

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Reading is one's skills that should be mastered by the students, the curriculum states that there are four skills in English lesson they are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Reading skills become most important in education field, it proves that reading is the most important in learning English and the curriculum stated that out of the four skills, such listening, speaking, reading, and writing, the main emphasis is reading skill because it is believed that acquisition of reading in a second or foreign language is priority.

Reading is a good thing in life because it is a factor of great importance in the individual development and the most important activity in school, and it is needed in every level of field of study. Particularly in cases when students have to read English materials for their own special subject. Being able to read in English is very important as we know that success in reading is the most necessary because it is a basic tool of education. All the subjects in School such as mathematics, science, language, and others depend on the ability to read. In high school and college reading ability becomes more important. Through reading we acquire new ideas, obtain needed information, seek support for our ideas and broaden our interest. We can also get the message that the writer expressed.

The ability to read helps to distinguish and one of the purposes of teaching English of a foreign language to Indonesian people is that they can read, grasp the

idea and understand the book written in English. According to Harris (1962:13) reading is the meaningful interpretation of printed or written verbal symbols. It means that every aspect of learning uses reading as major component. Reading is not considered as the most important information activity in all areas, not only as source of information and pleasurable activity but also as a means of extending one's knowledge of language.

The most common of the four skills tested is reading. In reading ability there are some competences that the students have to master it, in order they can get the information and idea from what they read accurately. The commonly competence that often asses in learning process are vocabulary and comprehension, however vocabulary is one important aspect in English, especially in reading ability. Students who have limited vocabulary will also have a limited understanding in terms of speaking, reading, listening, and writing. It is true that it might be impossible to learn a language without mastering vocabulary.

Vocabulary is one of the problems confronted by English language learners because of the limited vocabulary the learners cannot communicate to others clearly. Sometimes it is difficult to group the idea transmitted to them. The acquisition of a large number of vocabularies can help the students read, speak, listen, and write. Both of vocabulary and comprehension are the most important skill because both of them have strong relationship in reading skill. Comprehension is one of competence in reading ability that vocabulary has important role in comprehension. In the previous research known that students who have a lot of vocabulary they can understand the content of the passage because vocabulary is the key in reading skill.

Because of vocabulary and comprehensions are the most important skills in reading ability, the researcher wants to know the correlation between vocabulary mastery and comprehension skill. From the description above the writer is interested and called to arrange the thesis by the title *“The correlation between vocabulary mastery and reading comprehension skill of the students of junior high school at 8<sup>th</sup> grade”*.

### **1.2 The Research Question**

Related to the background knowledge of the study, the problem statement is:

“What is the significance correlation between vocabulary mastery and reading comprehension skill of the students at 8<sup>th</sup> grade in Mts Al-Ibrohimi?”

### **1.3 The Hypothesis**

The working hypothesis for this study is:

- Vocabulary mastery is positively correlated with reading comprehension skill

### **1.4 The Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of the study tries to find out the answer of the problem that has been stated on the research question. This project is intended to the correlation between vocabulary mastery and reading comprehension skill of the students.

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

Several significances can be taken from this study which is beneficial for the writer, and other researchers. For the writer is as a venue for training, development of science knowledge as educator and teacher. For other researchers, this study could be a good reference to develop other researchers. However, the result of this study is expected to get the correlation between vocabulary mastery and reading comprehension skill of junior high school at 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **1.6 Scope and Limitation of the Study**

The researcher scopes this study in vocabulary mastery at the level of junior high school and comprehension skill which focuses on descriptive text. For descriptive text the researcher limits the difficulties of the text at level of junior high school which appropriate at the curriculum and syllabus on the school. Therefore, the vocabulary used in the text is a familiar to the students and the length of the text it is for about two until four short paragraphs.

Because of limited time, energy and ability of the writer who does not may be able to perform at all levels of schooling, so the problem research is limited to the junior high school at 8<sup>th</sup> grade about "The correlation between vocabulary mastery and reading comprehension skill of junior high school at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade".

### **1.7 Definition of Key Terms**

To avoid misunderstanding between the writer and the readers, it is important to give the definition of some key terms.

- Vocabulary mastery: is the ability of knowing word meaning at level of junior high school.
- Comprehension skill: is the ability of understanding the implicit and explicit meaning of descriptive text.
- Reading: is the process to get information and comprehend the content of descriptive text.