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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. The Background of the Problem

Reading is one of the skills that should be mastered by English language learners. Basically, the purposes of reading process are acquiring information, knowledge, insight, and also for pleasure of interest that is gotten from reading materials. According to Richard and Schmidt (2010:483), reading is the processes by which the meaning of a written text is understood. Dealing with it, Johnson (2008:3) also defined that reading is the practice of using text to create meaning. The points of reading are creating and meaning. If the reader cannot catch the meaning of the reading, it means that there is no process of reading taking place. Moreover, Hasibuan and Fauzan (2007:114) believe that reading is an activity with a purpose. A person may read to gain information or verify existing knowledge, or in order to critique a writer's ideas or writing style. Some people may also read for enjoyment, or to enhance knowledge of the language being read. Therefore, reading is not easy to master because the readers should have an ability to comprehend the author's messages, the main ideas, and the topic sentences.

In reading process the reader not only reads the words, sentences, paragraphs, and texts but also should comprehend what the contents of reading are. In line with Grabe (2009:14) says that reading is centrally a comprehending process . By reading, we can get some informations about whatever we need. We can learn something we do not know before. Reading comprehension is very important. The

students read the text to understand what the writer intended to convey the readers. In reading, students not only read the text but also comprehend the text. In relation to Snow (2002:11) says that reading comprehension is the process of simultaneously extracting and constructing the meaning through interaction and involvement with written language. Comprehension does not occur by simply extracting meaning from text. During reading, the students construct different representations of the text that are important for comprehension.

Based on the researcher's preliminary research in MTs Ummatan Wasathan islamic boarding School of Technology Riau, especially for the eighth grade students, it's clear that the students were difficult in English subject. It seems that many of the students got low score and their scores were so far from the passing grade in their school. It makes students do not pass the reading subject. The weakness of students' reading comprehension was caused by many factors. One of them is their translation ability.

According to Wilss (1982: 3), translation is a transfer process which aims at the transformation of a written Source Language Text (SLT) into an optimally equivalent Target Language Text (TLT). In line with Brislin (1976: 1) defines translation is a general term referring to the transfer of thoughts and ideas from one language to another. In translating a text, there are 4 important elements, they are writers, norms, culture, and setting and tradition. Translator should keep the originality of each element from the source language. The only change on the translation process is the form. The form of the source language is changed by the form of the target language. The form of language refers to words, phrases,

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clauses, sentences, paragraphs, etc. Furthermore, translator should consider the appropriate form in the target language such as lexicon and grammatical structure.

Translation ability is a factor that affects reading comprehension. As we know that, translation has good position in teaching and learning English of foreign language. Translation cannot be separated from the other abilities. When students are reading, listening or speaking English, as a foreign language, actually they are translating. They translate from the source language into the target language. According to Catford (1965:1), translation is a craft consisting in the attempt to replace a written message or statement in one language by the same message or statement in another language.

According to Newmark (1988:17), the work of translation is started by reading the original text in order to get understanding and ends with re-writing it in the target language. Moreover, he explained that the translation involves process; comprehension of the vocabulary of the original source-language text, comprehension of the meaning of the original source-language message, reformulation of the message in the target-language, and judgement of the adequacy of the target-language text. It means that after reading and comprehending the text, the translator then both reformulate the meaning into the target language equivalently and insert that meaning into an appropriate target language sentence structure to convey the meaning. From the definitions above, in simple words it can be said that translation is a process of transferring message from one's language into another language. Liao in Maasoum & Mahdian (2012:263) says that translation is found to be a frequently used learning strategy.

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Translation is a prevalent strategy that is used by many EFL students in learning English. Translation has a good position in language learning since it helps students to build better connection between their mother tongue and the target language. Pertaining to the statement above, Chamot in Liao (2006:194) states that translation refers to using the first language as a base for understanding and producing the second language. From the brief explanation above, it is obvious that translation has positive correlation with reading comprehension since there are some positive aspects which translation brings to reading comprehension. Finally, it can be said that the students who have good translation ability likely get better understanding when they read the second language text.

MTs Ummatan Wasathan Islamic Boarding School of Technology Riau is one of the Islamic Boarding Schools in Pekanbaru. MTs Ummatan Wasathan Islamic Boarding School of Technology Riau provides English subject to the students. In English subject, the students study about reading and learn about some texts. One of them is Narrative text to improve their reading comprehension. This school uses KTSP as a guideline in teaching-learning process. In School Based Curriculum, English subject should be taught at every level of school. English is taught to the eighth grade of students at MTs Ummatan Wasathan Islamic Boarding School of Technology Riau twice a week with duration 40 minutes. The passing grade of English language subject at MTs Ummatan Wasathan Islamic Boarding School of Technology Riau is 78.



