

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Research

Language is an important element for the development of human life. Without language, the development of human life will be hampered because language is a medium for communicating with each other. One of the languages used to communicate is English. It is a language spoken in many countries in the world and has become an international language. In facing the current modern era, students are required to read a lot and be able to understand English texts so as not to be left behind in scientific developments and are required to achieve academic and social success (Lacina, Bauml, & Taylor, 2016). Therefore, students are required to be able to compete with people all over the world, so mastery of English is a must.

In Indonesia, English has become a compulsory subject educational curriculum (K13). It is taught from

elementary school up campus. Moreover, in many cities in Indonesia, there are many courses that offer English learning outside school hours. Therefore, students hope to be able to master English which is beneficial for themselves and their future. There are four English skills, namely, listening, speaking, reading, and writing. In this research, researchers will discuss reading skills specifically.

One of the problems students have in reading English is that there are still many students in Indonesia who still have limited reading comprehension abilities. Researchers found that students' scores on descriptive text material were still low. There were 54 out of 65 students who scored below 75. Therefore, choosing effective and interesting strategies to teach reading comprehension is very necessary. So the researcher use the PORPE strategy as teaching that focuses on improving reading abilities. Some of the advantages of this strategy are that it can stimulate students to synthesize, analyze and think about

concepts. This mean that students are required to understand the text by analyzing and thinking further about the content and structure of the text. (Edo Sulistio Aditya, 2020). The conclusion is, students will be more interested in focusing on the text they read. Apart from that, in this strategy teachers can help improve students' cognitive and metacognitive talents.

In addiction, another obstacle is the monotonous teaching activities, lack of exposure to reading activities. This is one of the problems that students often face in reading English. This happens because of very complex factors such as teachers considering *KejarPaket C* to be a non-formal school managed by the government so it has a lower level of significance than high school, students' motivation to understand or even study the material provided is lacking. due to limited facilities to support the teaching and learning process such as books, learning media, rooms, etc., this is still lacking. The results in students still lacking ability in reading skills, still having

difficulty understanding the text, sentences in the text, and vocabulary from the text. (Farid Nood Ramadhan, 2017). Therefore, based on the facts described above, these problems make it difficult for students to understand the material provided, and in the end most students do not get good grades or less than the standard grades.

Furthermore, the first problem is students' lack of interest in reading English texts. Second, students are only able to read the text, but have difficulty understanding the information in the text. Third, students do not concentrate when understanding reading. Fourth, students still experience difficulties in determining or interpreting several important aspects, such as main ideas, structures and certain linguistic characteristics. (Muhammad Faaris, 2020). Therefore, the learning methods apply by teachers are less attractive. Their reading achievement can be seen from class activities, learning evaluations, or the final semester.

Another fact is that, the researcher found problems in implementing teacher strategies in teaching reading. There are still many students who lack the ability to understand the content of the text, and there are even many students who have difficulty understanding the entire content of the reading text. For example, before starting the teaching process, the teacher assigns a text to read and assesses students' understanding of the text. There are some students who don't understand what is going on and just act passively without answering the questions given, and students also feel bored in the learning process. (Maesri Latipah<sup>1</sup>, Lalu Thohir<sup>2</sup> & Agus Saputra: 2022). Based on the problems above, it is necessary to apply teacher strategies in teaching reading. A teaching strategy is a plan carried out by a teacher to carry out learning activities in the classroom to achieve a learning goal.

Based on the results of initial pre-observation conducted by the researcher through interviews with English teachers at MAN 1 Bengkulu on November 20

2023, the teacher said there were several factors that caused students' problems in reading English, one of which was that students still lacked interest, students' motivation was also still lacking, and there are some students who still don't understand the vocabulary when reading, like to chat when learning English, and are even lazy about reading books. So to overcome the problem the teacher changed the learning method by holding practice reading a text in class, asking questions and discussing questions. because basically the learning method of teachers in schools is learning using books and even learning activities provided by teachers in learning such as exercises, notes, group assignments, individual assignments, practice.

