

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of the background of the study, the reasons for choosing the topic, the research question, the objective of the study, the scope of the study, the significances of the study, the hypothesis, the definition of terms, and the outline of the study

1.1 Background of the Study

The main purpose of reading is to comprehend the meaning of a text. Many people believe that readers can have a good comprehension about a text when they do slow reading. However, when they are doing it, they will just focus on some words of the text and always repeat it. It makes them spend much time just to understand a little part of the text because they do not have any time limitation. To get much comprehension about a text, they should read as fast as possible because reading too slowly impairs comprehension (Tan and Nicholson, 1997). In other words, speed reading can increase reading comprehension.

Speed reading is one of reading strategies, in which when the readers read, their eyes do not move smoothly along a line of print, but jump from one word to another, so that they can read faster. When people do speed reading, their skill to comprehend the text will improve because they are forced to finish the text as soon as possible. Speed reading, however, is not simply reading text faster, but it has to result in better comprehension. Students who apply speed reading are found to be superior compare slow reader (Cranny et.al, 1982). It is suggested by Mikulecky and Jeffries (2007) that reading faster allows readers to save time on

reading assignments, and it leads to better comprehension. Therefore, it is important to learn and master this strategy.

There have been some researcher who employed and investigated speed reading as their strategy in solving their students' problem in reading. Furthermore, some studies have investigated speed reading and its correlation to students' reading comprehension. For example, Macalister (2010) looks at students' speed reading on authentic text. The findings of the study showed that the students who involved in speed reading course demonstrated significant reading performance.

Another study was conducted by Underwood, et.al (2012), who looked at the effect of speed reading instruction on Japanese high school students' English reading comprehension and vocabulary development. The findings indicated that the participants in both experimental and control groups shown improvement in their general reading comprehension as well as in the GSL 1000 post-tests. It appeared that improvements in reading comprehension could have resulted from the speed reading treatment given to the experimental group and the explicit vocabulary practice provided to the control group.

Most researcher believe that training students with speed reading can have positive effects. It can make the students familiar with reading activity so they will do reading as their pleasure and train them read as speed as possible so they can expand their reading comprehension. Given all these reasons, it is worth to consider speed reading as a way to increase students' ability in comprehending texts. Regarding this, the researcher believes that studying this area is important,

for the following reasons: (1) to make students aware that slow reading will impair reading comprehension rather than improving it, (2) to offer solution for the students to improve their reading comprehension, (3) to develop students' familiarity with speed reading activity. The researcher, therefore, proposes a study entitled "A Correlational Study between Students' Speed Reading and their Reading Comprehension of the Eleventh Graders of MAN Pematang in Academic Year 2016/2017"

1.2 Reasons for Choosing the Topic

Based on the researcher explanation about the importances of speed reading and its advantages compare to slow reading, the researcher interested to conduct the study about the relationship between speed reading and reading comprehension with some reasons.

First, speed reading is a reading method that still unfamiliar among students or even teachers in senior high school especially at MAN Pematang. As far as the researcher's concern, this reading technique has never been practiced in English teaching process at MAN Pematang up to now. By applying this reading technique, the researcher expected that it could develop students' and teachers' familiarity of speed reading.

Second, the researcher was interested in conducting this research because she wanted to find the empirical evidence of speed reading advantages compare to slow reading.

Third, by conducting this research, the researcher could offer a good solution of teaching reading process particularly about how to improve students reading comprehension effectively using speed reading technique.

1.3 Research Question

Based on the explanation above, the following research question is offered: “Is there any correlation between students’ speed reading and their reading comprehension of the eleventh graders of MAN Pematang in the academic year 2016/2017?”

1.4 Objective of the Study

This study was set to find out whether or not there is a correlation between students’ speed reading and their reading comprehension of the eleventh graders of MAN Pematang in the academic year 2016/2017.

1.5 Scope of the Study

This study focused on the correlation between students’ speed reading and their reading comprehension of the eleventh graders of MAN Pematang. The text used was biography text which consists of around 300 words. The reading comprehension sub skills involved the understanding of main idea, detail specification and explicit information.

1.6 Significances of the Study

This study is expected to yield the following significances:

1. For teachers, this study is expected as a piece of useful information, who are interested in applying speed reading in their teaching of reading skills.

2. For researcher ;
 - a. This study is also expected to contribute to the field of research in speed reading.
 - b. This study is expected to pave a way for future people(s) that interested in investigating the same area of inquiry.
3. For students, this study is hoped to demonstrate the impact of speed reading on reading comprehension, and to build their awareness of this reading strategy, so they can be more motivated to increase their ability by using it to increase their comprehension.

1.7 Hypothesis

The hypotheses of this study are as follows:

1. H_0 : There is no a correlation between the speed reading and students' reading comprehension level of the MAN Pematang.
2. H_1 : There is a correlation between the speed reading and students' comprehension level of the MAN Pematang.

1.8 Definition of Terms

1. Speed reading is one of the techniques of reading activity where the reader is asked to read as quickly as they can without losing their comprehension (Macalister, 2010).
2. Reading comprehension is students' ability to understand main idea, specific details, and explicit information from biography text consisting of around 300 words, which is read by applying speed reading technique (Damark and Robinson, 1995).

3. Word Per Minute (WPM) is measuring speed reading by deviding the number of wordswith the number of times speed reading, and multiply it with 60 (sixty). For example, a student who can read 2000 words in 5 minutes means that he/she has speed reading 400 words per-minute (Harjasujana, 1996:55)
4. Biography textiskind of recount textwhich presents a subject'slife story, highlighting various aspects of hisor her life, the details of experience andevent of the analysis of personality(Sudarwati, 2013:193)

1.9 Outline of the Study

This study is arranged into some chapters:

Chapter I is introduction. It consists of background of the study, the reasons for choosing the topic, the research question, the objective of the study, the scope of the study, the significances of the study, the hypothesis, the definition of terms, and the outline of the study.

Chapter II is review on related study. This chapter discusses some theories related to the study namely speed reading, concept of reading, reading comprehension, biography text, and the review of previous studies

Chapter III is research method. This chapter discusses the method of study. They are the research design, the subject of the study, the variables of the study, the instruments of the study, the procedure of data collection, and the technique of analyzing data.

Chapter IV is finding and discussion. This chapter presents the finding and discussion which consists of the school's profile, the object of the study, the

instruments of the study, the data analysis, the correlation between students' speed reading and students' reading comprehension, and the discussion

Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion. It covers some essential findings from which conclusion are drawn. It also presents suggestion for further researcher.

