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CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Problem

Reading is one of the important language skills from four main skills in English. By reading, people may acquire a lot of information. The more he/she reads, the more he/she will have information. Especially in education context, reading has an important role. Based on Maxom (2009:160), reading is one of the key skills in language learning and reinforces students to acquire in speaking, listening and writing. Therefore, the students can also master three skills. Students need read a lot of passage, book even encyclopedia for compete their task and subject. By reading, the students can have lot of information that they need. As Nunan (2005:128) claims, there are two main reason that people read: the first is for pleasure and the second is for information, which both of them need reading as a comprehension activity, and acquiring a repertory of reading skills like reading depth, skimming for the gist, and the scanning for specific information.

McWhorther (1992:79) states that skimming is a technique of reading to looking for main ideas. In skimming, readers' overall purpose should be to read only those parts of an article or selection that contain the most important information. The basic task of skimming, then is to identify those parts of any reading material that contain the main ideas. Then, as Beatrice and Jeffries (1997:167) claims, that scanning is an activity which the students must quickly look for specific information, skipping unneeded words. It shows that by do



scanning students can economize the time because students only read the words they need to find and skip another word they do not need. Moreover, it can be said, when students will find a lot of information they need in long passage or text, they can economize the time by do skimming and scanning technique in reading. So, when students will be a good reader, they should understand the skimming and scanning techniques.

Reading is a good activity in life because it is a factor of great importance in individual development and the most important activity in school. It is be needed by the students in every level of field study. Particularly in cases when the students have to read long English material for their task. Also, being able to read in English in very important as it is known that success in reading is the most necessary because it is a basic tool in education. All subjects in Elementary School such as Mathematics, science language and others depend on the ability to read. In High School and college, reading ability becomes even more important. Through reading we acquire new ideas, obtain needed information, seek support for our ideas and broaden our interest. Students can also get the message that the writer had explained. The ability to read helps to distinguish human being from other animal.

Based on the 2006 School Based Curriculum (KTSP 2006), reading must to be in school as one skill in mastery English that must to be taught by the teacher and learned by the students. In this school, English has been taught twice a week with the duration of time 90 minutes for one meeting. Vocational High School Dwi Sejahtera Pekanbaru is using the 2006 KTSP for their



learning process. Based on the syllabus of the first year at Vocational High School Dwi Sejahtera Pekanbaru, as the basic stated for first grade is that, “students will be able to comprehend the texts”. And the passing score (KKM) for English subject is 80.

In order to gain important information, students should be taught how to read effectively and appropriately, such making prediction about what will happen, Klingner (2007). Another way to help the students to understand the text is not to know all the information needed in the text finding key words. It will be the teacher responsible how to teach the best way to the students to read fluently and appropriately, by using skipping, skimming, and scanning ability in order to prepare students to highly level of real reading comprehension. Based on my preliminary observation at 14th August up to 14th November 2014 at Vocational High School Dwi Sejahtera Pekanbaru, by did a Teaching Practice and conversation with the English teacher, Mr. Rukamana, S.Pd., difficulties that faced by the students in reading class are:

1. Some of the students were difficult to find out the main idea of English text.
2. Some of the students were difficult to identify the kind of the text.
3. Some of the students were difficult to gain specific information of English text.
4. Some of the students were difficult to identify the meaning of unknown word.



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5. Some of the students were confuse to determine communication purpose of the text.
6. Some of the students were difficult to conclude the English text.

From the above factors, it can be stated that the students not only have an problem in their reading comprehension, but also in their understanding of skimming and scanning techniques at first level at Vocational High School Dwi Sejahtera Pekanbaru, writer saw that there is a correlation between the understanding of skimming and scanning techniques and reading comprehension at Dwi Sejahtera Vocational High School of Pekanbaru. In a recent study Fredric (2008:95) on his journal found that skimming and scanning techniques has contribution to the reading comprehension at Senior High School. In the other words, both of techniques have correlation with reading comprehension. It is strengthen the reason why the writer is interested in carrying out the research entitle **“The Correlation between Students’ Understanding of Skimming and Scanning Techniques and their Reading Comprehension on Expository Text at Dwi Sejahtera Vocational High School Pekanbaru”**

B. The Problem

1. Identification of The Problem

Based on the explanation above, the writer identifies the problem are:

- a. Why did some of the students difficult to find out the main idea of English text?

