

## INTRODUCTION

### **A. Background of the Problem**

English is an international language. Almost all countries have adapted English used as a compulsory subject at schools. The national education has decided that English as a foreign language taught in Indonesian schools. It learned started from primary schools up to university. People realize that teaching English at this level becomes very important and need much concern. As an English teacher, he or she demands to explore effective techniques, method, and approaches.

The students have to master the four basic language skills. They are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Besides such basic skills, some language-attitudes studies are strictly limited to attitudes toward the language itself. However, most often the concept of language attitudes includes attitudes towards speakers or toward a particular language; if the definition is even further broadened, it can allow all kinds of behavior concerning language to be treated (e.g. attitudes toward language maintenance and planning efforts). It implies that the language attitude is influenced by those four skills.

Reading is the most important skill in study and the curriculum used in the school in this case is Madrasah Aliyah Mathla'ul Anwar Labuhan Ratu which states that out of the four skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing, the main emphasis is on reading skill because it is

believed that acquisition of reading in a second or foreign language is priority. Reading is good thing in life because it is a factor of great importance at the individual development and the most important activity in school. It is needed in every level of field of study, particularly in cases when students have to read English materials for their own special subject.

Being able to read in English is very important as it is known that success in reading is the most necessary because it is a basic tool of education. All the subjects in Elementary School such as mathematics, science, language, and others depend on the ability to read. In high school and college reading ability becomes even more important. Through reading a reader acquires new ideas, obtains needed information, seek support for his/her ideas and broaden his/her interest. A reader can also get the message that the writer had expressed. The ability to read is influenced by their language attitude because it helps to distinguish human being from other animal.

In teaching and learning English, the language attitude of the students is important to succeed the purpose of teaching and learning. It also can be identified from the willing to learn and the motivation of the students, because the lesson will be delivered well if the students have willing and motivation to learn what teacher taught. From the willing and the motivation of the students, the language attitude will influence of the students in the class, such as the interactive teaching, question and answer session or when the teachers give order to read and grasp the idea from that reading session.

To solve this problem the writer did a research in Madrasah Aliyah Mathla'ul Anwar Labuhan Ratu. The research focused about the influence of students' language attitude toward their

reading ability in teaching learning activities, especially in English class. One of the purposes of teaching English as a foreign language to Indonesian students is that they can read, grasp the idea and understand the book written in English. To achieve those purposes, students need a lot of words of English to master. As Norbert (1997) said, language attitude is one of the most important aspects in a language. So to achieve the success in language teaching learning process especially English, language attitude is one of important factors in all language teaching. Based on the description of language attitude and reading above, it shows that they have close relation. To get empirical data about it the writer organized the test result to prove the influence of students' reading ability in language attitude and reading. By getting the grades, the writer tries to find an answer that students' reading ability in language attitude influenced reading skill.

### **B. Identification of the Problems**

Based on the background of the problems and the observation, the writer identifies that the students' attitude of Madrasah Aliyah Mathla'ul Anwar Labuhan Ratu is unsuitable in teaching and learning process, some of the material of reading is not suitable, the frequency in reading English at the school is not enough, students' motivation to read is very low, the skill of the teachers is not so good enough in supporting students' reading skill, the environment does not support the lesson in reading, the influence of students' attitude towards reading skill, the students lack motivation to learn English and the method in teaching English especially in reading is not appropriate, also the learning strategy used by the learners in reading ability is not appropriate.

### **C. Limitation of the Problems**

Based on the identification of the problems above the study is limited to:

- a. The correlation between students' Language attitudes and students' reading ability of Madrasah Aliyah Mathla'ul Anwar Labuhan Ratu.
- b. The method of teaching and learning English especially in Reading.
- c. Students' attitude towards their English teacher.

#### **D. Formulation of the Problems**

Based on the limitation of the problems above, the problem of the study can be formulated as follow:

1. Is there any correlation between students' English language attitudes and their reading ability at Madrasah Aliyah Mathla'ul Anwar Labuhan Ratu?
2. Do the students who have positive attitude toward EFL have better reading ability? And the students who have negative attitude have lower reading ability?
3. How is the students' attitude toward EFL in Teaching and learning at Aliyah Mathla'ul Anwar Labuhan Ratu?

#### **E. Objectives of the Research**

Based on the formulation of the problems above, the objectives of the research are:

- a. to investigate whether there is a correlation between the language attitude and the students' reading ability at Madrasah Aliyah Mathla'ul Anwar Labuhan Ratu.
- b. to know and describe some factors that can affect the students' reading ability from their language attitude at Madrasah Aliyah Mathla'ul Anwar Labuhan Ratu?

## **F. Significance of the Study**

The findings of the research are expected to support the existing theory on language attitude and reading ability and it will be discussed in chapter two.

### **a. Theoretical uses**

Optimistically, this research is useful in order to broaden the knowledge about how the writer elaborates the correlation between students' language attitude and reading ability at Madrasah Aliyah Mathla'ul Anwar Labuhan Ratu, and to help the reader to get clear information why they are correlated.

### **b. Practical Uses**

The results of the research are expected to be beneficial for:

1. The students to be more aware toward their language attitude of Madrasah Aliyah Mathla'ul Anwar Labuhan Ratu that gives influences in reading ability.
2. The next research that have the same topic with this research, so the research will be better than before.
3. The reader in searching the information about which aspects of language attitudes that mostly influence students' reading ability by reading this analysis and understand the research.

## **Definition of Key term**

1. Language attitude is the feelings people learners had about their own language or the languages of others.

2. Reading ability is the process to get, to understand, to catch the content of the reading.  
And also reading is a process to understand a written text which means extracting the required information from it as efficiently as possible.
3. Correlation in this reseach is students could not catch and grasp the idea from their reading as well as possible. So students had to understand about the language attitude before reading was better for them.