

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problem

Language skills are communication skills that help you convey your ideas with clarity and precision. Language skills include listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Not only do you learn to speak well but also listen attentively. Reading is also so important skill to be mastered. Writing clearly with brevity is another skill that's considered crucial in a professional setting.

Reading is, thus, one of the important skills that is needed by the students from elementary school through university levels. By reading the students are able to get a lot of information based on what they have already read. Reading is stated as an active process, the readers form a preliminary expectation about materials, then select the fewest, most productive clues necessary to confirm or reject that expectation (Mackay, 1979: 1).

Snow (2002:11) defines reading as the process of simultaneously extracting and constructing meaning through interaction and involvement with written language. Besides, Mikulecky and Jeffries (2007:74), point out that reading comprehension means making sense of what readers read and connecting the ideas in the text to what they already know. In addition, Duffy (2009:14) simply defines reading comprehension as the essence of reading because if we do not understand the message, we are not reading.

Based on the researcher's observation during doing practice teaching, it was reported that the students in Class X at SMA Dian Andalas Padang have many problems and difficulties of reading comprehension while they're learning, for instance: they didn't find main idea of the text, they didn't find the detail information of the text, ect. Thus, it is important for the students to have some capabilities on the texts. One of them is

descriptive text. This text also represents the success of students in acquiring language in school. In fact, the students still faced difficulty to read this type of text because they need to identify phenomenon described on the text and everything described like particular person, place or thing.

Several previous studies examined the students' ability in reading Descriptive Text. Sukarta Kartawijaya (2017) found that the students' ability SMP Negeri 1 Kota Sungai Penuh academic year 2016/2017 in comprehending descriptive text was low, because most of the students failed in comprehending descriptive text. Dasrul Hidayati (2018) found that the first grade students of SMAN 1 Darussalam have difficulties in answering reading comprehension test.

Hence, the researcher focuses on descriptive text, because it is the text type to be acquired by tenth grade students of Senior High School. According to Gerot (1995: 208), descriptive text is defined as a kind of text which is aimed to describe a particular person, place or thing. It also has the generic structure like identification which identifies phenomenon to be described, description which describes parts, qualities, characteristics and the language function. Based on the background above, the writer is interested to do a research on "Analysis of The Tenth Grade Student's Reading Comprehension in Descriptive Text at SMA Dian Andalas Padang".

1.2 Identifications of The Problem

Based on the researcher's practice teaching at SMA Dian Andalas Padang, it is clear that the tenth grade students are still getting problems especially in term of reading comprehension of descriptive text. To make the problems clearer, thus, the problems of this research will be identified as follows:

- a. How are the tenth grade students' ability in finding main idea of the text?
- b. How are the tenth grade students' ability in finding the detail information of the text?
- c. Why are the tenth grade students unable to identify the content although they know the generic structure of descriptive text?
- d. Why are the tenth grade students unable to identify the content although they know the Language Features of descriptive text?

Generic structure is structure of the text which consists of stages by which the text goes through. Generic structure usually consists of the beginning, middle, and ending stages (Martin, 1990). Stage means the function or purpose of sentences or paragraphs which contributes towards the achievement of the social purpose of the text. A stage can be presented by a single sentence or a long paragraph.

Language plays an essential role in communicating information, content, and message, therefore using its various features like simile, figurative, etc. in the right way is too important. Language Features refers to sentence structure, punctuation, noun, vocabulary, phrases, etc. used in content supports, provides meaning to the communication. Different language features used in connection shape the conversation; therefore, it is crucial to choose the right language features to define form, and construct content.

1.3 Limitation of the problem

In line with identification of the problem stated above, thus the researcher needed to limit the problem of this research to the students' comprehension in reading descriptive text at SMA Dian Andalas Padang. In which, the researcher found out how the the tenth grade students' reading comprehension of descriptive text at SMA Dian Andalas was.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

The researcher formulates the problem as follows: What are the students' comprehension in reading descriptive text at SMA Dian Andalas Padang?

1.5 Research Questions

Based on the explanation of background of problems and limitation of the problem, thus, the research questions are as follows:

- a. How is the tenth grade students' reading ability in comprehending descriptive text at SMA Dian Andalas Padang?
- b. How is the tenth grade students' ability in comprehending *generic structure* of reading descriptive text at SMA Dian Andalas Padang?
- c. How is the tenth grade students' ability in comprehending *language feature* of reading descriptive text at SMA Dian Andalas Padang?

1.6 The Purpose of the Research

Based on the formulation of the problem and research questions above, the general purposes are in the following:

- a. To describe the tenth grade students' ability in reading descriptive text at SMA Dian Andalas Padang?
- b. To describe the tenth grade students' ability in comprehending generic structure of reading descriptive text at SMA Dian Andalas Padang?
- c. To describe the tenth grade students' ability in understanding language features of descriptive text at SMA Dian Andalas Padang?

1.7 Significance of the Problem

Research is hopefully supporting to the writer as a researcher in term of learning as novice researcher, especially in learning how to conduct a research. The research findings are expected to be useful and valuable especially for students and English teachers at SMA Dian Andalas Padang to be considered for their future teaching learning English process.

The research findings are also expected to be positive and valuable information especially for those who are concerned in the field of reading comprehension. The research findings are also added as references for other next researchers having the same problem of the writer. Finally these research findings are also expected to be practical and theoretical information to develop the theories on language teaching.

1.8 Definition Key Terms

- a. **Reading** is one of the language skills besides Listening, Speaking and Writing which is important to be learned and mastered by every individual.
- b. **Reading comprehension** is a process of understanding the text, namely to take the ideas, the information, and then interpret the meaning.
- c. **Descriptive text** is a form of writing that tells what someone or something is like.
- d. **Generic structure** is the way in which elements of a text are arranged to match its purpose.
- e. **Language feature** is refers to sentence structure, punctuation, noun, vocabulary, phrases, etc.