

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter is a general description of what the writer will discuss in the next chapter. This part consists of research background, reason for choosing the topics, research question, objectives of study, pedagogical significance, the scope of the study, and outline of the study.

A. Research Background

Learning a language it is can be quite difficult for students, especially for them who find it as second or foreign language learning. The case will be same for students who study English in foreign language classroom. To be successful in their learning, students need to be supported by many factors; four of them is a good interaction between teacher and students, a good learning environment, an interesting course design and material, and attractive method. All factors mentioned before are needed to enhance students' motivation.

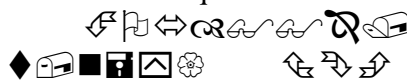
In Indonesia, English has been one of the subjects in the formal school from the secondary school up to the universities. Indonesia government recommended English to be taught at school as the first foreign language and as the second language since English plays vast role in international communication.

In learning English, students should master four language skill, listening, reading, speaking, and writing. Those skills should not be taught separately. They correlate one another in the English learning process.

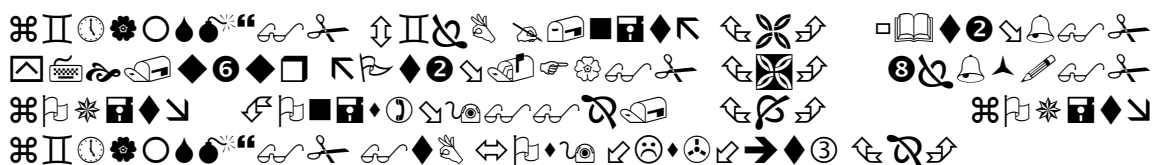
Jo Mc Donough & Crishoper Shaw has an argument that reading is the most important. They indicate that reading is the most important foreign language skill in case where students have to read English material for their own need, but they did not need to speak English. In this case they said "English as library language".¹

In Islamic perspective, reading is very important in teaching learning process. As we know that our prophet Muhammad SAW has got the first revelation to read although he was in illiteracy condition.

It's stated in holy Qur'an letter Al-Alaq 1-5.



¹ Jo Mc Donough & Crishoper Shaw, *Material and Method in ELT*, (United Kingdom : Black Well Publishing, 1993), p. : 89.



Proclaim! (Or read!) In the name of Thy Lord and Cherisher, who created-? (1) Created man, out of a (mere) clot of congealed blood: (2) Proclaim! And Thy Lord is Most Bountiful (3) He who taught (the use of) the Pen (4) Taught man that which He knew not (5)²

This verse shows that Islam gives high attention to reading. It explains about how reading can be a first step of teaching learning process. Reading in Islamic perspective isn't only dealing with the understanding, but also interpreting and extracting. The information from the text than relate it to the real phenomenon readers have.³

Reading is an important way of student's receptive knowledge of language. In terms of classroom activities, it stimulates and supports student's to talk and write. Unfortunately, teaching reading especially in junior high school has not been successful. In fact, the students still have many difficulties to comprehend English reading text. This problem is perhaps caused by the students or the teachers themselves.

Reading comprehension weakness can be caused by internal factor, such as motivation, interest, intelligence, aptitude, and attitude. Besides, usually the text given by the teachers only consist of paragraphs. Teachers seldom give any kinds of object to make the text interesting.

In addition, Indonesian's in general have low enthusiasm in reading. It can be proved that the result survey of UNESCO (United National Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) in 2006 show that Indonesian's have low enthusiasm in reading. Indonesia has position in 38 orders, from 39 countries in ASEAN. From quantity of our society and total of newspaper circulated everyday, the percentage of reading newspaper very low. Approximately 1%, UNESCO decided as well 10%.⁴

² Mafhan, Juz 'Amma & Terjemahannya Inggris –Indonesia Dengan Transliterasi & Doa-Doa Pilihan, (Tangerang : Wahyu Media, 2006), p. 25-26.

³ M. Quraish Shihab, *Wawasan Al Qur'an*, (Bandung: Mizan, 2003), p. : 5.

⁴ Buntet Pesantren, "Makna Membangkitkan Minat Baca", [http:// butet pesantren. Org/index2.php?option = com_content & do. Pdf = 1 & id = 606](http://butet.pesantren.org/index2.php?option=com_content&do.Pdf=1&id=606), p.: 1.

The low reading motivation of Indonesian students caused by many factors, such as minimal facilities at their school, old design of reading material, etc. Therefore, students are not motivated to read their material.

From this description, teachers should make strategy in developing their reading material. Actually, there are many media that the teachers can use in teaching English. Teachers can create the reading in such way to make reading activity interesting to do, such as pictures, comics, short story, computer, etc. "Using media can help arousing student's motivation and stimulate learning process. Moreover, bring up psychological influence for student".⁵

Now days, technology grows rapidly especially the growth of computer technology. Computer is used in teaching English because it gives many outputs such as moving pictures, and also sound which are very interesting for students. Recently, there are many software/programs in supporting English learning which can be used in fun way.

This study will focus on reading courseware as a media to improve student's motivation in reading, for the seventh grade students MTsN model Babakan Lebaksiu Tegal.

B. Reasons for Choosing The Topics

The writer chooses this topic with the following reasons:

1. Reading is one of the important English skills, that's considered difficult to learn by the students especially for junior high school.
2. Most of students have low motivation and were not being enthusiastic in learning reading.
3. Teachers tend to use conventional methods. Usually the text given by the teachers only consists of paragraph.
4. To make understandable and memorable teaching of reading, the writer uses reading courseware as a media. It can help arousing student's motivation.

C. Research questions

The research question in this study is "How effective is the use of reading courseware as media to improve student's learning motivation in reading for the seventh grade students of MTsN Model Babakan Lebaksiu Tegal?"

⁵ Azhar Arsyad, *Media Pembelajaran*, (Jakarta : Kharisma Putra Utama, 2005). P. : 15.

D. Objectives of the study

The objective of the study is to find out the effectiveness of using reading courseware to improve students' learning motivation in reading for the seventh grade students of MTsN Model Babakan Lebaksiu Tegal.

E. Pedagogical significance

This study hopefully will be useful for:

1. Teachers

This study is hoped to be valuable for English teachers to enrich their technique in teaching reading.

2. Students

This study is hoped to be valuable for the students to get motivation improvement in learning reading better.

3. Institutional

The result of this study is hoped to be valuable for institution / school by giving information that can be media of improving the quality of the institution/school.

4. The development of knowledge (teaching-learning strategy)

This study is hoped to be valuable as the contributor in educational world about the effectiveness of using reading courseware to improve student's motivation in reading.

F. The scope of the study

To limit the scope of the study, the writer will only discuss such as follows:

1. This study will be done in seventh grade students of MTsN model Babakan Tegal in the academic year of 2009/2010.
2. This study will talk about the effectiveness of using reading courseware to improve students' learning motivation in reading. It is done because students have low enthusiastic in learning reading, which is obviously caused by low motivation, both intrinsic and extrinsic motivation.