

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides general explanations of what the researcher will discuss in this research. The introductory part contains several subheadings such as background of study, research problem, objective of study, significance of study, scope and limitation of study, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of Study

In general, a language is defined as a means of communication. It means that when people are engaging in communication, a language is used as the medium of communication between the speaker to encode messages and it enables the listener to decode the messages back. By language, both the speaker and the listener can understand each other. Thus, when there is communication, there will be language, so language and communication are very closely related.

English is an international language. In Indonesia, English is the first foreign language and it is subject taught from junior high school up to University. So, English is very important for education. To comprehend English well, the student has to learn the four English skills which are listening, speaking, reading and writing, and the most important one is reading. Because of reading is part of comprehension of language.

Among the English skills, reading is the most subject that focused on this study. Reading is a kind of developmental processes. At first, people read words and sentences that have been mastered orally. Then, they learn to read the words and sentence pattern in new combinations. After reading the sentences, they read paragraph and short passages and so on. As stated by Suyanto (2007: 64) “Taught reading skills of word, phrase, then discourse with simple vocabulary to the more difficult vocabulary, short discourse to a longer with longer vocabulary with grammar more diverse.”

In teaching reading, increasing the students’ reading ability is generally considered to be an important part. In simple description, reading is one component of language skills. Achieving reading ability may contribute to the whole language learning. But in most cases, the students frequently find difficulties in comprehending English texts.

Based on the observation, the researcher found some problems. Firstly, the students’ reading ability was low. They just read the text but they didn’t understand and catch the meaning of the text that they read. So, as a result the students often forgot about what they read. Furthermore, the teachers need to find some efforts that can generate interest so the students could read well. Secondly, based on the observation at VIII A the students often stopped reading when they found that the reading texts were hard to understand and vocabulary was limited. Another problem is they have low motivation. Therefore, these problem caused reading skill was difficult for

them. The problem has been found at the eighth grade student of SMPN 2 Pulung.

In order to solve the problem, the teacher should provide the students with appropriate teaching method. A teaching method is a prescribed set of ways applied to convey knowledge and competence to the students. Therefore, applying an appropriate teaching technique plays an important role in the teaching-learning process, including in the teaching of reading.

Based on the problems above, the write tries to implement a new method to teach reading well and more interesting. This method is AIR. It stands for Auditory, Intellectually, Repetition. By using this method, the students' memory capability and their confidence will be increase. Whereas the advantages for the teachers are they will get new knowledge about teaching technique to improve the teaching learning process and make the study more interesting. So, it can increase their reading ability.

At the school, reading skill is taught to students, including at SMPN 2 Pulung. To overcome the problem in which is faced by students, AIR (Auditory, Intellectually, Repetition) is applied in reading classroom. By applying the AIR is expected the students can be motivated and attracted in reading ability and expected the reading ability of the eight grade students at SMPN 2 Pulung will increase.

Based on the problems identified, the researcher interests to apply the method to improve the students' reading ability. Especially in reading descriptive text, the researcher decides to carry out classroom action research with entitled: "The Implementation AIR (Auditory, Intellectually, Repetation) Method to Improve Students Reading Ability at Eight Grade of SMPN 2 Pulung in Academic Year 2014/2015."

1.2 Research Problem

Based on the phenomena elaborated in the background of the study, the statement of problem of this research can be formulated as follow:

"How can the implementation of AIR (Auditory, Intellectually, Repetation) method to Improve Students Reading Ability at Eight Grade of SMPN 2 Pulung in the academic Year 2014/2015?"

1.3 Objective of Study

According to the statement of problem, the objective of this research is:

"To know the implementation of AIR (Auditory, Intellectually, Repetation) method to Improve Students Reading Ability at Eight Grade of SMPN 2 Pulung."

1.4 Importance of Study

Practically, the research will give contributions:

1. For the students

This research is helpful for the students to learn descriptive paragraph well.

It is helpful for students to read a pronunciations well, meaning and understand descriptive paragraph.

2. For the teacher

The teacher can use this method effectively to teach descriptive reading as well as to enrich his or her method in teaching.

Theoretically, the research will give contributions to:

1. For the researcher

This study gives benefit for researchers as a new experience and experiment to implement their method in teaching reading.

2. For Institution

It becomes a source of consideration for the official institutional policy as an effort to produce better outcomes, especially in improving student's English reading ability

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

1. Scope of this study:

The study is focused on the application of AIR (Auditory, Intellectually, Repetation) method in teaching reading ability.

2. Limitation of the study:

The writer limits this study only about teaching reading by using AIR method and focused at the Eight grade of SMPN 2 Pulung.

1.6 Definition of Key Term

To make easier in understanding this thesis, the researcher defines the key terms as follows:

Reading ability : The ability to understand and use those written language forms required by society and or value by the individual. (Rohim, 2010: 6)

AIR : Learning model that concen in three aspect, that is auditory (learn through listen), intellectually (learn through think), and repetition in order to be effective. (Juliani, 2012: 8)