



## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of The Research

Reading, is a receptive skill, is one of the English language skills. It is the skill that should be mastered by the learners. If the learners have mastered the reading skill, they will be able to comprehend the English text well. As Bennette (2001) reading is a visual process - vision is a symbolic process of seeing an item or symbol and translating it into an idea or image. Therefore, in reading, they are not only read symbol by symbol of the text, but also they should be understood about the information by the text, because it can help them to achieve their goals in comprehend the text.

Meanwhile, the reader must have a comprehension to catch the real information in order to avoid misunderstanding in the text. Therefore, according to, Klinger, et. al (2007) reading comprehension is a multi-component, highly complex process that involves many interactions between readers and what they bring to the text (previous knowledge, strategy use) as well as variables related to the text itself (interest in text, understanding of text types). Therefore, reading comprehension is not easy as it looks in a foreign language.

In Junior High School level, reading is one of the most important elements to be acquired in teaching and learning. In order to accomplish students' needs on reading, the students are required to read a text aloud in a meaningful way such as reading a narrative, recount , descriptive, procedure, etc.



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Based on curriculum 13 that is used at State Junior High School 1 Pekanbaru, the purpose of teaching English in this level is to develop students' potential in order to have communicative competence of interpersonal, transactional, and functional discourse by using oral and written texts in English. It uses based approach of genre which have certain characteristics and mastery about social function, structure text, and language features.

Then, English subject in this school is taught twice a week to the students and passing grade of this subject is 82. Regarding the importance of this subject especially in language learning, the government has arranged in the curriculum. It is stated that the students are expected to be able to comprehend the English text form in various kinds of English texts. Furthermore, based on the curriculum, it is stated that the seventh grade students at State Junior High School 1 Pekanbaru level are expected to be able to comprehend the English text.

In reality, based on the English teacher of the seventh grade students explanation, namely Mrs. Dahyeni Netti in September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017, by interviewing, she said students' reading comprehension of the text for both male and female are still low even they have same treatment when accepting the material from the teacher. Although the teacher have already thought about this material by using many strategies and conducted this subject twice a week, the students still have many problems in comprehend text.

Based on the English teacher explanation, the writer had information about students' reading comprehension. Some of studies found that gender can have a significant effect on how students learn a language. Sometimes as male or female



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students to comprehend the text is not too easy. As Zoghi *et al* (2013), gender has been regarded as an important affective factor that plays a specific role and influences second language acquisition. In biological viewpoint, females and males also differ fundamentally in terms of cognitive ability and learning style.

There are more differences between male and female in language learning, and no education or social conditioning can wholly erase these differences. As Papalia. *et. al* (2008), girls generally are superior in the verbal item involving vocabulary, memory, language manipulation, and the like, while boys are superior in performance items involving spatial relation, mechanical abilities, and numerical manipulation. Then, as the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (2006) research data showed that at their fourth year of schooling, girls had significantly higher reading achievement than boys in all countries except in Spain and Luxembourg.

Based on the theory above, female student should be far better in comprehending text. But, in reality both of male and female students were still low in reading comprehension. Furthermore, they almost have some problems which was not really able to comprehend text. Thus, based on the result of interviewed the English teacher, the problems can be seen into some symptoms, such as: some male and female students were difficult to determine the meaning of the text, they were confuse to conclude the exactly meaning of the text and they were not interesting in reading class.

Based on the symptoms explained by the writer above, this study sought to examine and compare male and female students on reading comprehension.

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Therefore the writer was curious and conduct a research entitled: “ **The Comparison of Reading Comprehension between Male and Female Students of the Seventh Grade Students at State Junior High School 1 Pekanbaru**”

## **B. Definition of the Term**

There are many terms involved in this research. Thus, to avoid misunderstanding and misinterpreting on the term in this research, it is necessary to explain them namely:

### **1. Comparison**

As Oxford Learner’s Pocket Dictionary (2011), “comparison is the process of studying or comparing something to find out how similar or different they are”. Comparison means show the limitation how similar and different of two group. In this research, it refers to the difference result of reading comprehension test by comprehend the descriptive text between male and female students of the seventh grade students at State Junior High School 1 Pekanbaru.

### **2. Reading Comprehension**

According to Idham (2014) reading comprehension is one of the basic skills to be acquired during the language course, it may be the least teachable of the four language skills (reading, listening, speaking, and writing). Therefore, reading comprehension is not easy as it looks if the text is in a foreign language, and English is a foreign language in Indonesia. In this research, the writer will focus on reading comprehension of descriptive text.

### **3. Male**

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As Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary (2011), "male is belonging to the sex that does not give birth". In this research, male refers to the boy students are studying in the school especially of the seventh grade students at State Junior High School 1 Pekanbaru.

#### **4. Female**

As Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary (2011), "female is the sex that produces young". In this research, female refers to the girl students are studying in the school especially of the seventh grade students at State Junior High School 1 Pekanbaru.

### **C. Problem**

#### **1. Identification of the Problem**

Based on the problems described in the background, the identification problem of the research as follows:

- a. What were the causes that male and female students had lack of vocabularies?
- b. What were the causes that male and female students were difficult to answer the questions of the text correctly?
- c. What were the causes that male and female students were difficult to analyze the generic structure of the text?
- d. What were the causes that male and female students were difficult to determine the main idea of the text?
- e. What were the causes that male and female students were not able to identify the meaning of unknown word of the text?

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## 2. Limitation of the Problem

The writer limited the research focused on male and female students' reading comprehension of descriptive text of the seventh grade at State Junior High School 1 Pekanbaru based on syllabus that used in the school.

## 3. Formulation of the Problem

Based on the limitation of the problem above, the writer formulated the following research question, as follows:

- a. Is there any significant differences of reading comprehension between male and female students of the seventh grade students at State Junior High School 1 Pekanbaru?

## 4. Objective and Significance of the Research

### a. Objective of the Research

Based on the formulation above, the objectives of this research as follows:

1. To find out if there is a significant difference of reading comprehension of descriptive text between male and female students of the seventh grade students at State Junior High School 1 Pekanbaru.

### b. Significance of the Research.

Related to the objectives of the research above, the significance of the research as follows:

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1. To enlarge writer's knowledge about the differences on male and female students' comprehension in descriptive text of seventh grade at State Junior High School 1 Pekanbaru.
2. These research findings are also hopefully useful and valuable, especially for students and the teachers of English at State Juior High School 1 Pekanbaru to be considered in their teaching and learning process in the future.
3. This research is also expected to be the practical and theoretical information to the development of the theories in language teaching.