

## ABSTRACT

Handriyani, 2012: Improving Students' Reading Comprehension Using Cooperative Integrated Reading and Composition (CIRC) for Seventh grade at MTs. Nurul Islam Pongangan. The Sarjana's Thesis, English Education Department, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, University of Muhammadiyah Gresik. Advisor I Slamet Asari, M.Pd advisor II Dr. Yudhi Arifani, M.Pd

Key word : cooperative learning, circ type, reading comprehension

This study was conducted based on the consideration of the problem that the students had in mastery their reading comprehension at the seventh grade of MTs. Nurul Islam Pongangan. As an English teacher, the researcher found that the students' reading comprehension was low. Based on the preliminary study, the fact that the average score obtained from the pre test was 68.80 and the passing grade ( SKM) for English lesson was 75. It meant that, the students could not achieve the minimum standard of the school target. It was also found that the students still got difficult to generate their ideas into sentences. Based on the problem that the researcher faced in the classroom, this study was focused on solving the problem related to how the student can understand reading text. This study proposed cooperative integrated reading and composition to improve the students' reading comprehension. The research problem here is, " how does cooperative learning CIRC type improve reading comprehension for the students at seventh graded of MTs Nurul Islam Pongangan?"

The design of the study is classroom action research. The researcher played two roles in this research; as a teacher and researcher. During mplementing cooperative integrated reading and composition in the classroom, the researcher was accompanied by a teacher partner. This research was conducted in one cycle, which was divided in four main activities, planning, acting, observing, and reflecting. The reflecting based on the findings during the observation and compared with the criteria of success including, (1) students' average score is 75 (passing grade for English lesson) and (2) student can participate actively in the class. The research findings showed that this strategy was effective to teach reading comprehension at seventh grade of MTs. Nurul Islam Pongangan. It was indicated on the students' average score of post test in cycle 1. The students' average score in pre test from the teacher and researcher was 68.80. The score was improved in post test, the students' average score in post test from the teacher and researcher was 83.30. The improvement was also shown in the students' performances in the class.

Based on the research findings, two suggestions are provided. The first the English teacher are recommended that cooperative integrated reading and composition was good strategy to teach reading comprehension to the student, the second, the next researcher who wants to conduct a research using cooperative integrated reading and composition are recommended to conduct this research in different areas, levels, and skills.