

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

Reading is one of the language skills that should be mastered. Reading does not draw on one kind of skill, but it has many outcomes. Different readers have different way to understood in text. Reading is important because we can get and know information from a text. Reading is a process undertaken to reduce uncertainty about meanings a text conveys. It is also a process results from a negotiation of meaning between the text and its reader.

According to Shepherd and Mitchell (1997), reading is a process of communication that involves many skills. Reading is more a thinking process; it is not just an eye movement exercise. It means that reading is a combination of many skills that need more thinking of the meaning of the text, not only how fast you read the texts or paragraphs.

Language testing is relevant both for those actually involved in creating language tests, and also more generally for those involved in using tests or the information they provide, in practical and research contexts. (McNamara T, 2002). It means that language testing is relevant creating, using, and researching the tests.

Actually reading test is a part of reading assessment. According to (Elizabeth S, 2003) there are two form of reading assessments. First, diagnostic assessment purposed to know the children reading to improve their reading itself. Second, measuring assessment is to measure the progress they have been made. In other word, reading test is an assessment that can be as diagnostic and measuring the students especially in reading skill.

Reading comprehension is one of the pillars of the act of reading. When a person reads a text he engages in a complex array of cognitive processes. Unfortunately, reading section in this country is not a favorite thing. So that assessments of students' reading comprehension is still very low. Assessment is a critical element of successful instruction. By assessing student's reading comprehension, we will know the understanding level of the students.

Reading comprehension has become not useful language skill in junior high school level in South East Asia because teacher teaches without understanding (Liu; 2009). In other word, students' consider that reading is boring and teacher thinks it is less important.

Recently, we have been living in the era of technology and this technology has rushed in our lives from one way or another. It has supplied a lot of means and tools that have been so effective and important in the development of education and has contributed to the improvement of the learning process though raising students' motivation in learning and encouraging them. During this period of technological development, the computer and internet have been developed as the leading learning tools.

According to Gunduz (2005) the role of computers in language teaching has changed significantly in the last three decades. Previously, computers used in language teaching were limited to text. Nowadays, computers as a media of simple simulations, exercises, test and multiple-choices drills. In other word, reading test can be developed using a computerized with many colors, texts, pictures, sounds, etc.

The application of computer in language learning is known as Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL). According to Hardisty & Windeatt (1989) described CALL as a means of 'presenting, reinforcing and testing' particular language items that used by the teacher and student. First, the students' presented with a rule and some examples, then answer the question which test their knowledge and the computer gives appropriate feedback each answer.

There are so many advent ages of using CALL in reading test like faster, accurately, quickly, useful, efficiently and cheaply. Computer assisted language learning in reading test require less time to finish. The teacher doesn't have to correct students' work sheet because immediate test results and feedback complete with a printout of basic testing statistics and accuracy in reporting test automatically. In other word, it will efficiently teachers' time. According to Chenu (2007) investigated the efficiency of using CALL for Japanese students is more effective rather than workbook. In other word, it will be better if we use CALL than workbook to the students.

The answers to these questions can be very useful to understand students' problem-solving strategies and help for teacher to understand the performance level of student. (Pathan, 2012)

By making the test available wherever and whenever the students can insert a disk into a CD-ROM drive. It means that using computerize in reading test is more cheaply, compared to the traditional paper pieces test. (Pathan, 2012)

Based on the explanation of advantages using CALL in reading test above, the researcher want to develop traditional reading test become modern reading test by using CALL hot potatoes software.

Here the researcher uses one of CALL software that called as hot potatoes software. Hot potatoes consist of five applications that can create exercise in the form of World Wide Web. The applications are JQuiz, JClose, JCross, JMatch, and JMix. There is also an application called Jmasher that will combine all the hot potatoes exercises into one unit. Hot potatoes are computer software that the commercial aspect of the software is handled by Half-Baked Software Inc. Then it becomes freeware since October 1999. (wikipedia)

Based on the previous researcher, Shofrotul Zainiyah, 2014 in her thesis by the title *Developing a Reading Test using Hot Potatoes Software*. Reading test which appropriate to student for seventh grade in junior high school is by using hot potatoes because the students at that age is interested into picture and something colorful. It also can influence the students' score.

Nahdlatul Ulama 2 is a formal school. This school is a religion school under Nahdlatul Ulama foundation. In this study, the researcher chooses Nahdlatul Ulama 2 Gresik Junior High School because in this school rarely or never use any application software yet, except power point in teacher's presentation. While in other school like YIMI Junior High School ever used any application software like hot potatoes. The researcher chooses 7A class randomly. Although the

English teacher ever used power point and reading test in colorful that makes students interested but using hot potatoes is the new way in giving reading test. The test that ever done in this school is monotonous and difficult. The teacher just gives paper pieces than ask the students to answer the question with many texts. In this way, there are so many disadvantages like some students feel boring in reading section, lack of discipline and responsibility of the student because they still have an opportunity to cheat with their friends.

So that is why, the researcher want to developing reading test using JQuiz (hot potatoes software) seventh grade in Nahdlatul Ulama 2 Junior High School that easier to do than a traditional way and cheaper than paper piece.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

An alternative way in give a reading test for students in seventh grades is needed, that is why the researcher wants to develop reading test by using JQuiz (Hot potatoes) software for seventh grade of junior high school.

1.3 Objective of the Study

The objective of this study is to develop reading test by using JQuiz (Hot potatoes) software for seventh grade of junior high school.

1.4 Significance of the Study

There are two significances of the study, they are theoretical and practical. Here, the researcher expects some significance from this study as follow:

1. Theoretical significance

The researcher creates a new test model of reading test by using JQuiz hot potatoes software.

2. Practical significance

This study is expected to give contribution for:

- a. Teacher who teaches in junior high school can create a new innovation in reading test by using hot potatoes software. It can be beneficial as an interesting reading test.
- b. For the students, it can make them easily and interestingly to do a reading test and improve students' score.
- c. For the school who want to get another way to give their students English reading test.
- d. For the readers, it can inspire them to develop and make other creation or another skill of language.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of the study is students of seventh grade of Nahdlatul Ulama 2 Gresik Junior High School. Students in this class consist of 20 students (10 male and 10 female).

The limitation of the study is on the reading test by using hot potatoes software especially on JQuiz which is an objective question (multiple choice) because from all respond that taken by the researcher prefer to a multiple choices question.

The reading topics of this product are label/ list text, instruction/short notice/warning and caution text, and also descriptive text. The researcher used a JQuiz program that consist of questions, correlate pictures, multiple choices, answers feedback, total score, and timer.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

There are three key words to help the reader determine the focus of the research. The key words are reading test, hot potatoes software and Nahdlatul Ulama 2 Gresik Junior High School.

1. Reading test

Reading test is a part of reading assessment. It is an assessment that can be as diagnostic and measuring the students especially in reading skill. This reading test using JQuiz Program which is a multiple choices form with the topics are label/ list text, instruction/short notice/warning and caution text, and also descriptive text.

2. JQuiz Program

JQuiz is program to create question-based quizzes. The researcher used a JQuiz program that consist of questions, correlate pictures, multiple choices, answers feedback, total score, and timer.

3. Developing test

Developing test is relevant both for those actually involved in creating language tests, and also more generally for those involved in using tests or the information they provide, in practical and research context.