CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This Chapter covers: (a) Background of the study, (b) Previous Study, (c) Research Problem (d) Objective of the research, (e) The Significances of The Study (f) Scope and Limitation of The Research (g) Definition of Key Terms (h) Framework of Discussion

A. Background of The Study

Reading is a highly complex activity, including various important aspects, such as recognizing symbols quickly and accurately comprehending clearly and with discrimination the meanings implied by the author. It also involves reacting to and using ideas secured through reading in harmony with the reading purposes and integrating them to definite thoughts and action patterns.[1] Comprehension is a construct of varying hierarchical degrees of intensity. Students are confronted with problems of understanding what they have read and this makes it necessary for teachers to be sensitive to the issue of reading comprehension.[2] Several researchers have identified eight skills of reading comprehension. These involve locating details, recognizing the main ideas, drawing conclusions, recognizing cause and effect relationship, understanding of words in context, making interpretations and making inferences. Being able to understand what one reads is important for learning in school and for life in general. In secondary education,

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[1] Gray R., Redmen S. *Working with Words: A guide to Teaching and Learning Vocabulary,* New York: Cambridge University Press, 2000, p.9

[2] Lawal, A. *Mathemagenic Behaviour in the Nigeria Reading Comprehension Class,* Nigeria: NERDC, 1997, p.7

reading in English as a foreign language (EFL) requires teachers to explore strategies that can improve students' reading comprehension.

Often, instructional approaches promote reading as a product rather than as a process. The former focuses on the text, while the latter explores the readers, their background knowledge and experience, predictions, and interaction with the text.[3] Reading can be regarded as the proof of intellectual development because the acquisition of the reading skills is actually the first step towards literacy. The teaching of efficient reading should be the desired goal of every teacher and it must be ordered to ensure success. One of the major causes of reading problems could be traced to poor knowledge of English vocabulary. In order to acquire this skill, there is need for students to possess good command of English vocabulary. Therefore, more vocabulary comprehension learning and teaching strategies need to be put in place in order to improve the lexical knowledge of students.[4]

In SMPN-2 of Palangka Raya student can not really know how successful a reader he/she is because of the lack of practice, use of inappropriate strategies in the teaching of reading and a little of vocabulary. But in the students' in SMP-2 of Palangka Raya has a stronger in grammar. I decided to conduct a study into reading comprehension worksheet. I wanted to develop reading comprehension worksheet during these stages by method Research and Development to know what the students and teacher response. In this stages of

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[3] Wallace, C. *Reading,* New York: Oxford University Press, 1992, p.23

[4] Luz Marina Echeverri Acosta, Maria McNulty Ferri, "Reading Strategies to Develop Higher Thinking Skills for Reading Comprehension" *Journal of English*, Vol. 12. No. 1 (November 2009) : 180

R&D, in this research it was not really clearly just a half method based on my research problem.

Additionally, teachers' questions were used to check students' knowledge of the topic, help them to communicate their ideas and demonstrate their level of comprehension, to connect and apply what they learn to their lives, as well as reflect on teaching learning for teacher and students. Being interested in this topic, I decided to develop Reading Comprehension worksheet.

B. Previous Study

There are studies done by the researchers related to topic. The first is Sasmaz Oramanci (2012) from Celal Bayar University Ankara entitled *An Application about Pre-Service Teachers' Development and Use of Worksheets and an Evaluation of their Opinions about the Application* Academic Year 2011/2012). The result of the study it is suggested that the applications about worksheets should be increased in the teaching courses in higher education curricula. In addition, it would be more appropriate for pre-service teachers to perform applications and to assess the worksheets they develop, rather than simply informing about worksheets. Furthermore, both for financial savings (copying and coloring worksheets) and also for time-saving purposes, it is suggested that computer-assisted worksheets could be introduced to pre-service teachers and exemplary applications could be provided.[5]

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[5] Oramanci Sasmaz, *An Application about Pre-Service Teachers' Development and Use of Worksheets and an Evaluation of their Opinions about the Application,* p.5

Next Researcher is Hanan Hasan (2005) from Ras Al Khaimah Women's Collage entitled *The Development of Young Learners' Reading Comprehension Skilss in the Academic Year 2004-2005.*

This study describes the development of reading comprehension students strategies more specific to the reading comprehension worksheet that are used by the students in order to answer the question of reading passage. Because of researcher just wanted to know about students and teacher response towards developing reading comprehension students worksheet, in this case was based on the research problem.

C. Research Poblem

1. How do the students and teachers' need the students worksheet in supporting of English teaching?

2. How are the type of Reading Comprehension Worksheet for students' in SMPN-2 of Palangka Raya as supporting English Teaching?

D. Objective of The Research

The Objective of the study is to develop the best Reading Comprehension Worksheet in SMPN-2 Palangka Raya based on students and teacher response.

E. The Significances of The Study

There were two significances of the study in theoretically and practically. Practically, the writer expected that this research can develop students worksheet based on students and teachers response besides it would strengthen the existing theories of the benefits of student's worksheet . It

became a good stimulant to help students in learning English. Next, the result of this reasearch to the school made decision what should they to do to teach, supporting and get better purpose teaching learning process. Finally, the writer expexts that it should be useful knowledge when the writer start her/his professional as a real teacher in the future.

