.4 Objective of The Research

In writing this article, the author has research purposes among others as follows:

1. To find out students' reading comprehension on descriptive text
2. To outline the challenges students encounter when comprehending descriptive text

1.5 Significant of The Research

In writing this article, there are three benefits namely for English Teachers, Students and Researcher, among others as follows:

1. For English Teachers

The English teacher should assign assignments to the students to enhance their proficiency in reading the language.

2. For Students

Students should practice reading more to improve their comprehension and sentence structure skills. Furthermore, it is crucial for students to regularly participate in reading exercises in order to improve their spoken communication skills.

3. Next Researcher

This article can be a useful reference for future academics looking for new ideas when conducting research on this topic. Moreover, they can choose to use this thesis as their main reference for research literature.