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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of Problem

Reading is one of the four important skills for students now. By reading, the students can increase their understanding about the text or what they have read to enrich their vocabularies and their knowledge. Many components of language should be understood and developed by students as foreign language learners. On the other hand, reading is the most basic skill in English and must be mastered by students in order to understand the task easily. It is nothing without having comprehension.

Some students think that to comprehend reading is very difficult because there are many aspects should be considered. Since reading is a complex process, Grabe (1991, p.379) argues that many researchers attempt to understand and explain the fluent reading process by analyzing the process into a set of component skills.

Singhal (1998) defines reading as a meaning making process including an interaction between the reader and the text. Readers use mental activities to construct meaning from the text. In reading process, the students have to think critically about what they read. Students must know the purpose why they read the text and the thing they should know about the text.

State Islamic Senior High School 4 Kampar is one of the senior high schools in Kampar. This school uses the School-Based Curriculum (SBC) in

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teaching learning process. This school offers the English subject to students, especially in term of reading comprehension. Based on the School-Based Curriculum (SBC), students are required to be able to comprehend many kinds of genre, such as: descriptive, narrative, recount, report, analytical exposition, etc.

Reading is not a simple subject in learning. Generally, the teacher always asks the students to read the material, translate the text, find out the difficult words, answer the question based on the reading text and finally asks them to collect the task. This teacher's technique will not build the students' critical thinking in reading comprehension.

In other side, the passing grade for English subject in this school is 76 and the students must achieve the target stated by the school. One of the problem is the students are lack of thinking critically to comprehend text when they read.

Based on the writer's preliminary observation toward the second year students at State Islamic Senior High School 4 Kampar, reading is one of the lessons that should be taught and mastered by the students. But in fact, they still have problems in reading comprehension. Generally, it can be seen from the syntoms below :

1. Some of the students are not able to state the main idea of the text.
2. Some of the students have limited vocabularies which cause difficulties in understanding the text.
3. Some of students are lack of thinking critically.

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4. Some of the students have difficulties in identifying reference.
5. Some of the students get low motivation in reading.

When students read, they must think critically. According to Norris and Phillips (cited in Aloqaili, 2011, p.38 ), reading is more than just saying what is on the page; it is thinking. They explain that critical thinking provides a means of explaining the ability to work out ambiguous text by generating alternative interpretations, considering them in light of experience and world knowledge, suspending decision until further information is available, and accepting alternative explanations. They conclude that critical thinking is the process which the reader uses to comprehend.

Yu-hui et al, (2010, p.2) state clearly that reading is a complicated, actively thinking mental activity, a thinking process to experience, predict, verify and acknowledge information according to readers' previous information, knowledge and experience, and also an interactive language communication between readers and the writer through text. Based on the definitions above, it can be said that critical thinking is important in reading comprehension. Critical thinking builds up students' comprehension about the text.

Therefore, to solve the problem, Paul (2004) assumes that critical thinking has major role in reading comprehension. He notes that by thinking about a specific concept, the one can reflect reader's point of view. It means that by thinking about how to comprehend a text, the learner can better and faster understand the text.

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By understanding the fact above, the writer is interested in investigating the problems into a research project entitled : **The Relationship between Critical Thinking and Reading Comprehension by the Second Year Students of State Islamic Senior High School 4 Kampar.**

## **B. Problem**

### **1. Identification of the Problems**

Based on the symptoms that are explained by the writer above, the problems in this research are identified as in the following questions:

- a. Why are some of students not able to state the main idea of the text?
- b. Why do some of the students have limited vocabularies which cause difficulties in understanding the text?
- c. Why are some of the students lack of thinking critically?
- d. Why do some of the students have difficulties in identifying reference?
- e. Why do some of the students get low motivation in reading?

### **2. Limitation of the Problem**

Based on the identification of the problems above, the study is focused on students' critical thinking in reading comprehension of analytical exposition text at State Islamic Senior High School 4 Kampar.

### **3. Formulation of the Problems**

Based on the problems limited above, the problems are formulated into following research questions :

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- a. How is the critical thinking in learning of the second year students at State Islamic Senior High School 4 Kampar?
- b. How is the reading comprehension of the second year students at State Islamic Senior High School 4 Kampar?
- c. Is there any significant relationship between the critical thinking and reading comprehension of the second year students of State Islamic Senior High School 4 Kampar?

**C. Objective and Significance of the Research****1. Objective of the Research**

- a. To know the critical thinking of the second year students at State Islamic Senior High School 4 Kampar.
- b. To know the reading comprehension of the second year students at State Islamic Senior High School 4 Kampar.
- c. To know whether there is a significant relationship between the critical thinking and reading comprehension of the second year students of State Islamic Senior High School 4 Kampar.

**2. Significance of the Research**

- a. Hopefully, this research is able to benefit the writer as a new researcher in learning how to conduct a research.
- b. Besides, these research findings are also expected to be positive and valuable information for those who are concerned in the field of teaching English as a foreign or second language.

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- c. The research findings are expected to be the practical and theoretical information to the development of the theories on language teaching in general.
- d. Finally, these research findings are also expected to be useful and valuable for both teacher and students at State Islamic Senior High School 4 Kampar to be the focus on future teaching learning English process.

**D. The Definition of the term**

**1. Relationship**

Relationship is one of the ex post facto designs, namely co relational research. According to Creswell (2012, p.338), correlation is a statistical test to determine the tendency or pattern for two (or more) variables or two sets of data to vary consistently. Relationship in this research is the correlation between students' critical thinking and their reading comprehension at State Islamic Senior High School 4 Kampar.

**2. Critical Thinking**

According to Bassham et.al (2011, p.1), critical thinking is the general term given to a wide range of cognitive skill and intellectual dispositions needed to effectively identify, analyze, and evaluate truth. In conclusion, critical thinking is the ability to understand, construct,

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and criticize arguments and communicate the ideas clearly and effective.

### 3. Reading Comprehension

Reading comprehension is the process of simultaneously extracting and constructing meaning through interaction and the involvement with written language (Snow, 2002, p.11). It means that reading comprehension is process of understanding and constructing meaning from a piece of text done by students.

#### E. Reasons for Choosing the Title

There are some reasons why the writer is interested in carrying out this research:

1. The title of this research is relevant to the researcher's status as a student of English Education Department.
2. The problems investigated in this research are not yet investigated by other previous researchers in the same university.
3. The location of the research facilitates the researcher in conducting the research.