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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the problems

English as an international language has an important role in communication activity, spoken and written. Based on the 2013 Curriculum, English is one of some compulsory subjects that need to be learned in Junior High Schools and Senior High Schools. Based on this curriculum, students are intended to master the four basic language skills of English, namely listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Reading is one of the important skills. According to Richards & Schmidt, (2010) reading is the processes by which the meaning of a written text is understood. In reading activity, students should be able to comprehend meaning of texts to get information and also knowledge from texts. Thus, it can be concluded that readers not only should know the meaning of words but also be able to comprehend the meaning contained in texts.

In line with statement above, Moreillon (2007) stated that reading is making meaning from print and from visual information. It means that in reading activity, students should be able to get information from texts that can be in printed or visual forms. According to Patel & Jain (2008) reading is an active process which consists of recognition and comprehension skill. Reading is an important activity in life with which one can update his/her knowledge. Reading skill is an important tool for academic success. So,

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reading skill is an important tool to update knowledge for the success by comprehending texts. Therefore, the purpose of teaching reading in classroom is to develop students' ability to read, get the idea, understand texts written in English, update their knowledge and get success in academic. In order to achieve the goal of reading in classroom, teacher should be able to teach students effectively and efficiently.

At the Senior High School Muhammadiyah 1 Pekanbaru, reading is one of the Standards of K13 *Curriculum*. In reading, the students have to comprehend the meaning on the texts. The target of the curriculum in this school especially in reading comprehension where the students should be able to find main idea, supporting idea, identify the vocabularies in the text, locating reference, and make inferences. It means that the students in SMA Muhammadiyah 1 Pekanbaru should be able to read loudly and to respond the meaning or message on the text that they read. For instance, by reading the students will be able to comprehend what text mean.

Based on the preliminary observation at SMA Muhammadiyah 1 Pekanbaru, there were some of the students who were enthusiast, they try to understand what they read, try to find they problems by asked to teacher. Some students who were not enthusiast, they just read without understand what they read. Then, there were some students who were not so enthusiast in following the learning process but they had good reading comprehension . Then, there were also some students who were enthusiast in following leaning process but they still have low reading comprehension.

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Dealing with this condition, Slameto (2013) claims there are two factors that influence students' learning English they are internal and external factors. Internal factor is from inside of the students and external factor is from outside of the students. External factors are divided into three aspects i.e. family, school and society. Internal factors are also divided into three aspects namely physical, exhausted and psychological.

One of the psychological factors that influence students' learning is interest. To learn a certain subject, the students need to have interest, including in learning English. Students' interest in learning English is important because without interest the students will not be motivated in learning. Syah (2013) points out that interest can affect the quality of students' learning achievement in a certain subject. It means interest can affect the students' English learning achievement too.

However, based on a preliminary observation, the researcher found some phenomena as follows:

1. Some of the students cannot comprehend what the text has read by them.
2. Some of the students were like to do something else than studying.
3. Some of the students are not so enthusiastic like feel bored, talking each other and they were not serious in learning.
4. Some of the students do not pay attention to the teacher when the learning process is begun.

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Dealing with problem stated above, the researcher conducted a correlational research. The researcher is interested in carrying out a research entitled: **“The Correlation between Students’ Interest in Learning English and Their Reading Comprehension at SMA Muhammadiyah 1 Pekanbaru”**

B. The Problem

1. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the problem above researcher will be identified as follows:

- a. What are the students’ problem in comprehending the text?
- b. How could the student be lazy in reading the text?
- c. How couldn’t the students be interested in studying process?
- d. How the students’ attention when teacher is teaching in front of the class?

2. The Limitation of the Problem

The researcher, in this study, only focused to find out the relationship between students’ interest in learning English and students’ reading comprehension of analytical exposition text.

3. The Formulation of the Problem

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

- a. How is the students’ interest in learning English at SMA Muhammadiyah 1 Pekanbaru?



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- b. How is the students' reading comprehension at SMA Muhammadiyah 1 Pekanbaru?
- c. Is there any significant correlation between the students' interest in Learning English and their reading comprehension at SMA Muhammadiyah 1 Pekanbaru?

C. The Objective Significance of the Research

1. The Objective of the Research

- a. To know how students' interest of the second-grade students at SMA Muhammadiyah 1 Pekanbaru.
- b. To know how students' reading comprehension of the second-grade students at SMA Muhammadiyah 1 Pekanbaru.
- c. To find out the significant correlation between students' interest in learning English and their reading comprehension of the second-grade students at SMA Muhammadiyah 1 Pekanbaru.

2. The Significance of the Research

The finding of this research is expected to give contribution to the teacher who teaches the students' at SMA Muhammadiyah 1 Pekanbaru. The teacher will know the students' problems with their reading comprehension and their interest in learning English. Secondly, the researcher hopes that this research will give significant contribution to the students where have problem with their reading comprehension. The researcher hopes the students' reading comprehension more improve after this research is completed by the researcher and the students will be more active involving in learning process.

Finally, the researcher hopes this research result is very useful for whoever teacher in teaching English especially in reading subject.

D. Definition of Key Terms

In order to explain and avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation about the title and the content of the research, the writer defines the terms that are used in this research as follows:

1. Correlation

Correlation is the connection between two things in which one thing changes as the other does (Oxford University Press, 2003: 94). Concur with it, correlation defines as a statistical test to determine the tendency or pattern of two (or more) variables or two sets of data to vary consistently (Creswell, 2012 p. 338).

2. Interest

According to Lin et all (2001, p.2153) interest is defined as interaction between a person and an object within the environment. In other words, there is something happened which made a person and an object interrelated each other. Interest in the field of education can be referred to as a psychological state or selective preference toward particular domain of the study.

3. Reading Comprehension

According to Richard (2002, p.306) reading comprehension is the action of the person who reads or attempt to make a meaning from what an author has written, reading perceives the written text in order to understand its content.

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E. Reasons for Choosing the Title

The reasons why the writer is interested to conduct this research are based on several considerations:

1. The problems of this research are very interesting and challenging to be researched in term teaching and learning reading.
2. This title of this research is relevant with the writer as a student of English Education Department.