

I. INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses several points to support the reasons for conducting the research. It includes introduction that deals with the background of the problem, identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, formulation of the problem, objective of the research, uses of the research, scope of the research, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Problem

Generally, the purpose of teaching English language at school is to develop the students' language skill. There are four skills of language that the teacher has to teach in SMA/MA namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing. School-Based Curriculum (KTSP 2006) introduces the concepts of some types of English texts where the students are expected to be able to develop their thoughts and idea into texts both in oral and written forms such as descriptive, report, recount, procedure, anecdote, and narrative (Depdiknas, 2006).

Reading dominates the teaching material in almost English textbooks where there are some types of reading text that should be mastered by the students of Senior High School. Senior High School students should be able to use the language skills. This objective is basically the same as comprehension of reading texts

where the students are faced with the text written in English then they are hoped to read it in order to gather information from it.

To gather the knowledge from the text, it is important for students to have a good reading comprehension and without which reading would be empty and meaningless. Comprehension is not only intended to know what the letters stand for, but also involved power of fully understanding. Reading involves more than words recognition that is without comprehension, no reading take place.

Good reading means building frameworks in order for connecting words to thought. But not everyone is good at reading. In general, students still have difficulty in comprehending the idea in reading text. When the researcher conducted a Teaching Practice Program (PPL), it was found that students had difficulty in comprehending reading text. There are some factors that cause the students difficulties in comprehending the text: (1) interest in material, (2) ignoring reading material, and (3) be lazy to read the text.

In selecting the material, it is better for the teacher to consider which material is the most effective in teaching reading, so that the teaching of reading comprehension will be useful to help the students to comprehend reading materials.

English syllabus in KTSP for SMA/MA students stated that English reading material should be taken from many sources. So the students can access more information and knowledge. Moreover, it can also enrich students' reading ability.

Based on the statement above, the writer would like to solve the problem by using short story as reading material because the writer wants to find a better material to teach reading. This material is applicable for teaching reading comprehension.

In 2004 English curriculum for the SMA, it is stated that the aim of teaching English at school specifically in reading skill is to make the students able to understand the meaning and the steps of rhetoric development in written text in form of narration, procedure, spoof, recount, report, and news item.

Based on the idea above, the researcher conducts the research by utilizing short story as reading material. This material is applicable to be used in Senior High School, especially for the second grade. Meanwhile, the researcher uses narrative text, because narrative text is an imaginative story to entertain people. Utilizing short story as reading material not only entertain the students but also give the message and information to the students from a narrative of human relationship in life.

Short story may promote feeling of well being and it encourages the students to be active participants and enhances the students' reading skill. Therefore, the researcher assumes that using short story is good to increase the students' reading comprehension achievement.

Based on the statement above, this research is entitled "Utilizing Short Story to Improve the Students' Reading Comprehension Achievement at the Second Grade of SMA Negeri 1 Sindang Indramayu".

1.2 Identification of the Problems

Based on the background above the researcher states the problem, why second grade students at SMAN 1 Sindang Indramayu should improve their reading comprehension achievement? Identification of the problems as follow:

1. Students do not have book or other sources to study English.
2. The students lack of reading.
3. The students do not have good self confidence in learning English.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of the problems above, researcher limits the problem about material that is used by teacher; the researcher is interested in investigating whether there is any difference of reading comprehension achievement of students if they are taught using interesting material in teaching reading. Short story, focusing to narrative text is teaching material that is use to teach reading.

1.4 Formulation of the Problems

Based on the limitation of the problem above, the writer formulates the problem as follows:

1. “Is there any significant difference of the students’ achievement in reading comprehension before and after being taught using short story?”
2. “Which aspect of reading is the most increase after being taught through short story?”
3. “What are the students’ responses after being taught through short story?”

1.5 The Objectives of the Research

In relation to the formulation of the problems above, the objectives of this research are:

1. To find out whether there is any significant difference after being taught Short Story.
2. To know the most increase of reading comprehension aspects.
3. To know the students' reactions after being taught through Short Story.

1.6 Uses of the Research

In relation to the problems and objectives, the findings of the research may be beneficial not only theoretically but also practically:

1. Theoretically, the result of this research is expected to support the previous study and to use as a reference for the further research.
2. Practically, the result of the research can be used for English teacher to expose the students with short story in teaching reading.

1.7 Scope of the Research

This research was conducted at SMA Negeri 1 Sindang Indramayu. The population of this research is the second year students. The writer chooses the senior high school students at the second grade because they have more capability in understanding their own personality and these learners have relatively high performance in language components, so the research will be more reliable. This research focuses on the use of short story to improve the students' reading

comprehension achievement. The source research material was focused on short story, concerning narrative text, since this kind of text can stimulate the students' motivation.

1.8 Definition of Terms

Short Story

It refers to a simple story that tells the students about something interesting.

Narrative Text

It refers to describe a sequence of real or unreal events.

Reading Comprehension

It refers to an activity of understanding printed text through making sense a written text by relating written language to what we know and what we want to know.