

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### **A. Research Background**

English is the first foreign language taught to the students of Indonesia. It is regarded very important for gaining and developing science, technology and culture as well as promoting our country to the other nations. Other reason, English becomes a compulsory subject from Junior High School to University, both at government and private schools functioning as instrument to develop students' knowledge in science, technology, commerce and culture.

In learning English, there are four skills to be mastered by the learners. They are reading, listening, speaking, and writing. Among them, reading is the most crucial in obtaining certain information and knowledge available in magazines, books, newspapers, and other reading material. To get information, it needs the ability to comprehend the reading text.

At all grade levels reading instruction should serve to develop reading comprehension. The fundamental goal in seeking to produce effective readers is to enable them to comprehend whatever printed materials will serve their purpose, no matter how difficult these materials may be. The acquisition of a sight vocabulary, skill in recognizing words, and verbal facility in general, are all aimed at achieving adequate understanding and interpretation of the meanings embodied in printed symbols. The extent to which these meanings are clearly and accurately understood

and interpreted by the reader represents the degree to which he has become a good reader.

A reader must have skills in recognizing words, understanding main ideas and details, and following organizational development. Knowledge is required in understanding word meanings and experience is required to anticipate the author's ideas. Decide what ideas are important, and evaluate and remember them.

Students are constantly confronted with new information, particularly once they progress to upper elementary grades. To read effectively students need to integrate new material into their existing knowledge base, construct new understanding, and adapt existing conceptions and beliefs as needed.

Knowledge is one of the basic elements for comprehension. It means it is relating to what we do not know. In comprehending a text there is an interactive process between the reader's background knowledge and the text itself. Efficient comprehension requires the ability to relate the textual material to reader's knowledge. Thus knowledge is important.

Activating background knowledge is useful for reader on understanding the text well because activating background knowledge is helpful for the students to apply concrete illustration or description of new idea from the reading text, based on which a reader can build the new information. Teachers can facilitate their students' reading success by helping them to build and activate background knowledge.

Based on the writer's own experience when having teaching practice at SMP Negeri 2 Pontianak, many students are still incapable of comprehending reading text.

The students may read reading text aloud but they cannot comprehend the text well. They cannot answer questions related to the text correctly and also cannot get the messages of the text accurately. It happened because there is no opportunity for the students to activate their background knowledge and use it to comprehend reading text.

This research is conducted to in order to improve students' reading comprehension, especially the reading comprehension of the students of SMP Negeri 2 Pontianak. It is assumed that schema activation Strategy is one of strategy that will develops students' comprehension on a reading material by activating their background knowledge.

### **B. Research Problem**

Based on the background preceded, the problem of this research can be formulated as follows: Does Schema Activation Strategy improve Reading Comprehension of the second year students of SMP Negeri 2 Pontianak?

### **C. Research Purpose**

The purpose of this research is: "To find out whether a schema activation strategy improve reading comprehension of the second year students of SMP Negeri 2 Pontianak"

#### **D. Action Hypothesis**

According to the problems mentioned previously, the writer suggests the following hypothesis:

“Schema Activation strategy can improve reading comprehension of the second year students of SMP Negeri 2 Pontianak “

#### **G. Research Scope**

In order to clarify the limitation on this research, it is necessary to make certain about the scope of the research so that the ambiguity a misinterpretation can be avoided. The scope of this research consists of:

##### 1. Research Variable

Hatch and farhady 91982:20 define “Variable as an attribute of a person or of an object which various from person-to-person or object-to-object.” Since the variable in this research is independent variable and dependent variable.

##### a. Independent Variable

Teaching reading comprehension through a schema activation strategy

##### b. Dependent Variable

The comprehension ability of the second year students of SMP Negeri 2 Pontianak

##### 2. Terminology

To avoid misinterpretation on the topic in this research, the following terminologies are presented:

- a. An action research is a form of self reflection inquiry undertaken by participants ( teacher, or principles, for example) in social ( included educational) situation in order to improve the rationality and justice of their own social or situational practice, their understanding of these practice and the situation (and institutions) in which this practices are carried out.
- b. Improving means make something become better.
- c. Reading comprehension is the ability to comprehend reading text through schema activation strategy.
- d. Schema is the knowledge that is organized and stored in the reader's mind.
- e. Schema activation strategy is a strategy by which readers combine their own background knowledge with the information in a text to comprehend that text.
- f. The SMP Negeri 2 Pontianak is one of the public junior high school, which is located on Jalan Selayar Pontianak.