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Based on the problems depicted above, the researcher is interested investigating the problems above entitled **“The Correlation Between Students’ Translation Ability And Their Reading Comprehension at The Eighth Grade of MTs Ummatan Wasathan Islamic Boarding School of Technology Riau.”**

## **B. Problem**

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

The problems are identified as follows:

- a. What are the factors that make some of the students unable to identify the main idea of the narrative text?
- b. Why do some of the students have difficulties in comprehending the text given especially in narrative text?
- c. What are the factors that make some of the students unable to identify the generic structure of the narrative text?
- d. What are the factors that influence the students’ get difficulties in translating English text into Indonesia?
- e. Why aren’t the students easy to identify the correct form of translating English meaning?
- f. Why do some of the students not know develop vocabularies in translation?

### **2. Limitation of The Problem**

In this research the researcher has limited time, data, and so on. To avoid misunderstanding to the problems, it is necessary for the researcher to limit these

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problems in this research. The researcher focuses on the correlation between students' translation ability and their reading comprehension.

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

Based on the problems limited above, the problems will be formulated into following research question:

- a. How is students' translation ability at the eighth grade of MTs Ummatan Wasathan Islamic Boarding School of Technology Riau?
- b. How is students' reading comprehension at the eighth grade of MTs Ummatan Wasathan Islamic Boarding School of Technology Riau?
- c. Is there any a significant correlation between students' translation ability and their reading comprehension at the eighth grade of MTs Ummatan Wasathan Islamic Boarding School of Technology Riau?

### **C. The objectives and significance of the research**

#### **1. Objective of the Research**

Specifically, this research intends:

- a. To know whether there is or not a significant correlation between the students' translation ability and their reading comprehension at the eighth grade of MTs Ummatan Wasathan Islamic Boarding School of Technology Riau.

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## 2. Significance of the Research

Besides the specific objectives above, this research are also directed to the significance of the research:

- a. Hopefully, this research findings are able to benefit the researcher as a novice researcher learning how to conduct a research.
- b. This research findings are also expected to be useful and valuable, especially for students and teachers of English at Senior High School 14 Pekanbaru to be considerations for their future teaching and learning English process.
- c. Besides, these research findings are also expected to be positive information, especially for those who are in the field of teaching and learning English as a foreign or second language.
- d. Finally, these research findings are also expected to be practical and theoretical information to the development of the theories on English language teaching.

## D. Reasons of Choosing the Title

There are some reasons why the researcher is interested in carrying out the topic above based on the several considerations:

- a. The title of this research is relevant to the researcher status as a student of English Education Department of State Islamic University of Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau.

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- b. The problems of this research is not yet investigated by other previous researchers.
- c. The location of the research facilitated the researcher in conducting this research.

## E. Definition of the Term

### 1. Correlation

According to Creswell (2012:338), the correlation statistical test is to describe and to measure the degree of association or relationship between two or more variables and sets of scores. Similarly, Richards and Schmidt (2010:139) state that correlation is a measure of the strength of the relationship or between two or more sets of data. Regarding to Nunan (1992:229) also states that correlation is a set of statistical procedures for testing the strenght or the association between set scores. So, correlation is used to know the relationship between variable x and variable y. In this research variable x is Translation Ability and the variable y is Reading Comprehension.

### 2. Translation ability

According to Richards and Schmidt (2010:610), translation is the process of rendering written language that was produced by the source language into another the target languag, or the target language version that results from this process.

### 3. Reading comprehension

According to Nunan (2005:69), reading is a set of skills that involves making sense and deriving meaning from the printed word. Richards and Schmidt



(2010:108) state that comprehension is the identification of the intended meaning of written or spoken communication. In this case, comprehension is dealing with reading. So, reading comprehension is the process of decoding meaning of the written text by the reader.

#### 4. Narrative Text

Narrative is storytelling whether it tells a true story or fiction (Syafi'I, 2011:53). In short, narrative is a text that tells a story, it can be an imaginary or real event. Besides, the purpose of narrative text is that to amuse the readers. Then, there are three generic structures of narrative text. They are orientation, complication and resolution (Mun, et.al, 2008: vi). Firstly, orientation is the part presents the settings of the story and introduces the characters involved. Secondly, complication is that the sequence of events, usually in form of conflict that disrupt the normal event. Thirdly, resolution is problem solving of the conflict and the end of the story.

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