

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Reading is the process of reading a word, sentence, paragraph, or text in order to know the message being delivered. According to Handayani et al., (2020), Readers use their eyes to read and their brains to translate those symbols into words, sentences, and paragraphs. Reading can improve one's capacity to express themselves, think clearly, communicate effectively, and also aid in emotional expression (Susilowati, 2019). In the process of reading, students not only read a text but also comprehend the text. Reading comprehension refers to the capacity to read a text, understand its content, and manage every element of the text (Hidayat, 2019). According to Satria, (2016) stated that comprehension is described as purposeful thinking during which meaning is created through interactions between the text and the reader. It means that students attempt to relate ideas in the text with their previous knowledge.

Story pyramid is one of the strategies used for teaching and learning reading comprehension. According to Macom, et al (in Saputra, 2020) stated that story pyramid help students in identifying a story's highlights and describing its key elements briefly. It can be assumed that using story pyramid, students can find important information from a text quickly such as characters, settings, problems, and events that occur in a story. Story pyramid strategy can be applied after the process of reading activities is finish.

Based on the results of interviews with lecturer of intensive reading courses at the English Education Department of Universitas Muria Kudus, there are many students who are still low in mastery of reading comprehension. The average of their scores is 79. There are several problems in the learning process when learning activities take place. Some students have low reading comprehension skills due to their limited English skills, especially in terms of

identifying the meaning of English words. It makes challenging for the students to fully comprehend the topic. Furthermore, students still confuse to find the main idea in the reading text. In addition, the lack of attendance and activeness of students makes them lag behind in their reading comprehension skills.

There are some previous researches which discussed about the influence of using the story pyramid strategy on students' reading comprehension. The research was conducted by Nurchurifiani et al (2018) and Rahmayuni (2022). They concluded that there is a significant effect of using Story Pyramid strategy on improvement of reading comprehension. This research is different from the previous research. The difference is in the subject of the research. The subject of the research is second semester of English Education Department Universitas Muria Kudus. In additional, there are differences in the use of media. In this study, the media used in implementing the story pyramid strategy is short story.

Based on the statement above, the writer is interested in conducting the research, entitle “The Influence of Using the Story Pyramid Strategy of Short Story on Students’ Reading Comprehension of English Education Department Universitas Muria Kudus”.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the background of the research above, the writer formulates the statement of the problem as:

Is there any significant difference between the mastery of reading comprehension of second-semester students of English Education Department at Universitas Muria Kudus in academic year 2023/2024 before and that after being taught using the story pyramid strategy of short story?

1.3 Objective of the Research

Based on the statement of the research problem above, the objective of the research can be aim:

To find out whether there is a significant difference of the mastery of reading comprehension of second-semester students of English Education Department at Universitas Muria Kudus in academic year 2023/2024 before and after being taught using the story pyramid strategy of short story.

1.4 Significance of the Research

The researcher hopes that the result will be useful as follow:

- 1) The College Students : give information and motivation for students to improve their reading comprehension by using story pyramid strategy.
- 2) The Lecturers: find teaching technique for students to improve their reading comprehension by using story pyramid strategy of short story.
- 3) Next Researchers: hopefully will be useful for the next researcher who wants to conduct similar research and interested in developing research that has been researched by the writer.

1.5 Scope of the Research

The scope of this research is English reading comprehension. The writer taught students by using the story pyramid strategy of short story. The writer focused on one class from 3 classes A, B, C in the second semester as a sample which took using cluster random sampling in the English Education Department at Universitas Muria Kudus in academic year 2023/2024. The result sample class was class B.

1.6 Operational Definition

The following are some definitions of specific terms used in this research:

1. Reading Comprehension

Reading comprehension is the ability to analyze text, comprehend its meaning, and relate it to prior knowledge.

2. Story Pyramid Strategy of Short Story

Story Pyramid Strategy of Short Story is an interesting and exciting learning strategy to read using short story by analyzing and understanding carefully the elements contained in the story.

3. Students of English Education Department

Students of English Education Department are students who are pursuing higher education in the field or majoring in English education.