

## **Chapter One**

### **Introduction**

This chapter explains several points related to the problems of the study. To elaborate chapter one, the researcher explains the background of the study which discusses about the reading and short stories in English. After that, this chapter also covers the statement of the problems and followed by why the research should be done. Then, the researcher also explains the research questions, objectives of the study, significance of the study. Lastly, the researcher delivers the research organization.

### **Research of the Background**

English is an international language and used by many people in the world. As a global language, English is used for many purposes by the community. One example is that English is used in education, both formal and informal, either as a second language or a foreign language. Moreover, English is used as a foreign language in Indonesia (Kasiyun, 2015, p. 80). In language activities, there are four language skills that everyone needs to have, namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing (Khoiruddin, Taulabi, dan Imron, 2016, p. 297). Two categories, namely productive skills and receptive skills, are included in these four basic skills. Reading and listening are receptive skills, whereas speaking and writing are considered productive skills (Javed, Juan & Nazli, 2013).

Reading according to (Grellet. P. as cites as Hasbaini and Abdul Manan, 2017) was one of four English language skills that the students learned to master in learning English language and reading was a key of knowledge and the window of world. In this case, reading is an essential skill that should be mastered by students. According to Cuwiarsih (2019: 214), reading

is one of the competency standards contained in the syllabus of English subjects for high school curriculum 2006. English reading is become important for better prospects and mobility, and endeavour to accomplish competency in communication. It will be necessary to get information and messages from the text more accessible. If a student has increased motivation and skills in reading texts, it will make it easier to do something.

One of the reading skill is reading comprehension . Comprehension is an active process that involves connecting the child's prior knowledge with information to understand the reading text. Reading comprehension is a skill that requires interaction between text elements and readers so that the readers will more easily understand how ideas develop based on interconnected texts (Nurainun, 2017). Reading comprehension involves using prior knowledge, making predictions, and attracting meaningful information, among other factors.

Before teaching reading skills to students, the teachers need to understand the students' reading comprehension. So that the methods that are used in the learning process do not become a burden for the children and that it interferes with other aspects of development. Therefore, the teachers need to understand the children age development and learning needs (Khoiruddin, Taulabi, dan Imron, 2016, p. 297).

One of the media of reading comprehension is short story. Short story is one of an interesting learning media for students. Based on (Zahra & Farrah 2016, as cited as Safitri 2020), short stories are one of the genres that can use to motivate English students, increase cultural awareness and students' tolerance, and improve their language skills. Short story has an uncomplicated plot, and the text is not too long. Besides, the story must be appropriate with the age and language skills of the students. Therefore, short story can help students to improve their reading comprehension. The short stories for teaching can be obtained from anywhere, for

example from books, collections of short stories, newspapers, and magazines. In today's era, technology is rapidly developing, especially in the information and communication area so that people can get the information from the internet for their needs. In the academic field, technology is needed to help the teaching and learning process, such as online libraries to help the teacher in choosing the proper short stories for students.

There are some problems that can be identified from the students reading comprehension;

1. Lack of vocabularies
2. students were difficult in expressing ideas
3. the teacher seldom uses interesting strategies in teaching reading
4. the students felt bored and did not understand how to read narrative text well.

Sometimes, students have difficulties in reading short stories, both difficulties in vocab, understanding stories, or even their wrong reading strategies. They will looking for help by opening a dictionary, asking other people or looking for new strategies in reading. The difficulties they experience will help them find new things in understanding short stories. There are some suggestions for teachers to help the students to minimize the difficulties:

1. The teachers can give more attention to teaching
2. The teachers give more exercise
3. The teachers must motivate the students by giving short stories as reading media; short stories are simple and easy to learn, especially for senior high school students
4. The teachers can give more sources about English textbooks.

### **Statement of the Problem**

The researchers have conducted interviews with several students. The researcher knows that some students have a lack of vocabulary. Sometimes, when students are reading a short story, they will find difficult in interpreting a word. Many unfamiliar words, so that students find

it difficult to understand the reading. Other students also mentioned that they have to look at the dictionary to be able to interpret the vocabulary to know the main idea of the text.

Many students have difficulty in understanding English material. Based on the researcher's experience, students have difficulty in learning English because of inappropriate strategies. Strategies can help students in solving problems well when experiencing difficulties. In addition, understanding what they are reading is beneficial for students. Sometimes, the teacher only teaches the material without paying attention to the teaching strategy.

The lack of reading habits is considered to be the one of the biggest problems in the world nowadays. The reason for the problem is technology such as TV and internet, as they have replaced books in the case of source of information. The students are lack interest in reading. Furthermore, the students only read when the teacher asked them. That habit makes them not getting used in reading English text.

### **Delimitation of the problem**

Based on the background of the study, the researcher only focuses to analyze the students' improvement in reading comprehension by using short stories. Also, the researcher will use an experimental design to determine the effect of short stories on students' reading comprehension and reading tests as a measuring tool. The participants were limited from tenth grade of senior high school students.

### **Research Question**

Based on the delimitation above, the research question of this study is "How is the effect of the use of short stories toward senior high school students' reading comprehension?"

## **The Objective of the Research**

Based in the research questions, the objective of this research is to investigate the effect of the use of short stories toward senior high school students' reading comprehension

## **Significances of the Research**

This research is expected to provide benefits to the following matters:

### **For students or prospective English teachers.**

The results of this research are expected to provide motivation for students who are currently studying to become English teachers to be more creative innovative in presenting material and media for their students.

### **For EFL teachers**

The results of the research are expected to help and provide solutions to teachers in developing learning strategies using short stories in teaching students reading skills.

### **For other researchers**

The results of this research are expected to be a description or reference for other researchers for the same or similar research so that their research becomes more mature and perfect.

## **Organization of the Study**

This study consists of five chapters, and each chapter contains subchapters. In the first chapter, the researcher wants to describe the introduction, which consists of the background of the study based improving reading skills through short stories in reading comprehension, statement of the problem, delimitation of the problem. This chapter also describes research

questions to help researchers obtain data. In addition, this chapter also discusses the objectives of the study, the significance of the study, and the outline of the study. The second chapter discusses literature review and theories related to short story reading skills. There are some contents discussed in chapter two. The researcher will explain further about the understanding of reading, the reading process, the problems students get in reading the text, the meaning of short stories, and the types of short stories. In chapter three, the research will present a research methodology which discusses the methodology of how researchers collect data and discusses research design, research settings, research participants, and data collection methods. Chapter four will present the discussion of the research. The last, or chapter five, will present a conclusion that will explain the results of the study and the references of this research.