

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

English as the international language is very important for us living in this globalization era. We have to collect and follow a lot of information which is written in English related to the development of science and technology. Those informations are presented in written materials such as newspapers, magazines, online article, and textbooks. This condition forces us to master English.

Reading is not only considered as an important activity because it promotes better spelling, writing, reading comprehension, and more advanced vocabulary in language acquisition, but it is also considered as an important skill because it is necessary in the midst of technological change and an increasingly complex society.(Harmer, 2007; 99-101), if their reading skill is poor they are very like to fail in their study or at least they will have difficulty in making progress. On the other hand, if they have a good ability in reading, they will have a better chance to success in their study.

Comprehension is the main goal of reading. Since the reading skill is very important, the teachers attempts to help the students to be able to read and comprehend the text. In teaching reading skill, the teachers have to be able to help the students to read and comprehend the text.

The teachers need to lead the students to know the purpose of the text, how the sentences are connected each other in order to comprehend the content of the text

However, mastering reading skills is not an easy activity. In fact, many students still have difficulties in mastering it. First, they do not understand English words, phrases, and sentences. Second, they cannot find the main idea of a text. Third, students are not accustomed to practice reading in the classroom and everyday life. Last, teachers can not find the right method or technique to provide materials for students to learn and quick understanding the material presented. Therefore, the researcher wants to conduct a research entitled IMPROVING THE READING COMPREHENSION OF THE FIRST GRADE STUDENTS OF SMP NEGERI NUNBAI THROUGH RAP STRATEGY.

## 1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on above explanation, the problems of this study are as follows:

- 1.2.1 Is using RAP strategy effective to improve the students reading comprehension?
- 1.2.2 To what level is the students' mastery on improving reading comprehension categorized?
- 1.2.3 What problem do the students face in improving reading comprehension?

### 1.3 Objectives of the Research

Based on the statement of the problems above, this study aims to:

- 1.3.1 Point out whether or not using RAP strategy is effective to improve the students reading comprehension.
- 1.3.2 Categorize the students' mastery level on improving reading comprehension.
- 1.3.3 Find out the problem that the students face in improving reading comprehension.

### 1.4 Significance of the Study

The researcher expects that the results of this research will be beneficial to the following parties:

- 1.4.1 The English teachers as model to improve their strategy of teaching and learning process of reading comprehension.
- 1.4.2 The students to realize the importance of reading comprehension skill.
- 1.4.3 The next researcher as a reference to conduct some researches on using RAP strategy to improve the students' mastery on reading comprehension.

### 1.5 Scope and Limitation

Reading comprehension consists of many strategies teachers always use to help their students to master it. However, due to lack of time and knowledge, the researcher just focuses on the use of RAP strategy. To know its effectiveness, the researcher will involve the first grade students of SMP Negeri NUNBAI. They number 25 students.

## 1.6 Definition of the Terms

To avoid misunderstanding on the readers about the whole analysis and discussion of this research, the researcher would like to define some terms used on its title. The terms are defined as follows:

### 1.6.1 Improving

Improving is about adding the ability on doing something. Improving makes better progress in learning process. Improving shows the changing of people skill to be better in material which is given. As it is mentioned in Oxford Dictionary (2011) that improving is the process of becoming or making to be better, so the teacher's task is increasing the student's ability and activeness in class.

### 1.6.2 Reading Comprehension

According to Klingner (2007:2), reading comprehension is “the process of constructing meaning by coordinating a number of complex processes that included word reading, word and world knowledge, and fluency”. It refers to the ability in interpreting the words, understanding the meaning and the relationships between ideas conveyed in a text.

### 1.6.3 RAP Strategy

The RAP strategy is based on a theory that identifies paraphrasing as a key skill to help improve students' memory of main ideas and details in text. According to JanetteK. Klingner (2007), developed and evaluated the effectiveness of the paraphrasing strategy for use

with expository or informational texts. First students read the paragraph and think about what it means while reading. Then they ask themselves to identify the main idea of the paragraph. Finally they put the main idea and supporting details into their own words.

### 1.7 Organization of the Speaking

The researcher organizes this research paper into five chapters.

Chapter One, Introduction, covers background of the study, statement of the problems, objectives of the study, significances of the study, scope and limitation, definition of the terms and organization of the speaking.

Chapter Two, Review of Related Literature, consists of previous study and theory (Improving, Reading Comprehension and RAP strategy).

Chapter Three, Research Design, Population and Sample, Instrument, Procedures of Data Collection and Technique of Data Analysis.

Chapter Four, Finding and Discussion.

Chapter Five, Conclusion and Suggestion.