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- b. Why do some of the students have difficulties to identify the kind of the text?
- c. Why do some of the students have difficulties to gain specific information of English text?
- d. Why do some of the students have difficulties to identify the meaning of unknown word?
- e. Why do some of the students confuse to determine communication purpose of the text?
- f. Why do some of the students have difficulties to conclude the English text?

g. Limitation of The Problem

Based on the identification of the problem that the writer found on the preliminary observation and because of her limited resources, finance and energy, therefore the problem of this research is necessary to be limited. This research is only focused on the correlation between students' understanding of skimming and scanning techniques and their reading comprehension on expository text at Dwi Sejahtera Vocational High School Pekanbaru.

h. Formulation of The Problem

The problem of this research can be formulated by the following questions:

- a. How is the students' understanding of skimming and scanning techniques at Dwi Sejahtera Vocational High School Pekanbaru?



- b. How is the students' reading comprehension on expository text at Dwi Sejahtera Vocational High School Pekanbaru?
- c. Is there any significant correlation between students' understanding of skimming and scanning techniques and their reading comprehension on expository text at Dwi Sejahtera Vocational High School Pekanbaru?

C. The Objectives of The Research

1. The Objectives of The research

Based on the formulation of the problem above, this research is going to reach the objectives as follows:

- a. To identify the students' understanding of skimming and scanning techniques at Dwi Sejahtera Vocational High School Pekanbaru.
- b. To identify students' reading comprehension at Dwi Sejahtera Vocational High School Pekanbaru.
- c. To identify whether any significant correlation between students' understanding of skimming and scanning techniques and their reading comprehension in expository text at Dwi Sejahtera Vocational High School Pekanbaru.

2. The Significance of The Research

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

- a. The research findings are contributed to give the valuable input to all English teachers, especially to the English teacher at Dwi Sejahtera



Vocational High School Pekanbaru as an attempt to improve the students' reading comprehension.

- b. The research findings are expected to give information for all students, especially for the students at Dwi Sejahtera Vocational High School Pekanbaru.
- c. The research findings are strongly expected to develop both theoretical and practical benefits for the teaching English as foreign language, especially for those who have great concerns in teaching reading.
- d. To fulfill one of the requirement for the writer to complete her un-graduated degree program at English Education Department of Educational and Teacher Training Faculty of State Islamic university of Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau.

D. The Definition of the Term

In order to avoid misunderstanding and misinterpreting of the terms used in this research, it is necessary to define the operational definition terms consisted in this research as follows:

1. The Correlation

A correlation is a statistical test to determine the tendency or pattern for two (or more) variables or two sets of data to vary consistently. In this case of only two variables, this means that two variables share common variance, or they co-vary together, Cresswell (2008:356). In this research correlation means the relationship between students' understanding



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ofskimming and scanning techniques and their reading comprehension on expository text at Dwi Sejahtera Vocational High School Pekanbaru.

2. The Understanding of Skimming and Scanning Techniques

McWorther (1992:123) states that skimming means reading selectively to get a general idea of what an article is about. She also claims scanning is a process of rapidly locating specific information in printed material.

Based on Longman dictionary by Jack C. Richards and Richard Schmidt (2010:599) technique in teaching is a specific procedure for carrying out a teaching activity, such as the ways a teacher corrects students' errors or sets up group activities.

In this research it refers to students understand how use skimming and scanning techniques for looking quickly through the expository text in order to search the information they need at Vocational High School Dwi Sejahtera Pekanbaru.

3. Reading Comprehension

According to Judy (2008:127) reading comprehension is covering how the brain takes in new information through variety of neural networks using patterns, categories, and relational connections, and builds the new data into comprehend knowledge. In this research it refers to students' ability to comprehend in reading expository text in Vocational High School Dwi Sejahtera Pekanbaru.

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4. Expository Text

Based on Kalayo (2007:62) expository text is the text that give information, explain why or how, clarify process, or define concept. In this research, it means students read expository text by using skimming and scanning techniques in order to find out main idea and several specific information at Vocational High School Dwi Sejahtera Pekanbaru.

E. Reasons for Choosing the Title

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

- a. The title of this research is relevant with the writer's status as a student of English education.
- b. The problems of this research are not yet investigated by other previous researchers.