Theoretically, the writer expected that the result of this study may become a useful evaluation for eight grade of SMPN 2 Palangka Raya which is expected to support the theory in developing students worksheet. It helped the teacher in teaching English used students worksheet.

F. Scope and Limitation of The Research

This research is carried out in SMPN-2 Palangka Raya at first semester in academic year 2014-2015 and it took about developing reading comprehension worksheet. The member of subject is only about VIII class students.

G. Definition of Key Terms

In order to have a better understanding and to avoid misinterpretation about the terms used in the study, it is necessary for the researcher to explain the terms in detail as follows:

1. *Reading Comprehension* is the ability to understand what we read where words have context and texts have meaning. Reading Comprehension skills allow us to read proficiently, learn effectively and to conceptualize. These skills are, basically, based on earlier stages of reading development, including oral reading and reading fluency. Without developing these

earlier reading skilss, students must continually focus on decoding letters and words, rather than progressing to meaning and understanding.[6] *Reading is an interactive* process combining top-down and bottom-up processing as a result, it is very important for students to use appropriate reading strategies to increase their comprehension. In other words, reading comprehension requires the integration and application of multiple strategies or skills. Those strategies involve memory, cognitive, compensation, metacognitive, affective, social, and test-taking comprehension was assessed by the determining how well a reader's purpose for reading was fulfilled.[7] In addition, Smith states that comprehension may be regarded as those relating what we attend to in the world around us, the visual information of print in the case of reading to what we already have in our head. Learning can be considered as modifying what we already have in our head as consequence of attending to the world around us.[8] Moreover, according to Almasi, comprehension is generally perceived as the ability to understand and construct meaning what one reads.[9] The Johnston states that reading will be considered as any reader interaction with text. Comprehension is one aspect of reading.[10] Based on theory above, reading comprehension is the ability to understand what the reader read where words have a context and texts

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[6] Grabe, W. and Stoller, F, L, *Teaching and Researching Reading.* Harlow: Pearson, 2002. p.11.

[7] Steven Schwartz, *Measuring Reading Competence,* New York: Plenum Press 1984, p. 61.

[8] Jerry G. Gebhard, *Teaching English as a Foreign or Second Language: a self Development and Methodology,* Guide. Michigan: The University of Michigan Press, 2000, p.197.

[9] Janiece F. Almasi, *Teaching Strategic Process in Reading*, New York: The GuildFord Press, 2003, p. 74.

[10] Peter H. Johnston, *Reading Comprehension Assessment: A cognitive Basis,* p.1.

have meaning, it is very important for students and teacher, that the text presented on the worksheet had a meaning text to get information about the content.

2. Students worksheet is a series of tasks laid out in the form of questions. By answering these questions, students are able to master the materials they studied. The function of student worksheet for students is to make students easier to understand the subject matter studied.[11] Meanwhile, student worksheet is a series of tasks with questions that make students in working on and get it done. Preparation of student worksheet intended to provide ease of students in understanding the material taught in the learning process. Based on theory above, students worksheet is a series of tasks with question that maked students in working on. Indeed, students worksheet maked students easier to understood the subject matter studied.

3. *Material Development* is as increasing recognition is given to the audio visual media and as more suitable facilities are provided for their use, many decisions need to be made before the actual physical production of the materials even begins.[12] Materials development' refers to all the processes made use of by pratitioners who produce and/or use materials for language learning, including materials evaluation, their adaption, design, production, exploitation and research, ideally, all of these processes should be given consideration and

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[11] Kuswadi, *Penelitian dan Pengembangan Lembar Kerja Siswa,* Jakarta: CPR Press, 2005, p.35.
    [12]Peter J. Esseff, Marry S. Essef. *Developing Instructonal Materials*, Columbia: Chatterbird Place. 1980, p.1.

should interact in the making of language learning.[13] Based on theory above, material development all the process made use of pratitioners who produce material for language learning icluded material valuation, adaption, design, and ideally as increasing recognition to gave the audio visual media and suitable facilities are provided.

E. Framework of Discussion

The Framework of discussion of this study divided into three chapters. The following is short description about what each chapter contains.

Chapter I : (a) Background of the study, (b) Previous Study, (c) Research Problem (d)Objective of the research, (e)The Significances of The Study (f) Scope and Limitation of The Research (g)Definition of Key Terms (h)Framework of Discussion

Chapter II : The review of related literatures consist of the nature of reading comprehension, definition of reading comprehension, three elements of reading comprehension, the process of reading comprehension, the type of reading comprehension, reading strategies, Descriptive text, worksheet, worksheet development, step to produce the worksheet, children level advanced in

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[13]Brian Tomlinsn, *Materials Development For Language Learning And Teaching,*(online), URL: http//www.slideshare.net/NympheOinone/materials-development-for-language-learning-and-teaching, (acessed on February 13th, 2014).

reading, Criteria the best worksheet for children and Taxonomy of Educational Objects.

Chapter III: Research method that consist of research design, the subject of the study, data collection procedures and research instruments, data developing material procedure, and method of research finding verifications.