CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Language is a means of communication and we need it in social relationship. English is an important language in the world. It used as a communicative tool between countries. Therefore, English language is needed by students to learn in the school. Nowadays, English is important in our daily lives. For example in science and technology such as video rental, ATM, hand phone, computer, newspaper, film subtitle, on-line articles, and announcement of job vacancy also use this language.

In Indonesia, English was learnt as foreign language. It is formally to students of Elementary school, Junior and Senior High School, and even to university students. English is just learnt in the school with limit of time. In line with KTSP, English is given five hours in a week. It is limited time for the students to understand English well. An English teacher has to know about strategies in order to get better result in learning. Besides, she or he has to know about the method or model which must be used to guide the students. The teacher who has important role to guide the students to have creativity in classroom. If the method is not suitable with situation of the class, the teaching and learning will not be successful.
Language skill has four components such as listening skills, speaking skills, reading skills and writing skills. By considering those facts, our government has decided English as the foreign language, which has to be learned by all students, not only for the normal one but also for students who have disability in their life.

Reading is the instantaneous recognition of various written symbols, simultaneous association of these symbols with existing knowledge, and comprehension of the information and ideas communicated. It means that when a reader interacts with print, his prior knowledge combined with and the visual (written) information result in his comprehending the message.

According to Jonathan Anderson (1969:3) Reading is one of the most poorly developed of our daily skills and yet it is vital medium of communication. In our society, as knowledge rapidly accumulated and is committed to print, greater demands are continually being made on the ability of people to read. Thus reading ha a broader purpose: to widen the individuals’ fields of interests, to assist in personal development, to provide entertainment and to be informative.

Based on the observation in SMP Muhammadiyah 3 Jetis, Ponorogo, the researcher finds some problems in learning process of reading ability. The teaching and learning process at the school still use monotonous strategy. The learning reading process is just still answering the questions. This learning process makes the students feel bored, and there are just a few of students who pay attention to the lesson, and the other students are just listening to what teacher says.
In general, not all of schools can easily reach the goal of learning English. The students’ reading skill at the seventh grade of SMP Muhammadiyah 3 JetisPonorogo is still low. It is caused when they have in English learning process, their teachers always ask them to read and do the task individually. This learning process makes the students fell bored, and there are a few students who pay attention to the lesson.

To solve the problem, the researcher uses a method to improve students’ reading skill. The Talking Stick Method. It can help the students to understand the text easily, and make them active and creative in reading.

The Talking Stick method can be implemented personally and in pair. The teacher instructs students to read book. The teacher asks the students for close book and the teacher removes Talking Stick. The teacher gives question and Talking Stick to roll one by one student. The student’s who gets Talking Stick answer question from teacher.

Based on the description above the writer intends to conduct a study entitled, “Improving Students’ ability in reading Skill by Using Talking Stick Method at the Eighth Grade of SMP Muhammadiyah 3 Jetis Ponorogo in Academic Year of 2013/2014”.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Based on the explanation in the background of study, the problems statement in this research are:
1) Can Talking Stick method improve students’ reading skill at seventh grade of SMP Muhammadiyah 3 Jetis Ponorogo?

1.3 The Purposes of Study

According to the statement above, the purposes of research are:

1) To know wheather Talking Stick method can improve students’ reading skill at seventh grade of SMP Muhammadiyah 3 Jetis Ponorogo

1.4. The Significance of Study

The writer hopes this researcher will give a contribution to:

1) English Teacher

Teachers are able to use Talking Stick in English class as one of the ways to improve students’ reading skill when they find difficulties in learning reading.

2) The Students

Through Talking Stick in, they can improve their reading English well.

3) The researcher

The research hopes this result of research give solution in teaching Reading.

4) School

They can improve their reading by practicing it regularly with their friends or partners whenever and wherever they can do and it gives more motivation and makes enthusiasm in learning reading
1.5 Scope and Limitation

1) Scope

The study is focused on the students’ difficulty in learning Reading and the application of Talking Stick in the teaching and learning process to improve the students’ reading skill.

2) Limitation

The writer limits this study only about teaching reading by using Talking Stick method and focused at seventh grade of SMP Muhammadiyah 3 Jetis Ponorogo.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

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

Reading is one of the most poorly developed of our daily skills and yet it is vital medium of communication (Anderson, 1969:3).

Talking Stick is one of cooperative learning method that developed with give question personal and pair (Suprijono, 2009:100).