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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

Reading is one of the language skills in learning a language. It is a language skill that is really important to be taught to the students because it helps them to understand all written texts and students are expected to understand and to analyze all written text. The students are also expected to be able to use it in their daily lives. Nunan (2003, p.68) has said that reading is a fluent process of the readers, combining information from a text and their own background knowledge to build meaning. Through reading, people can improve their own knowledge and experiences and enlarge their main sets of thinking. Thus, reading helps the people to gain information or verify existing knowledge.

Reading is an activity that has a purpose (Kalayo, 2007, p.114). The purpose of reading is to inform the students about something they are interested in, or challenge of their knowledge on certain matters. According to Snow (2002, p.11), reading comprehension is the process of simultaneously extracting and constructing meaning through interaction and involvement with written language. It is dealing with the process of catching meaning and idea from the written text.

State Senior High School 2 Pekanbaru is one of the schools that also applies curriculum K-13 as its guidance in teaching and learning process. English is taught twice a week, with 90 minutes for one meeting, which means

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180 minutes in a week. Based on the syllabus of the tenth grade students at State Senior High School 2 Pekanbaru, the students are required to be able to comprehend the report text. It means that they must be able to identify or understand about what the text means and the language components are. The students' passing grade is 78.

Based on the syllabus of the tenth grade at Senior High School, there are some genres of texts to learn such as narrative, recount, descriptive and report texts. In this research, the researcher would focus on students' reading comprehension in report text. Based on preliminary observation, the English teacher used reading materials not only from the English books but also supported by materials from the other sources (such as internet, and newspaper) and discussing group to conduct learning process, then teacher asked the students to find out unfamiliar words or asked them to translate word by word to get information that the text talked about. Next, the teacher gave some questions related the detailed information in report text. Finally, the teacher concluded the lesson before closing.

In fact the students faced many difficulties in comprehension reading English text because English is not first language. For example, the students find some difficulties when the teacher asks them about some information that do purely mention in the text but still in the context. The students had lack of vocabulary and made it them find difficulties in understanding text. Another difficulty that is faced by the students is in identifying the information in generic structure of report text like general classification, and description.

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Then, the students did not really understand about language features on report text. The last, they were unable to conclude what the reading text talked about.

The difficulties in comprehending reading English text should be known and solved by the students and the teacher because comprehending reading text is the important skill and as an achievement indicator in reading that should be achieved by the students. If the students get difficulties in comprehending the text, it will affect their study. According to Oberholzer (2005), difficulty with the reading can have an increasingly negative effect on students' schoolwork and tertiary education as reading requirements become greater and more extensive."

Therefore the researcher believes that it is important to do research based on this topic with assumption that every student may have different difficulties, it will help the teacher to find the appropriate teaching method to help students improve their ability in reading.

The students faced some problems in comprehending reading text that made them do not reach out the purpose of reading. It is shown in the following phenomena:

1. Some of the students are not able to identify the main idea of report text.
2. Some of the students are not able to identify language features of report text.
3. Some of the students are not able to identify the generic structure of report text.
4. Some of the students are not able to identify references of report text.
5. Some of the students are not able to identify vocabulary of report text.

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From the explanation above, it could be inferred that some of the students still have problem in term of learning reading. Problem must have been solved in order to decrease the students' difficulties on report text. Those were the problems faced by the students in learning process.

According to Barker (2000, p.23), report text is a piece of writing which aims to describe something in general way. Often it is non-chronological and written in the present tense. This theory implies that report text refers to kind of the text that describes the information by explaining the general informatin which is used to report the information. Furthermore, it is kind of text which is written in chronological order and constructed in present tense”.

Actually students were still not good enough. As we know that the information report or report text is an information report which is a factual text, which means providing information about something. An information report text is used as a way to gain a better understanding about a living or non-living subject.

Based on the explanation and the problems experienced by the students above, the researcher was interested in conducting a research entitled: “**An Analysis of the Tenth Grade Students’ Difficulties in Reading Comprehension on Report Text at State Senior High School 2 Pekanbaru**”.



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B. Problem

1. Identification of the Problem

- a. What made some of the students get difficulty in identifying main idea of report text?
- b. What made some of the students get difficulties in identifying language features of report text?
- c. What made some of the students get difficulties in identifying generic structures of report text?
- d. What made some of students get difficulties in identifying references of report text?
- e. What made some of the students get difficulties to identify vocabulary of report text.

2. Limitation of the Problem

After identifying the problem of this research, the researcher limited and focused of this research problem on analyzing students' difficulties in reading comprehension of report text at the tenth grade of State Senior High School 2 Pekanbaru and factors that caused students' difficulties in reading comprehension of report text.

3. Formulation of the Problem

Based on the problems above, the writer formulated the problem in the following questions :



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- a. What were the students' difficulties in reading comprehension of report text at the tenth grade of State Senior High School 2 Pekanbaru?
- b. What were the factors that cause students' difficulties in reading comprehension of report text at the tenth grade of State Senior High School 2 Pekanbaru?

C. Objective and Significance of the Research

1. Objective of the Research

- a. To find out the students' difficulties in reading comprehension of report text at the tenth grade of State Senior High School 2 Pekanbaru.
- b. To find out the factors that cause difficulties in reading comprehension of report text at the tenth grade of State Senior High School 2 Pekanbaru.

2. Significance of the Research

These research activities were significantly carried out for the following needs:

- a. Hopefully, this research is able to benefit the researcher as a novice researcher in learning how to conduct a research.
- b. These research findings are also expected to be useful and valuable information for both students and teachers of English to be the future focus of teaching and learning English.

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- c. Besides, these research findings are also expected to be valuable information for those who concerned with in the field of teaching and learning English as a foreign/ second language.
- d. Finally, these research findings are also expected to be practical and theoretical information to the development of theories of language teaching in general.

D. The Reason of Choosing the Research

There were some reasons why the writer was interested in carrying out her research. This research was investigated based on by the following reasons:

1. The title of this research was relevant to the researcher's status as a student of English Education Department of State Islamic University of Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau.
2. The title of this research was not yet investigated by other previous researchers.

E. Definition of the Term

There are so many terms involved in this research. To avoid misunderstanding on the terms used in this research, the following terms are necessarily defined as follows:

1. An Analysis

Analysis means finding clear information about something, somebody or some cases. An analysis can be described as an examination



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of something together with thought and judgment about it. In this research, the analysis means examination of students' difficulties in reading report text, because analysis includes examining ideas, identifying arguments and analyzing arguments.

2. Reading Comprehension

According to Westwood (2008, p.31), reading comprehension can be defined as an active thinking process through which a reader intentionally constructs meaning to form a deeper understanding of concepts and information presented in a text. To comprehend the text, readers must use information they already possess to filter, interpret, organize and reflect upon the incoming information from the page.

According to Snow (2002, p.11), reading comprehension is the process of simultaneously extracting and constructing meaning through interaction and involvement with written language. It can be defined as an active thinking process through which a reader intentionally constructs meaning to form a deeper understanding of concepts and information presented in a text and the researcher focuses only in reading comprehension of report text.

3. Report Text

Report text is a text which presents information about something, as it is. It is a result of systematic observation and analysis. Beside this definition, there are some experts who explain definition of report text. Barker (2000, p.23), states report text is a piece of writing which aims to describe something in general way.