

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the background, research problems, and matters related to this research, research objectives, importance of research.

#### A. Background of Study

In the learning process, especially in junior high school (SMP), reading activities cannot be separated. Reading is an integral part of everyday life which is very important for a person's personal and social academic life. This statement is reinforced by Ediger (1991: 154) who views reading as an interaction and sociocognitive process involving text. Readers and the social context in which reading activities occur. Therefore, it is not surprising that many parties are concerned with efforts to improve reading skills because of the importance of reading activities for human life.

Media is a tool used by teachers in the learning process and is an external factor that influences student

motivation in learning. As a learning medium, it certainly greatly influences students' interest in learning. Multimedia learning media is the use of various types of media together and simultaneously through just one tool. Multimedia is media that combines two or more media elements consisting of text, integrated graphics, images, photos, audio, video and animation. Multimedia is divided into two categories, namely: linear multimedia and interactive multimedia. (OpCit, 2002:158).

Another reason to use Multimedia is to see that the current education system is experiencing very rapid progress. Various methods are introduced and used in the teaching and learning process with the hope that the teacher's teaching will be more memorable and learning for students will be more meaningful. Since the last few years, information and communication technology has been widely used in the teaching and learning process, with the aim of making the quality of education one step further along with technological advances.

In today's modern era of life, mastering reading skills is an absolute must for students because in this era of information technology, a lot of scientific information is spread which can be accessed easily, both through print and non-print media. Most of the knowledge information requires obtaining it through print media such as: television, internet, books, and a number of other scientific journals. It is in this context that educators are required to be able to develop high-quality Reading Comprehension teaching materials with an emphasis on Reading Skills that can be easily understood and effective to increase reading comprehension and student learning interest.

Reading is one of the skills in English that allows people to get information from what they read so that they are able to achieve understanding. Reading is a fluid process in which readers combine information from a text and their background knowledge to construct meaning. But some people think that reading some articles or textbooks is easy, but reading with understanding is more difficult (Nunan,

2003). Reading skills are very important for students because students can get information from what they read, students can increase their knowledge, and can expand their way of thinking by reading any text. Therefore, students must have reading skills to add information and enrich their knowledge.

Reading for most students is considered not an easy thing to do: 1) students may not be able to read the words themselves; 2) or students may understand every word or even every sentence, but fail to understand the 3 relationships between the sentence and the meaning of the text as a whole; 3) students may not have enough ability to understand more familiar text genres, but students may simply falter when faced with challenging and knowledge-demanding texts; 4) students as readers may lack the knowledge or reading strategies needed to overcome these challenges (McNamara, 2009).

In the learning process, reading comprehension ability is the key to student success. Most students gain knowledge through reading activities. The knowledge

obtained by students is not only obtained from the teaching and learning process in their schools but also obtained through reading activities in everyday life. Therefore, the ability to understand reading texts is an important part in increasing students' knowledge and experience. According to Farr (1984:5), reading is the heart of education. The importance of reading activities as stated by Farr stated that reading is a source of activities to acquire knowledge because by reading a person can carry out the process of learning and reasoning.

A similar view has so far been expressed by Dupuis (1992:17) who states that reading is the main source of information in learning situations because the information obtained from this activity can broaden the reader's knowledge horizons. Sharon (2002) as quoted by Abdillah (2003:1-2) stated that 70% -95% of teaching and learning activities in the classroom depend on written texts such as textbooks. Therefore, students must be good readers to understand what they read in the text.

Based on an interview with an English teacher at SMP 18 Bengkulu City conducted on March 28 2023, reading ability in this school is still low due to the lack of learning media as a support used by teachers in teaching, which makes students' reading ability still low . In fact, teachers at SMP 18 Bengkulu City also felt disappointment because the school did not provide support and encouragement to students in maintaining an effective learning process. In fact, if you are assisted by supporting media in learning, it can raise students' enthusiasm and interest in learning.

It is important to carry out research with the title "THE INFLUENCE OF READING COMPREHENSION OF STUDENTS OF SMPN 18 BENGKULU CITY" to find out how much influence multimedia has on students' reading comprehension.

## **B. The Identification of Problems**

Based on the research background above, the problems that can be raised are as follows:

1. Can multimedia have an effect on improving reading skills?
2. What are participating instructors' perceptions of multimedia for the development of reading comprehension?
3. Students' interest in reading is still low.

#### **C. Limitation of Problem**

To focus the research topic in this thesis, the researcher limits the scope of this research. The researcher limited this research problem to students' low reading comprehension in class 8 at SMPN 18 Bengkulu City. Therefore, to overcome this problem, researchers will conduct research on the application of multimedia as a strategy for teaching reading to class VIII students at SMPN 18 Bengkulu City.

#### **D. Research Question**

Based on the problems above, the research question can be formulated as follows: Is there a significant difference in the achievement of reading comprehension between

students who are taught using multimedia and students who are not taught using multimedia?

### **E. Objective of The Study**

The purpose of this research is to find out whether there is a significant effect of multimedia on students' reading comprehension.

### **F. Significances of The Research**

The benefits of this research are as follows:

#### **1. Theoretically**

To help researchers find alternative ways of teaching reading, especially reporting, and to produce relevant and valid knowledge for their classes to improve their teaching. Students get problems and also information related to reading skills and teachers know exactly the needs and problems faced by students learning English.

Then, they can provide appropriate steps to resolve it.



## 2. Practical

This can be used as a model to improve students' abilities in reading comprehension, and can guide, help and encourage students to express their ideas and opinions

### **G. Definitions of Key Terms**

The definition of key terms based on the title is:

#### 1. Multimedia

According to Vaughan, multimedia is a combination of text, art, sound, images, animation and video that is delivered by computer or manipulated digitally and can be delivered and controlled interactively.

#### 2. Reading comprehension

Student reading comprehension refers to students' ability to read text, process it and understand its meaning.

In this study, students' reading comprehension refers to the scores obtained by students after carrying out tests prepared by researchers.