In the context of reading, there are many applications that are very helpful in overcoming student saturation in terms of reading and maybe this application can be an indicator so students are diligent to read. Wattpad application is one of the media that might be able

to overcome the problems that exist in students in terms of habituation, willingness, and understanding in reading. Wattpad is a space for stories to be discovered and shared: a sharing network that links people through language. It's a world covering boundaries, desires, languages. In other words, for those interested in literature, Wattpad is a very valuable platform (Rebora & Pianzola, 2018). Anyone can read or write with Wattpad on any screen: a computer, notebook, or desktop. This online content is growing stronger and teens are currently the majority of audiences. And we all know; situations don't necessarily affect people in different ways. All have an optimistic side and even its negative side (Jaguit & Alamo, 2015).

The writer wants to take advancement of technology development to increase students reading skill by using Wattpad Application among the many applications available for download on mobiles and on computers. The writer thinks that This application is the

most suitable media for teaching reading and students can find an interesting book to read. And, Wattpad can be a place for students to read accordingly to their own tastes. Students can easily access almost every kind of book. Students do not have to buy, borrow, or pay for anything. Only need smartphones, because almost students now have their smartphones. Also, Wattpad Application can be a place for someone to read according to which book they like. And Wattpad application allows students to read books for free without spending a lot of money, only internet quota fees to download this application. Besides being able to read books, and novels, but also a medium for learning literature such as writing short stories, poems, dramas, and reading poetry. Overall, the great success of Wattpad is due to the editorial possibilities that it has unveiled to the general.

Based on the explanation above, the writer decided to focus on using Wattpad Application in teaching reading to students especially in ten-grade. It was hoped that



reading learning process can be more exciting and their reading skill would be increased toward the story they read in this Application. The research will take place at MAN 1 Bengkulu City. So, from the explanation above, the writer would like to conduct research entitled “The Effect of Wattpad Application on Students’ Reading Comprehension Achievement”.

## **B. Identification of the Problem**

Based on the background description above, there are several problems in this research, namely:

1. There are still some students' low and poor reading, due to lack of vocabulary.
2. There is a lack of student interest, student motivation is also lacking in reading.
3. Studying textbooks makes students bored and makes students chat while studying, and even lazy to read books.
4. The teacher's method of teaching reading skills to students still lacks material and does not attract

students' attention in reading.

5. Toward students' reading skills, teachers need new media in learning to read through the Wattpad application.

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

Limiting the problem is used to avoid deviations and widening the subject so that the research is more focused and facilitates discussion so that the research objectives will be achieved. This research is limited to analyze the effect of Wattpad on students' reading comprehension achievement at Ten-Grade of MAN

1 Bengkulu City. This research will use KWL strategy in experiment class enhanced by the use of Wattpad application.

### **D. Research Question**

From the identification and limitation of the problems above, the formulation of the problem in this study is:

a. Is there any effect of the use of Wattpad Application effect on students' reading comprehension at grade X of MAN 1 Bengkulu City Students?

#### **E. The Objective of the Research**

The purpose of this research is to know whether the use of the Wattpad Application effective on students' reading comprehension at class X of MAN 1 Bengkulu City Students.

#### **F. Significances of the Research**

After this research is carried out, researchers hope that this research can provide the following benefits:

##### **A. For students**

From the results of this research, it is hoped that MAN 1 Bengkulu City students can improve their own reading skills regarding the use of the Wattpad application and can broaden their insight.

##### **B. For Researchers**

It is hoped that we can develop knowledge related to Wattpad social media itself so that we can

disseminate knowledge to improve students' reading skills at MAN 1 Bengkulu and experience that is useful for researchers to be able to analyze a problem.

C. For Teachers

This research can be used as input material and add new insight in growing students' interest in learning at MAN 1 Bengkulu City during the learning process using the Wattpad application.

