

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

As an introduction, this chapter presents the background of study, statements of problem, purpose of the study, the significance of the study, scope and limitation and the definition of the key terms.

A. Background of the Study

Every human being needs to interact with other people around the world. An appropriate meaning of this interaction is language that can be used to express and share ideas, thought, responses, or get information from other. Language is a meant of communication. There are a lot of languages by people in various part of life in the world. One of them is English. English as an international language has an important position in the world communication today. Indonesia as a developing country gets involved in any aspects of international life and it cannot be denied that the mastery of English is necessary for Indonesian people.

Reading skill is one of the important abilities in learning and teaching process. Reading very important for student, because by reading the student can explore their ideas, creativity and knowledge. Especially in are modern societies. Certain people read to get information. Every people in everywhere and every time always combine with English when where communicate with other and people is able to understand messages in people mind.

According to Brown (2007: 232) mastering English requires some skills. For more than six decades now, research and practice in English language teaching have identified the “four skills” as of paramount importance. The four skills are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. From the fourth skill is reading that has an important role in learning English, which aims to browse all of the knowledge contained in the mind of the reader.

The teaching of reading, especially elementary reading, is one of the most debated subjects in education and even among the general public. This research will focus on reading skill. Because many students have problem in reading especially understanding meaning word by word. Reading is important subject to teach in the school in reading learning process, the student must understand what the content of text and they also have some vocabularies. (Mark, 2004: 20)

Reading skill is important in life so students must appreciate the fact that reading is a skill they should endeavor to master for the rest of their lives. Reading also as source of information and a pleasure activity. Besides that, reading is multifaceted process involving word recognition, comprehension, fluency, and motivation. Research findings in applied linguistics have shown that students who know how to read and understand what they read have a better school performance compared to his peers. (Caroline, 2005: 79)

Researcher only focuses on reading. Reading is a process that is carried and used by the reader to obtain messages, which would be submitted by the author through the medium of words / written language. (Tarigan, 1986: 7)

Based on the observation in SMPN 4 Bandar Pacitan, the researcher finds some problems in learning process of reading ability. The teaching and learning process at the school is a good, but there are some students whose level of reading ability is still lack, It makes students less active when learning takes place because students could not understand English. In general, students are able to understand but in terms word by word and the meaning of the word is still lack. This makes it very difficult when the student will understand the meaning of the word that he read.

Therefore, to solve the problem, the researcher uses strategy to improve students' reading skill. The short story material can help the students to understand meaning word by word in paragraph, and make them active and creative in reading. According to Wright (2003), "in using stories in language teaching we are using something much bigger and more important than language teaching". The use of short stories in language teaching and learning gives it a holistic approach. Short stories are a unique literary genre which has a compact structure and can be used in language teaching very effectively because of their readability in a limited class time. Short stories offer authentic reading materials which give the language learners an opportunity to interact with the text emotionally and involve themselves personally.

This thesis discusses about improving Students' Reading Skill Using Short Story at Eight Grade of SMPN 4 Bandar Pacitan in the academic year of 2016/2017.

B. Statement of the Problem

Based on the description of the study above, it can be formulated in the following research question: How can short story improve students reading skill at eight grade of SMPN 4 Bandar Pacitan in the academic of year 2016/2017?

C. Purpose of the Study

Based on the statement of problem above, the purpose of this research is as follows :

Know the improvement the students' reading skill by using short story at eight grade of SMPN 4 Bandar Pacitan in the academic year of 2016/2017.

D. Significance of the Study

It is very important for us to know the advantages of the research. It is hoped that short story is one of the technique that can be used as an alternative way to teach reading. In addition, it can contribute some benefits as follows:

1) For the Teacher

The benefits of the research is to explore and prove whether the short story material is effective to be applied in teaching reading so that the students can improve their reading skill optimally. It can motivate teachers to find a new material which is appropriate in teaching reading. It also encourages the teachers to develop their creativity to improve teaching learning process.

2) For the Students

The use of short story in the teaching and learning process will surely attract the students' attention to study. The students can to explore knowledge and imagination therefore their vocabulary mastery will be increased as a result the students' English reading is improved.

3) For the Researcher

The research hopes can bring to a better understanding of improving the reading skill.

E. Scope and Limitation

To simplify this study, the researcher gives scope and limitations. There are some materials in teaching English language especially reading, but the researcher uses short story materials. The researcher only uses short story that are applied to increase the students reading skill. Subject of the research is the students of the eight grade of SMPN 4 Bandar Pacitan in academic year of 2016/2017.

F. Definition of Key Term

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

Reading skill : Reading is a process that is carried and used by the reader to obtain messages, which would be submitted by the author

through the medium of words / written language. (Tarigan, 1986: 7)

Short story : A valuable source of knowledge is, undoubtedly, literary Texts, and more appropriately for reading comprehension purposes, the short story. Using the short story to enhance students' reading proficiency and writing skills has another privilege. (Ghasemi, 2011: 2)

