

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter discusses background of the research, statement of the problem, objective of the research, significance of the research, the scope of the research and operational definition.

#### **1.1 Background of the Research**

Learning English is very important as it has become a global language. English is widely used in all over the world and regarded as the language of higher education. In Indonesia, English has to be taught formally start from primary school up to university level and has been included in Indonesian Curriculum. In learning English, there are four basic language skills. They are listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

One of the most influencing skills of English is reading. Because it can help the students to broaden the knowledge and get more information in detail rather than only from listening to radio, watching television, or watching movies. With this skill, they also can develop their knowledge which related to their studies through reading academic books, magazine, newspaper, advertisement, and many kinds of written languages from the internet.

Reading is an important skill to learn English vocabulary and also learn many things. As Grellet (1999:4) stated that there are two main reasons for reading: reading for pleasure and reading for information (in order to find out something or in order to do something with the information the readers get). Based on this statement, the students will get much information about everything that they do not know before. By reading, the students can find some specific information, understand the whole stories, and the students also can be entertained especially when they read folktales, comics, novel, short story, etc. In this case, reading has to be learnt by the students to enhance their reading comprehension especially for senior high school students.

Based on the curriculum of 2013, the students are required to comprehend English text. In comprehending the text, the students should understand what the writer is trying to convey. Oberholzer (2005) said that understanding what we are reading is far more important to us than knowing the mechanical skill of reading. Without understanding, reading would provide no purpose. Understanding the text is the most important aspect in reading. It can conclude that the students not only should understand but also they should comprehend the text that they read. As Townend (2003) stated that comprehend means that the students should fully understand of all the aspect of the text. Indonesian students may get problems in comprehending English text because English is not their first language. For example, when the teacher asks them about some information that do not purely mention in the text but still in the context. Likewise, when the researcher observed the students of eleventh grade of SMA 1 Pecangaan Jepara on 28<sup>th</sup> of September 2017 by doing teaching practice program, most of the students were still difficult to comprehend the English text. Some of them were lack of new vocabularies and do not know the real information that the writer wanted to deliver because in comprehending text there has to be a connection between the reader and the writer.

This research is supported by the previous research by Shehu (2015) entitled “Reading Comprehension Problems Encountered by Foreign Language Students, Case Study: Albania, Croatia”. The result is that there are many factors which make the students feel difficult in reading comprehension, it starts from vocabulary until type of text that students work with in the classroom.

Based on the background, the researcher would like to conduct a research entitled “Students’ Problem in Reading Comprehension (A Descriptive Study in SMAN 1 Pecangaan Jepara)”.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Based on the background of the research above, the researcher decides the statement of the problem as follow:

1. What are the problems of eleventh grade students of senior high school in reading comprehension?

2. What are the strategies of eleventh grade students of senior high school to solve the problems in reading comprehension?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Research**

Based on the statement of the problem, the researcher decides the objective of the research as follow:

1. To find out the problems of eleventh grade students of senior high school in reading comprehension.
2. To find out the strategies to solve the problems of eleventh grade students of senior high school in reading comprehension.

### **1.4 Significance of the Research**

The researcher hopes that this research can give theoretical and practical significances.

1. Theoretically, this research can give some information to the readers about the students' problem in reading comprehension and the students' strategy to solve the problem.
2. Practically, this research can be used for the other researchers as a next reference for conducting the same research.

### **1.5 Scope of the Research**

This research focuses on the students' problem in reading comprehension and the students' strategies to solve the problem. It will be conducted at eleventh grade students of SMAN 1 Pecangaan Jepara in 2018/2019 academic year. The grade consists of language, science and social programs which only be taken one class from each program. Reading comprehension is an ability to comprehend English text. Moreover, it is an ability to get information from some English written texts by grasping meaning and integrating it with reader's background knowledge so the reader can identify what the writer really want to say. The English written texts are short functional text and genre text which the students have ever got in school. Students' problem in reading comprehension is problem faced by the students in

reading comprehension and the students' strategies are strategies that are used to solve the problem in reading comprehension.

### **1.6 Operational Definition**

There are three terms are defined based on the title of this research. The researcher reveals the terms in order to avoid different perception. It can be shown as follow:

1. Reading Comprehension is an ability to get information from some English written texts by grasping the meaning and integrating it with reader's background knowledge so the reader can identify what the writer really want to say. The English texts are genre text and short functional text which the students have ever got in school.
2. Students' Problem in Reading Comprehension is problem faced by students in reading comprehension.
3. SMAN 1 Pecangaan Jepara is a state senior high school located in Jalan Raya Pecangaan – Jepara, KM. 12, Pecangaan, Jepara.

