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## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

### A. The Background of the Problem

Reading is one of skills the goals of reading activities are to know language and to get the meaning from the printed message-reading. Reading comprehension is primarily a matter of developing efficient comprehension strategies for the majorities of the second language learners who already literate in their native. Reading perceives a written text in order to understand its contents. It means that the readers must read the text in order to get meaning and understand what the text is talking about. In reading, we read some texts in book and then we realize the text by our understanding.

Reading is the key of knowledge, through reading the students acquire much information about something. In relation to the idea, Reading is the most useful and important skill for people. By reading, students will get the knowledge about how to use a language correctly and can easily catch the idea of a text. Because of its importance, the teaching of English in Indonesian national curriculum (K13) is targeted to make students able to read various kinds of genre such as descriptive text, recount text, narrative text etc. In spite of grammar is one of important components in learning English. One of them is simple past tense which is taught at grade ten students of SMAN 1 Sentajo Raya. The score cumulative minimum standard that has to be achieved by students for reading narrative text is 65. The

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explanation of rubric for Minimum Competence Criteria can be seen as follow:

**Table I.1**  
**Minimum Competence Criteria**

No.	Score	Category	Competency
1	90-100	A (Very Good)	Students understand and get the meaning of the text that they very well read accurately and appropriately.
2	75-89	B (Good)	Students can determine the meaning of the text that they well read accurately and appropriately
3	65-75	C (Enough)	Students have limited skill to determine the meaning of the text that they sufficiently read accurately and appropriately.
4	<65	D (Less)	Students have little skill to determine the meaning of the text that they can not read accurately and appropriately.

During the researcher observation, she found that most of the students at grade ten of SMAN 1 Sentajo Raya had difficulty in comprehending narrative text simple past tense. They usually mastered the simple past tense, but when they encountered to read a narrative text, they were difficult to comprehend the text, and some of the students mastered the simple past tense, but they were not able to take the message from the text. The students difficulties were reflected from their achievement in reading comprehension. They did not achieve the minimum criteria achievement (MCA), the minimum criteria is 65, she found out that from 28 students. The students who categorized as “Very Good” are 3 students (10.7%). The students who categorized as “Good” are 12 students (42.9%). Next, the students who categorized as “Sufficient” are 9 students (32.1%), and “Less” are 4 students

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(14.3%). However, there is no student who get category as “Fail” in the test. Their difficulties were understood language features of Narrative text such as past tense, adverb of time, conjunction, and action verb. They had also difficulty in understanding the generic structure of narrative text.

Also the students are difficulty in mastery simple past tense. They usually Some of the students mastered the simple past tense, but they were not able to identify the component of narrative text, and Some of the students had low comprehension in reading task, but they mastered the simple past tense. The students difficulties were reflected from their achievement in simple past tense. Their score of the Narrative text did not achieve the minimum criteria achievement (MCA), the minimum criteria is 65, she found out that from 28 students. There are 7 students (25%) who categorized as “Very Good”, 5 students (17.9%) are categorized as “Good”. Furthermore, there are 9 students (32.1%) who categorized as “Sufficient”, 5 students (17.9%) are categorized as “Less”, and 2 students (7.1%) are categorized as “Fail”.

Grammar or structure is one of the important components in learning English. Grammar which is a system of rules governing the conventional arrangement and relationship of words in a sentence.

Therefore, the researcher is interested in conducting a research in order to analyze whether there is a significant correlation between students’ mastery of simple past tense and their reading comprehension of narrative text. Then the researcher is going to conduct a research entitled “**The**

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## **Correlation Between The Mastery of Simple Past Tense and Reading Comprehension of Narative Text at The Tenth Grade Students of State Senior High School 1 Sentajo Raya”.**

### **B. The Problem of the Research**

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

In making the problems to be more detail, the researcher identifies them as follows:

- a. Why did the students have the difficulty to comprehend narative text while they understand the simple past tense?
- b. Why did the students have the difficulty to grasp the message from the narrative text while they understand simple past tense?
- c. Why did the students have the difficulty to identify the components of narative text while they understand simple past tense?
- d. Why did the students have low mastery in reading task even though they understand the simple past tense?

#### **2. The Limitations of the Problem**

In carrying out this research, the researcher is aware that there should be a limitation of the problem to be solved. In this case this research focused on students' Mastery of Simple PastTense and Reading Comprehension of Narrative text was implemented at grade tenth of SMAN 1 Sentajo Raya.

#### **3. The Formulation of the Problem**

The problems of this research can be formulated in the following questions:



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- a. How is students' mastery of simple past tense at the tenth grade of state senior high school 1 Sentajo Raya?
- b. How is students' reading comprehension of narative text at the tenth grade students of state senior high school 1 Sentajo Raya
- c. Is there any significant correlation between students' mastery simple past tense and their reading comprehension of nrrative text at the tenth grade students of state senior high school 1 Sentajo Raya.

**C. The Reason for Choosing the Title**

There are several reasons why the researcher is interested in conducting the research. The reasons are:

1. The title of this research has never been researched yet.
2. The title is relevant with the researcher to conduct the research investigation either in sector of fund, time, or location.
3. To get the real data of the correlation between students' mastery of simple past tense and reading comprehension of narative text.

**D. The Objectives and the Significance of the Research****1. The Objectives of the Research**

Based on the formulation above, the objectives of the research as follow:

- a. To find out the students' mastery of simple past tense.
- b. To find out students' reading comprehension of narrative text.
- c. To find out whether there is a significant correlation between students' mastery of simple past tense and reading comprehension of narrative text.

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## 2. The Significance of the Research

- a. This research is beneficial to the researcher as students in learning how to conduct an educational research.
- b. To provide useful information for the readers in conducting a research
- c. To fulfill one of requirements to finish the researcher's study in State Islamic University Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau.

## E. The Definition of Terms

It is needed for the researcher to state the operational definition of terms used to avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation of the research.

The definitions are explained below:

### 1. Mastery of Simple Past Tense

Mastery of simple past tense is a great skillfulness of knowledge of some subject, activities or situation began and ended at a particular time in the past.

### 2. Reading Comprehension

Reading comprehension can be defined as an active thinking process through which a reader intentionally constructs meaning to form a deeper understanding concepts and information presented in a text .

### 3. Narrative Text

Narative text is a story with complication or problematic events and it tries to find the resolutions to solve the problems.