

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

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

### 1.1 Background of The Research

The basis of learning and developing one's mind is understanding what is written (Khalilova, 2023). English is a language taught in schools and required at all levels, particularly in non-formal education. Four language skills should be mastered by students learning English. They are speaking, writing, listening, and reading. Since the lesson on reading comprehension should not only be translated but also comprehend the text's message, comprehension of reading is a very complicated topic that calls for consistency, precision, and a deeper understanding of the work (Ainun, 2021).

Reading is one linguistic skill that helps with understanding every aspect. However, some people have poor reading subjects, which makes them uninterested in reading. Literacy is one of the essential English language skills. Make sure there is time set up during reading sessions for your students to discuss the material (passage, story, and writing). As a result, the readers can discuss what they have read in the story or section, as well as compose messages and read aloud to explore their ideas. Children need to grasp reading as a fundamental skill to succeed in school and life.

In reading, students should be instructed to apply their prior knowledge to comprehend unfamiliar material, whether it be concepts or simple language (Manado, 2022). However, comics are also stories that highlight motion and action, conveyed through a combination of words and a succession of specifically drawn visuals. Digital Comic Books are electronic versions of comic books that can be read on digital devices such as smartphones, tablets, or computers. Narrative text is a type of text that tells a story or recounts events. Learning narrative text in reading improves their comprehension skills, as it helps them understand story structures, such as plot, character, and themes. Narrative text can be attractive to students because it tells a story, making learning more engaging and relatable by connecting ideas to real-life experiences and emotions. Additionally, the researcher believes that using digital comic books to solve this problem is a very original and creative solution because in addition to books comics of today can also be found online, which can inspire students to

improve their reading and comprehension skills. In other words, students can find comics to read in soft copy, which can help them further as the teacher applies the drill method.

Students who struggle with reading may find it difficult to comprehend what is being read, as shown by the fact that they prefer using gadgets to books in their hands now. This may occur as a result of the lack of engaging reading material or discussions, antiquated teaching strategies, and the prevalence of electronic device use in games. This usually happens because of students' lack of desire due to the teacher's direction, the assignment of challenging and weighty reading material, and the limitations of certain reading aids. According (Gusmeri, 2020), said that Some students struggle with understanding texts well enough to extract information from them. Some media are created to assist them in resolving their problems.

The researcher found a problem in the reading comprehension of tenth-grade students at SMK PGRI 2 Kudus. The researcher used narrative text with Digital Comic Books media to improve students' reading comprehension. The researcher wants to introduce narrative text using digital comic books to students to increase student's motivation to read.

With the previous context, this research aims to find out whether using digital comic books in the classroom improves students' reading comprehension.

#### **1.4.2 Statement of The Problems**

The theoretical framework discussed in the previous discussion allows for the formulation of the following problems: Is there any significant difference of teaching narrative text of the tenth-grade students of SMK PGRI 2 Kudus in the 2023/2024 academic year before and after being taught by using digital comic books?

### **1.3 Objective of The Research**

The objective of the research based on the statement of the problem found as follows: To find out if there is a significant difference or not teaching narrative text of the tenth-grade students of SMK PGRI 2 Kudus in the 2023/2024 academic year between before and after being taught by using digital comic books.

### **1.4 Significance of The Research**

In this research, the writer expected that the research paper would benefit both theoretical and practical.

#### **1. Theoretical**

The result of this research can be used as a reference in the English teaching and learning process, especially in teaching reading.

#### **2. Practical**

The teacher and students of SMK PGRI 2 Kudus get a lot of knowledge about teaching reading using digital comic books.

### **1.5 Operational Definition**

To prevent misunderstandings regarding the meaning of the title, the writer clarifies the following phrases used in the research title :

1. Reading

Reading is the process of getting meaning from a set of written symbols by examining them. While reading, our eyes interpret written symbols—such as letters, punctuation, and spaces—and our brains translate those symbols into words, phrases, and paragraphs that provide meaning to us.

2. Digital Comic Books

Digital comic books are comics that are read on electronic devices like smartphones, tablets, or computers instead of on paper. Digital comic books can include features such as zooming, animations, and sound, making the reading experience more interactive than traditional printed comics.

3. Narrative Text

A narrative text is a type of text that tells a story or recounts events. It often includes characters, a setting, a plot, and a sequence of events, typically with a beginning, middle, and end.

4. The tenth-grade students of SMK PGRI 2 Kudus are the students who have been studying at SMK PGRI 2 Kudus in the 2023/2024 Academic Year.