CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

English, which is one of the international languages, is widely used as a means of communication all over the world. It is used to get and give information in any international spots, such as at the airports, banks, in international meetings, or in other places which various foreigners may visit. In Indonesian Schools, English is taught as a foreign language. English is taught from the Elementary School to University.

One of the purposes of teaching English to the ninth grade students of SMPN 14 Pontianak is to improve the ability of the students in comprehending narrative texts. The writer focused to narrative text because it is related to the syllabus.

Based on the standard competence in the syllabus of Level of Education Curriculum Unit (KTSP). As quoted from an SMPN 14 Pontianak syllabus of KTSP that based on the Departemen Pendidikan Nasional in National Education Standard Organization (BSNP) in 2006 that: Standar Kompetensi dari membaca adalah bahwa "Siswa dapat memahami makna dalam wacana tertulis interpersonal dan transaksionl sederhana, secara formal maupun informal, dalam bentuk recount, narrative, procedure, descriptive, dan report, dalam konteks kehidupan sehari-hari". (The standard competence of reading is that the students are able to understand meaning in written discourse interpersonal and transactional, formal and informal

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in form of recount, narrative, procedure, descriptive, and report in accepted in daily life context). Narrative text is taught at the eighth and ninth grade students. In this research, the writer focuses on narrative text.

Narrative text tells about the real fact or even imagination or story which is based on the real experience. The social function of this text is to amuse or entertain the readers or listeners as well as to deal with actual or imaginative experiences in different ways. Anderson (in Karoline, 2006:25) state that "Narrative is a piece of text tells a story and, in doing so, entertains or informs the reader or listener".

Unfortunately, the fact shows that the students can not produce or practice their language well during the interactive processes in the classroom. In teaching-learning process the teacher is only as the model and facilitator or instructor to give his or her students exercises.

In English teacher learning process, the teachers use two languages. They are English and Indonesian because not all students understand English well. The students do not use English all the time in the classroom when they are in English teaching learning process because it is difficult for some them. One possible reason is that the students are not interested in the text, such as less grammar, lack of vocabularies. Thus, the writer used narrative to do the research.

Based on the writer's interview to the English teacher of ninth grade students of SMPN 14 Pontianak, most students are passive and they have low motivation in learning reading. It drives them to get bored in reading and should look up the dictionary to find the difficult words.

In this research, the writer focuses on the students' ability in comprehending narrative text. The selection of narrative text is based on the materials which are learned at SMP, as stated in the curriculum (KTSP). In this case, the writer conducted the research to the ninth grade students of SMPN 14 Pontianak in academic year 2011/2012. Finally, the writer hopes that the result of the research will provide valuable data for the teachers to use this material.

B. Research Problems

1. How well have the ninth grade students of SMPN 14 Pontianak comprehended narrative text?

2. Do the students find difficulties in comprehending narrative text?

C. Research Purposes

1. To investigate how well the ninth grade students of SMPN 14 Pontianak have comprehended the narrative text.

2. To investigate whether or not the ninth grade students of SMPN 14 Pontianak find difficulties in comprehending narrative text.

D. Scopes of Research

To carry out the research systematically, it is necessary to restrict the scope of research. The scope of research includes two important things: research variable and terminology.

1. Research Variable

    Variables are elements, characteristics or conditions that a researcher manipulates, observes and measures. Hatch and Fahrady (1982:12) define a variable as "attribute of a person or of an object which varies from person to person or from object to object." The variable of this research is the ability of the students in comprehending narrative text.

2. Terminology

    a. Ability is the capacity of power (to perform acts, physical or mental)

    b. Comprehension is the student's capacity of comprehending narrative text. The reading comprehension in this research is focused on the ability of the students in comprehending narrative text.

    c. Narrative is a text focusing on specific participants. Its social function is to tell stories or past events and entertain the readers.

    d. SMPN 14 is one of the state Junior High Schools in kota Pontianak which is located on Jalan Tanjung Raya 2, Pontianak Timur.