

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Reading is one of the English language skills that should be mastered by all students. According to Salam (2013) reading is a learning process of transferring information from the writer to the reader using the written form. Having a good command of English in reading is important for students. It can help students to expand their knowledge, and they can get a lot of information through reading. Reading is also very important in English as a foreign language. The teaching of reading aims to make students able to read English text effectively and efficiently. They must not only obviously understand the text structure, but more importantly they must understand it completely. Reading not only improves their reading ability, but also by having a reading activity they can improve their knowledge.

According to Handayani (2018) reading is one of the four skills taught in English education along with listening, speaking and writing. Reading is one of the most important skills to master in teaching English. As one of the language skills, reading is important for improving students' knowledge and gaining a lot of information from written materials. In addition, in order for students to achieve the ability to read certain texts, they must be able to understand the text effectively and efficiently. Effectively and efficiently means that students have a good understanding of the idea and the main point of the text they are reading.

According to Al-Jarrah (2018) reading comprehension refers to the ability to go beyond the terms, to grasp the concepts and relationships expressed in the text. Reading comprehension involves much more than reader responses to text. Furthermore, Pransiska (2018) states that reading comprehension is a very multi-component process that involves many interactions between readers and what they bring to the text as well as variables related to the text itself.

According to Hanafi (2019) narrative text is a text that tells a story with complicated or problematic events, trying to find a solution to solve the problem and at the same time entertain the audience. Narrative text is one of the reading texts taught in high school. Narrative text is the most interesting text to learn compared to other texts, since the purpose of the text is to entertain the reader. Especially sharing and entertaining real experiences in different ways. The narrative text deals with problematic events that led to a crisis or some kind of turning point, which in turn finds a solution. Narrative text contains the story, presenting the storyline and the actors with each character. The purpose of the narrative text, beyond providing entertainment, can get the reader to think about a problem and teach them a lesson.

Several problems faced by students at the SMAN 1 Toapaya in reading comprehension, especially in reading narrative text. The researcher found that the students had difficulty understanding reading comprehension. Most students lack vocabulary, they struggle to find the meaning of words and percipient words. They also have difficulty understanding text contents, and students are also unable to understand the text because they read repeatedly to understand the text. They

just try to know the meaning of each word from the text to get the main idea of the text. As a result, the students spent a long time understanding the text and they do not have the same opportunity to understand the text. One of the difficulties that students have is remembering what they have read. It is because most of the students still cannot read well and it is difficult to understand. To be a better reader, the student must pay attention to the way they read and what they can do to improve their reading comprehension of a text, and one of them is having a reading comprehension strategy.

There are many techniques that can be used to solve the students' difficulties in teaching reading comprehension, one of them is the snowball throwing technique. The researcher applies snowball throwing technique to teach reading comprehension to students as an alternative way to create an active teaching learning process. According to Wahidin (2020) snowball throwing technique games is one of the active learning techniques for the direct attention of learners to the material presented. Whenever the student receives the other student's paper ball, he/she must answer the question written on the paper ball. From those definitions, it can be concluded that the technique of snowball throwing is a type of cooperative learning model in which students in small groups and this teamwork format, students are required to be active, and the students have the opportunity to interact with each other. In this interaction, students will enjoy the learning process. Therefore, related to the explanation above, the researcher conducted research entitled "Improving Students' Reading

Comprehension of Narrative Text by Using Snowball Throwing Technique for 11th Grade at SMAN 1 Toapaya”.

1.2 Research Problem

Based on the background of the study above, the researcher formulates a research problem namely:

1. How can the snowball throwing technique improve students' reading comprehension in narrative text for 11th grade at SMAN 1 Toapaya?

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

The limitation of this research is concerned on the improving students' reading comprehension of narrative text through snowball throwing technique for 11th grade at SMAN 1 Toapaya.

1.4 Research Objective

Based on the research problem, the objective of the research is : To improve students' reading comprehension of narrative text by Using Snowball Throwing Technique for 11th grade at SMAN 1 Toapaya.

1.5 Research Significance

The result of this study is expected to bring advantages not only theoretically but also practically to:

1. Students

It is expected to motivate students in the learning process especially in reading comprehension of narrative text through snowball throwing technique.

2. English teachers

It is expected to help teachers to give contribution to change their ways in teaching reading and to improve student's reading comprehension by using snowball throwing technique.

3. Other researchers

It is expected that the result of this study can be a reference for other researchers especially who conduct the similar research topic.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

The following are given to make the readers have the same perception for some terms used in this study to avoid misunderstanding, so the terms here are to be defined as follows:

1. Reading Comprehension

Reading comprehension is the process of constructing meaning by coordinating a number of complex processes including word reading, understanding the meaning and the relationships between ideas conveyed in a text.

2. Narrative Text

Narrative text is an imagination story to entertain the reader.

3. Snowball Throwing Technique

Snowball Throwing Technique is cooperative learning that sets out the students' active participation to attain the goal of the groups.