

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

English is one of the languages that used by many people in the world. It is also recognized as the main language for communication with other people from different countries and cultures. Richards (2007:2) stated that “English is the language of globalization, international communication, commerce and trade, the media and pop culture, different motivation for learning it come in to pray.”By using a language, people are able to convey their messages, to express their idea in oral or written language so that they can communicate with each other. However, understanding the meaning of certain language especially English that is not our own language is more difficult. People should understand every singleword until they can find the meaning of one sentence and get the correct insight of that sentence.

As an international language, English has been included to Indonesian Educational System Curriculum. It is one of main subjects in junior high school, senior high school, and in the university level. There are four main skills in English learning, such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Speaking as one of the main skills in English subject has an own passion to make students learn more about English. Speaking skill is an ability that every English learner needs. Nowadays, English plays an important role in education and students are expected to communicate effectively in institutions where English is the medium of instruction. Learners face the task of mastering content area in subjects such as

mathematics, social studies, science, and business which are taught in the target language (English). In such cases, teaching and learning of English can help the students to deal successfully with their academic demands and to perform successfully in their disciplines and professional contexts (Adams & Keene, 2000). English may not be the most spoken language in the world, but it is the official language in a large number of countries. It is estimated that the number of people in the world that use in English to communicate on a regular basis is 2 billion. English is the dominant business language and it has become almost a necessity for people to speak English if they are to enter a global workforce.

Research from all over the world shows that cross-border business communication is most often conducted in English. Its importance in the global market place therefore cannot be understated, learning English really can change your life. Many of the world's top films, books and music are published and produced in English. Therefore, by learning English, people will have access to a great

Reading is one of language skills that should be learned by all students since it is a receptive skill that will be effective to develop productive skills such as speaking and writing. For university students, reading is an activity that should be done since they have to read compulsory books or other materials related to their courses. Besides, reading can add students' knowledge, increase the number of vocabularies, improve analytical thinking, stimulate creativity, help to solve a problem, and reduce stress.

Reading cannot be separated from comprehension. That is why there appear a lot of problem dealing with reading comprehension. Many English learners find it difficult to understand English text. Very often, they get stuck because of some problems, such as unfamiliar words, their inability in understanding the context, being reluctant, and so forth. The technique of finding the meaning of an unknown word through its use in sentences and then guessing how it is pronounced known as contextual guessing or context identification, or the use of context clues.

Students who loves reading and spends a lot of time in reading activity also has ability to write well. By reading, students can improve their vocabulary and writing skill. On the contrary, a student who has low reading ability will find difficulty in learning process. Moreover, the students will feel ashamed in adapting themselves with their school environment. Conversely, a good readers must be more skilled in mastering grammar and vocabulary understanding. The importance of reading is to build the ability and knowledge of students to understand the material of reading text. Such as ability to read various texts in English, ability to adjust reading styles according to the purpose of reading (i, e skimming, scanning), and ability to have critical perspective on the content of the texts.

There are possibilities that the English language students may get difficulties in understanding reading text, it is caused by wrong word identification and recognition. Realizing that understanding text is very important to be achieved by the students in reading skill, these difficulties in understanding reading text should be known and solved both by the students and the teacher because the difficulties will give negative impact on the students' ability and motivation to achieve the reading target. Eventually the researcher would like to overcome the students' problem so that the researcher used contextual clues strategy in reading comprehension.

Unfortunately, the importance of reading has not been realized by many students, yet. There are still many students who have difficulty in reading such as understanding the meaning of words, finding the main ideas, finding the general and specific information from the text and understanding reading passage/text.

Based on the problem explanation, the researcher thinks that she has to apply a strategy in order to help the students solve their reading problem. When the language learners are confronted with text, they may be stuck by shortage of vocabulary inventory and are unable to understand the content of the text. The first thing that learners do to understand difficult words is to check dictionary. However, A good method can be an effort he students' reading ability better. Media and strategy also make the class to be alive during the reading lesson. By developing good method, technique and media students are expected to be able to have an active learning. Active learning can make the students interested in the

reading lesson that given to them, not only silent or passive in the teaching and learning process.

It is important for teachers to find a technique that is easy and can be applied for the students in learning reading. By using the effective technique, the students can follow the lesson well and they can increase their reading comprehension because the technique of teaching influences the students will be easy to understand the meaning of context. On the other hand the basic problem in reading are most of the students fell bored when reading comprehension subject, lazy to read long passages, do not know the meaning, lack of vocabularies, minim strategies when faced reading comprehension eventually the researchetr nisiative to conduct this research based on some problem. Therefore, the researcher is interested in conducting research entitles "*Investigating Students' Raeding Comprehension at SMA Negeri 6 Ternate.*"

B. Scope of the Problem

This research focused on the students reading comprehension at SMA Negeri 6 Ternate.

C. Statement of the Problem

The statement of this research as follow: What are students reading comprehension at SMA Negeri 6 Ternate?

D. Objective of the Research

The objective of this research is to find out the students' reading comprehension at SMA Negeri 6 Ternate.

E. Significance of the Research

1. Theoretical Significance

The results of this research are expected to enrich the theories especially students learning of reading comprehension by context clues strategy.

2. Practical Significance

a. For the students

By learning reading comprehension, the students can take some information to identify their problems in mastering reading comprehension. Furthermore, they can also increase their ability in reading comprehension.

b. For the teachers

This research is expected to provide students with the information about reading comprehension, in which the teachers will help their students when facing some problems in mastering it. English teachers can use the result of the study as a feedback on teaching reading activities so that the objectives of the English teaching program (especially reading goals) can be achieved.

c. For the researcher

it is hoped that the researcher can get more information to identify the problem in mastering reading comprehension. Besides, the researcher will get new experience and knowledge for the future research.

d. For the next researcher

It is expected to give meaning full information and to give motivation for the next researcher to create another research about strategy.