

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background Research

Language is human communication consists of words which used by particular community or country in conventional way, such as what is written in oxford dictionary that “language is a system of communication in speech and writing used by people of a particular country”¹. Language is very important to convey information that people need, Boey said in his book that language helps the people make interaction to their environment². In this case, language is communication tool and plays important role in it not only verbally but also non-verbally, such as written language. Through language we can express our idea to others, and it is really influence our culture and society.

We have so many languages of the entire world. To make the communication between all people – from the different nation – of the world easier, United Nation decides English language as one of international languages. Most of countries in the world applied English as the second language and also foreign language that have to be learned by the students there, including Indonesia.

¹ A.S Hornby, *Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000), p.240

²Lim Kiat Boey, *An introduction to linguistics for the language teacher*, (Singapore: University Press, 1975), p

Moreover, everyone believes that English is getting more and more important now. Nowadays, English is taught by teacher as a subject from elementary school to university. English has been taught in this country as the first foreign language and introduced in the curriculum of Indonesian schools. To success English Foreign Language (EFL) program for Indonesian students, the teacher must have a suitable teaching and test for each skill or ability of English.

There are four skills in English, they are speaking, writing, reading, and listening. It is better for English learners to master in all those skills, but the fact is different. Many English learners do not master in all of those skills. For example, some of English learners are good in writing, but not for speaking or vice versa. The other example, some English learners are good in reading, but not well in listening or vice versa. It means that these English learners have different ability in acquiring language.

Reading is a set of skills that involves making sense and deriving meaning from the printed word.³ To conquer this skill, we need to understand the sentences or comprehend what the researcher wrote. It will help the reader to convey the written knowledge. Having a good reading skill is one of language goals, because not only deriving meaning and convey the messages of the written words but also make the written words such as story

³ Caroline T. Linse, *Practical English Language Teaching: Young Learners*, (New York: McGraw-Hill Companies,2006), p. 69.

more interesting to be heard when they understand the purpose of the story.

Reading is one of the language skills that play an important role in foreign language acquisition. According to Richard “Reading perceives a written text in order to understand its contents. The understanding that result is called reading comprehension”.⁴ So, the ability to read as a passive receptive language skills is the ability to not only rely on linguistic abilities in the form of an understanding of form and composition of sentences, phrases, words and other linguistic elements that are explicitly contained in the use of language but also by exploiting the ability of understanding extra linguistic elements which includes everything in the form of events, thoughts, inter-relationships, feelings, perceptions, memories, etc. Then, from that explanation we get that reading ability is an ability which is not only relying on exact meaning of the words, but it is wider, depending on what kind of text they are read.

Reading is very important for English learners because reading can enlarge their knowledge, vocabulary, and information. From reading, the readers are able to get complete understanding of the text. This might be cause by the fact that many of those students do not know the essential information needed to understand a word, including how a word combines with other

⁴Jack C. Richard. *Longman Dictionary of Language Teaching and Applied Linguistic 2nd edition*, (England: Longman Group, 1992.), p. 444.

words difficult to get information from the passage and difficult to make a conclusion of the passage. All of those problems will affect the learner in comprehending the passage and reading achievement. Therefore those students need strategies or technique in order to overcome the problem.

Reading comprehension refers to reading for meaning, understanding, and entertainment. It involves higher-order thinking skills and is much more complex than rarely decoding specific words. Teaching how to derive meaning as well as analyze and synthesize what the readers read is an essential part of the reading process.⁵

The importance of reading is stated in the Holy Qur'an Surah Al-'Alaq 1-5:

الْأَكْرَمُ وَرَبُّكَ أَقْرَبُ ﴿٢﴾ عَلَقٍ مِّنَ الْإِنْسَنِ خَلَقَ ﴿١﴾ خَلَقَ الَّذِي رَّبِّكَ بِأَسْمِ أَقْرَبُ ﴿٣﴾
يَعْلَمُ لَمَّا الْإِنْسَانَ عَلَّمَ ﴿٤﴾ بِالْقَلَمِ عَلَّمَ الَّذِي

