# INTRODUCTION

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

## 1.1    Background of the Study

Reading is an interactive process which goes on between the text and the reader, so it will result in comprehension. The text presents letters, words, sentence and paragraphs that encode meaning. The reader uses knowledge, skill, and strategies to determine what the meaning is.

According to Shepherd and Mitchell (1997), reading is a process of communication which involves many skills. Reading is not only an eye movement exercise, but it is more a thinking process. It means reading is a skill that needs many skills and not only how fast the eye movement face texts or paragraphs.

Reading comprehension is about how to relate between background knowledge with new knowledge which is written on the text. Background knowledge itself depends on learners environment and experience. A topic probably will be acceptable in an environment, but it can also be unacceptable in another environment (Elizabeth S ; 2003). So, it is not easy to give reading material to learners, it needs to consider about the environment or students' background knowledge to avoid missunderstanding.

Reading skill is very important, unexceptionally in junior high school. There were researchers (Lamy and Klarskov;2011 in Bhatti Tariq, 2013) suggest that reading is the most important skills for junior high school students. This enforces statement that reading is the basic way to open new wider knowledge especially for junior high students that start to enlarge their feeling of curiosity.

Reading comprehension has become an unuseful language skill in Junior High School level in South East Asia because teachers teach without understanding (Liu; 2009). Moreover students consider reading boring and teachers think it is less important.

Recently, we have been living in the era of technology and this technology has invaded our lives in 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 through raising students' motivation in learning and encouraging them. During this period of technological development, the computer and the Internet have been developed as the leading learning tools.

The application of computer in language learning is known as Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) . CALL is a language learning and teaching approach in which the computer is used as a tool for presentation, assisting students, evaluating learning material, and for interactional aspects (Ates et al; 2006:1 in Elradii Nehad G, 2014). Recently, the use of CALL in language classrooms has a big effect all over the world in different language classrooms, it

has emerged as a kind of technology to help reinforcement and assessment of authentic language materials to be used and learnt. Moreover, it includes a wide range of activities, device development, pedagogical practice and research to all language skills especially reading skill.

Computer Assisted Language Learning generally uses application of computer hardware and software in teaching and learning process. Several studies have shown that CALL has significant good results on language learning especially on the learning of children in Junior High School. CALL provides easy instruction which is suitable with the students' interest.

( Jayachandran; 2007 in Elradii Nead G, 2014) mentioned that in CALL exercises, the computer can give immediate feedback for each answer, it can save teachers' time and work, and it can be used for more creative aspects of language teaching. CALL is a helpful tool for student-computer interaction and that facilitates language acquisition. Moreover, CALL provides interactive computer activities for language learning which helps learners to interact in a communicative way. Students are motivated to use the computer for all types of activities. By using the computer for presentation, explanation, and application of grammatical structures, more classroom time could be made to real communication that focuses on expressing meaning and using appropriate grammatical structures to express that meaning.

Here the researcher use one of CALL software namely hot potatoes software. The Hot Potatoes software suite includes five applications that can

create exercises in the form of World Wide Web. The applications are JCloze, JCross, JMatch, JMix and JQuiz. There is also a sixth application called The Masher, that will compile all the Hot Potatoes exercises into one unit. Hot Potatoes was created by the Research and Development team at the University of Victoria Humanities Computing and Media Centre. Commercial aspects of the software are handled by Half-Baked Software Inc. Hot Potatoes has been freeware since October 2009 (wikipedia).

In fact, The English language has four main skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Reading is the skill that is considered the main source of learning. With the rapid development of technology, the main goal of teaching has been directed for motivating students to be attentive readers to avoid boredom . Teachers should conduct new strategies and techniques that interpret language not only as sentences, vocabulary or structure, but also as a practice of thoughts and culture.

Manbaul Ulum junior high school is kind of formal school which has similar level as Junior High School. It is located in giri, In Manbaul Ulum there are nine classrooms, a library, a lab computer, teacher office and etc. Here, reading test is still done in traditional way in the written form, so that students feel boring and finally achieved score is not satisfied.

Researcher attempts to develop traditional reading test become modern reading test using hot potatoes software that purposes to increase student score. For teacher, it also gives benefit, because teacher doesn't have to correct

students' work because the software corrects students' work automatically. Of course, it will effectify teachers' time.

## 1.2 Statement of problem

Based on the background above, the writer states the problem as follows: How to develop reading test from traditional way becomes modern reading test using hot potatoes software in Manbaul Ulum Junior High School.

## 1.3 Objective to study

Based on the problem statement above, this study is to develop reading test using hot potatoes in Manbaul Ulum Junior High School.

## 1.4 Significance of the Study

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

1. Theoretical Significance

The researcher creates new test model for reading test by using hot potatoes software.

2. Practical Significance
a. For Teacher

In this research, the researcher hopes this result can help the teacher to create new innovation in reading test, so that students are not bored and hopefully can improve students' score

b. For Students

The researcher hopes that the students will not feel bored facing reading test, because researcher gives new innovation for them.

c. For Reader

Hopefully, the reader will get new knowledge after reading the research and develop them to make other creation with this finding.

## 1.5 Scope and Limitation

Scope of this study is students in the first grade. Student in this class consist of 20 students (10 male and 10 female).

The limitation of the study is on the reading test especially using hot potatoes software at first grade of SMP Manbaul Ulum.

## 1.6 Definition of Key Terms

The researcher will present the explanation of key words to avoid misunderstanding and the key words that are necessary to be defined in this research are:

1. Reading comprehension is process of constructing meaning from a text so that it makes the reader can understand or comprehend

2. The Hot Potatoes Software Suite is a computer software consists of five applications that can create exercise in the form of World Wide Web. The applications are JCloze, JCross, JMatch, JMix and JQuiz.

3. SMP Manbaul Ulum is private Junior High school that belongs to Semen Gresik Foundation. It is located on Giri, Kebomas Gresik.