

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

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

Reading as one of the language skills presented in teaching learning activity takes important role in both receptive and productive language skills. It can broaden and enlarge the students' knowledge, because most of communicated in written form. Moreover reading can introduce students' new vocabularies (words, clauses, and sentences) structure and grammar which are necessary in developing other skills such as listening, speaking and writing. Specifically, reading brings students to get comprehension, which will lead them to understand and respond to what they read.

However, reading comprehension is a complex process, it does not happen automatically. First of all, the reader must be able to decode the words. McNamara (2007:144) said that readers can decode the words, but have not developed sufficient skills to comprehend the underlying deeper meaning of the sentences, the paragraphs, and the entire text. To help the reader decode each word, it is necessary to read the reading materials loudly.

Many problems have happened when the writer taught reading. The writer saw that the eighth grade students of SMP Yos Sudarso Parindu, especially class A were uninterested in reading lesson and they got low motivation in learning English especially in reading class. Consequently, the students got difficulty to understand the grammatical construction in the text

they read, they did not know the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary. Besides, the reading materials in the text book were not interesting to them because the stories often came from other countries and the reading texts were not appropriate to the student's background knowledge. Hence, it was difficult for the students to comprehend the text.

Therefore, the writer chooses local legend as a teaching material that hopefully can solve the problem found. It is the more suitable choice for learning story in learning narrative text because the stories are familiar to the students, transmission of values and entertainment value. In addition, narrative provides the readers with enjoyment when they encounter the climax and resolution of the problem. This is the most exciting part of narrative.

A Local legend is usually a rumor or story based on a true, twisted, or fictional event that happened near one's own area. By reading local legend text, it is easy for the students to comprehend the narrative text and they are interested in reading narrative text because the students ever read in Indonesian form and they will learn the stories in English. Besides, they would appreciate their local stories and their local wisdom. Furthermore, reading class would become enjoyable.

In conclusion, the writer decides to conduct classroom action research to solve the problems found in reading class, especially when narrative text is the material. This research would be conducted at the eighth grade class A students of SMP Yos Sudarso Parindu. The writer decided to introduce local

legends as teaching materials to improve students' reading comprehension, especially narrative text that would make reading class enjoyable. It can help the students to be interested in reading and get the advantages from reading because the material is familiar with the students and the students would appreciate their local stories and their local wisdom.

## **B. Research Problem**

### **1. Problem Identification**

The problem of this research comes from the real problems that happen in classroom. Based on the writer and the real English teacher' (collaborator) observation in class A of the eighth grade students of SMP Yos Sudarso Parindu, found some problems. In reading class, the problem concerns with the students who lack comprehension in reading materials. This was because of the fact that students got difficulty to understand the grammatical construction in the text they read, they did not know the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary and the material was not interesting to them. These problems also have seen from the students' worksheet.

Based on the syllabus of Kurikulum Tingkat Satuan Pendidikan (KTSP), narrative text is taught to the eighth grade students of Junior High School. It means that they have to acquire the competence in reading monolog text. Thus, to reach that stage, they must have deeper understanding. Hence, the writer together with the real English teacher at that class as her collaborator decides to conduct classroom action research

to solve the problems found in reading class by using local legends as the reading materials.

## 2. Research Problem

The problem of this research has been formulated as follows: How well can the local legends as teaching materials improve students' reading comprehension of narrative text?

### **C. Research Purpose**

In accordance with the research problem, the purpose of this research is to know how well the local legends as teaching materials can improve students' reading comprehension of narrative text.

### **D. Action Hypothesis**

Action hypothesis in this research is intended to predict the impact of the action variable that is given to the problem variable: Students' reading comprehension of narrative text will improve well after being taught using local legends as teaching materials.

### **E. Scope of Research**

#### 1. Terminology

The writer uses some specific terms in writing this research of which the purpose is to lead the readers in order to have the same interpretation and avoid misconception. They are:

- a. Local legend is a traditional story or collection of related stories popularly regarded as true but actually containing a mixture of fact and fiction. In this research, the writer use local legends from West Kalimantan.
- b. Improving is an activity to make ability greater than before. In this research improving refers to the students' comprehension ability of reading used in comprehending narrative text through local legends.
- c. Reading comprehension is the understanding of a reading text which is showed by the ability to understand narrative text.
- d. Narrative text is the form of written text that is used to tell or relate the story of acts or events usually tells about person, place, animal and thing.
- e. SMP Yos Sudarso Parindu is a state educational institution of Junior High School and located on Jalan Raya Sanggau.
- f. The Eighth Grade class A students are the students who are in SMP Yos Sudarso Parindu of four classes that are in there as a subject of the research.