"Read! In the Name of your Lord and Cherisher, who created - created man, out of a (mere) clot of congealed blood: Read! And thy Lord is the Most Bountiful, - He Who thought (the use of) the pen, - Taught man that which he knew not."⁶

This surah proves that Islam suggests its people to read, because reading is first step of teaching learning process. Reading

⁵ Caroline T. Linse, *Practical English Language Teaching: Young Learners*, (New York: McGraw-Hill Companies, 2006), p. 71

⁶A. Yusuf Ali, *The Holy Qur'an Text, Translation and Commentary*, (Maryland, United State of America: Amana Corp, 1983), p.1761-1762.

in Islamic perspective is not only dealing with the understanding, but also interpreting and extracting.

In some Madrasah Aliyah, reading is still not easy. In fact, students of eleventh grades MA At-Tawaazun Pematang have the problem to understand their English learning especially in reading. They are still lack of vocabulary. To solve this problem, researcher think cloze procedural test will help them in their reading. Because as Jongsma said in his research that cloze test is completion-type exercises had been used previously ill measures of intelligence and teacher-constructed tests. Deletions in these tests were usually highly selective and focused on high content words that conveyed meaning.

In learning English, as well as other areas of assessment need not wait until the middle or the end of the semester but can be done during the learning process takes place using a variety of evaluation tools. Because testing and teaching cannot be separated each other. Both testing and teaching are so closely interrelated that is virtually impossible to work in other field without being constantly concerned with the other. So the researcher use limited cloze test to evaluate students reading ability.

The researcher hopes by using that method the students will get what is the information of passage or text told them. To make them interested, the researcher will use this method in teaching narrative text. Because students' background knowledge

will lead them to choose the right words to complete the blank sentences in that story.

B. Reason For Choosing the Topic

The researcher chooses this topic because, based on the teacher's information, the students at that school just read without comprehending the meaning of words available in the text. They are also lazy to look up the vocabulary on the dictionary. So the researcher would like to focus more on the reading assessment using cloze test treatment to manipulate the students in looking up the vocabularies, and it will influent their understanding in comprehend the passage.

There are three reasons for choosing the topic:

1. Reading is one language skills which should be developed for students in mastering English.
2. Most of students sometimes get difficulty to read foreign language texts.

Mostly, the students are from Central Java. They usually speak Javanese language as their mother tongue and Indonesian language. They seldom speak foreign language. So, they get difficulty to read and write foreign language text.

3. The researcher would like to use Limited Cloze Test as an assessment in teaching English especially in reading skill.

Researcher hopes the students will enjoy their learning and also help them in increasing their vocabulary and reading ability.

C. Questions of the Research

This research proposal is guided through the following major questions:

1. How is students' reading ability before treatment and after treatment?
2. Is Limited Cloze Test effective for teaching students' reading skill in narrative text?
3. Does the treatment really help the students' reading ability in understanding and comprehending the text, especially in reading narrative text?

D. Objectives of the Research

This research proposal is intended to meet the following objectives:

1. To know students' reading ability before treatment and after treatment.
2. To know about the effectiveness of Limited Cloze Test for students' reading skill in narrative text
3. To help the students' reading ability in understanding and comprehending the text, especially in reading narrative text.

E. Pedagogical Significances of the Research

By using this research, there are some significance to the students, teachers, other researchers, and the researcher herself. Here, the researcher divides into two kinds below:

1. Academically
 - a. The result of this research can be used as an additional reference for English subject especially in developing reading skills.
 - b. The result of this research is expected to be beneficial for improving an understanding of language especially arranging or completing language into a good sentence or utterance and for daily life communication.
 - c. This research is expected to give the contribution for the students so they can read in a better way with the better result and understand the purpose of the the text
2. Practically
 - a. This research can be used as student additional information of cloze test using in narrative text.
 - b. The result of this research will help the student increase their knowledge about reading comprehension.
 - c. The result of this research can be used to improve English teaching and learning process in Madrasah Aliyah At-Tawaazun Pernalang.