**ABSTRACT**

**Hening Respati, Ratih.** 2011. *Improving Reading Skill Through Thematic Simulation Method at the Eight Grade Students of SMPN 05 Sawoo Ponorogo in the Academic Year of 2010/2011.* Thesis Faculty of Teacher and training Education Muhammadiyah University of Ponorogo Advisors: (1) Drs. Zain Attamim, M. Pd. (2) Siti Asiyah, M. Pd

**Key Words :** Reading Skill and Thematic Simulation

Reading is one of important skills in English. But, reading sometimes is the language skill which is neglected. Moreover, some students think that reading is difficult task and this lesson often makes them bored. Some students complain about the teaching method that is applied by the English teacher. They do not enjoy with the way of their teaching. Because of that reason, the researcher intends to make a research using Thematic Simulation method to teach reading. This is an innovative learning method with a fun activity, so it will help the students to avoid the boredom. Besides, teaching reading using Thematic Simulation is able to encourage the student’s aspect like affective, psychomotor and cognitive.

In this research, the researcher employed classroom action research. The subject was the eight grade students of SMPN 05 Sawoo Ponorogo in the academic year of 2010/2011. Before implementing the study, the researcher made a lesson plan, a scenario of teaching using Thematic Simulation method and prepared the research instruments like questionnaire, observation checklist, test, portfolio, and field notes. Also, the researcher determined the criteria of success to know the successfulness of the research.

The research was conducted in two cycles. Each cycle consists of two meetings. The first meeting is the implementation of Thematic Simulation and the second meeting is the reading test. *Kriteria Ketuntasan Minimal (KKM)* of the test is 70. Based on the result of the test in cycle one was found that the student’s score above 70 were five students or 23.07%. But, twenty seven students or 76.93% got score under *KKM*. It means that the criteria of success had not fulfilled. Therefore, the researcher continued to cycle two. After conducting cycle two, finally the result of the test showed improvement 76.93%. All of students (100%) got score equal or above 70. It means that the classroom action research had met criteria of success, so the researcher stopped the research.

In the last, the researcher suggess to the English teacher to apply the variation of teaching method appropriately with characteristics of students, especially Thematic Simulation method to teach reading. Also, the teacher should create the situation of learning teaching that is fun and enjoyable, so the students are not bored, especially in reading lesson.