

## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **A. Reading Ability**

The definition of reading ability is reading and ability are two things that cannot be separated. Reading requires reading ability and it is very important to know the content of reading and interpret the content of reading well. Ability is something that has been ingrained in a person, and a person's abilities can develop if that person learns well. If someone is interested in reading, they will read more often and therefore have more opportunities to improve their reading ability than someone who chooses not to read (Kirby et al., 2011).

Reading ability is the most important ability in language class. Reading is not only a source of various information and fun activities but also a means to strengthen and expand one's knowledge of the language (Patel and Jain, 2008). It means that reading is used to get some important information and helps learners build knowledge from the texts they read.

According to Tarigan (2015), reading ability is a complex ability that involves letter recognition ability, recognition of linguistic elements. Reading helps acquire language ability; as long as students can understand what they are reading, the more they read, the better they understand it (Harmer, 2007). Reading also has a positive effect on students' vocabulary knowledge, on their spelling and writing.

Based on the statement above, it can be concluded that reading ability is important because it makes the reader understand the teaching and learning process. Reading ability is very important in reading because, with it, students can know the meaning of the texts they read and understand what they read, such as students' vocabulary knowledge, spelling and writing, and more information from what they read. Language ability is the ability for letter and language recognition on vocabulary and spelling knowledge.

#### **1. Teaching Reading Ability**

In the classroom, teaching reading ability conveys reading knowledge from the teacher to students by using specific strategic techniques and certain materials to master reading itself. Teaching is a complex process, not only providing information from teachers to students. So, in terms of teaching reading, teachers

need to prepare and reflect on what happens during reading lessons and relate it to references about reading and how students learn to read (Watkins, 2018).

Reading is one way to make students understand the teaching and learning process. Teaching reading ability is important to improve student's English ability and increase their knowledge. Teaching is not an easy job, but teaching is a necessary job and can be very rewarding when we see the progress of our students and know that we have helped make it happen (Harmer, 2017).

Teaching reading may not be a simple thing, but teachers can help students achieve their reading abilities by planning and choosing the right strategies. In reading class, the teacher must decide the purpose of reading, and this is done so that students understand what to do in reading. In addition, teachers must understand the needs of students and what types of reading texts can stimulate them to be involved in the classroom and become active learners.

## **2. Aspects of Reading Ability**

Reading ability is one of the most important abilities that students can learn. According to Tarigan (2015), there are three important aspects of reading ability:

### **a. Introduction to the forms of letters and punctuation marks.**

At this stage, students first recognize letters and punctuation marks and how to pronounce them to form meaningful words. For example, the series of letters 'write' and 'right' are both pronounced /rait/, which is the same pronunciation in English with different meanings, because 'right' means right or right, while 'write' means writing.

### **b. Introduction to linguistic elements.**

Students recognize phonemes, word meanings, sentence patterns, and other punctuation marks at this stage. For example, the letter 'b' means it is read /b/, not /d/ or other letters. For example, the word 'pencil' means the understanding is a tool for writing, not a tool for eating or other wrong understanding.

### **c. Recognition of spelling and sound patterns.**

At this stage, students learn how to pronounce the written word, for example, the word 'car', then the way of voicing must be by the existing letters, namely /c/a/r/, not other letters that can give rise to different meanings.

As for other aspects of reading ability are as follows:

#### **a. Pronounce**

Pronounce is the relationship between sounds and letter symbols, and it is also the combination of these sound-symbol connections to make words. Without pronounce, words are just a bunch of scribbles and lines on a page. There is nothing built-in like a bed about the written word "bed". It is simply a collection of letters and their corresponding sounds that we agree on to form the word "bed". Pronounce through spelling focuses on associating sounds with letters in writing. These approaches can be taught and used independently or in combination to help students learn to read and identify new words.

**b. Grammar**

Grammar is the study of language rules that explain words and the relationship between these words in the correct arrangement so that it gives meaning or meaning to anyone who uses the language. Or grammar is a set of structured rules that govern the arrangement of sentences, phrases, and words in any language. The definition of grammar is a system of rules for constructing sentences. It covers several aspects of English, such as Parts of speech such as verbs, adjectives, nouns, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, modifiers, etc.; Clauses, for example, independent, dependent, and compound; Punctuation marks such as commas, semicolons, and periods when applied to usage; and Mechanics of language: such as word order, semantics, and sentence structure.

**c. Vocabulary**

Vocabulary is vocabulary or a set of words owned by someone or another object or part of a particular language. The addition of one's vocabulary is generally considered an important part, both in the process of learning a language or developing one's ability in a language that has been mastered. School students must also often be taught new words as part of certain subjects, and many adults also find vocabulary formation an exciting and educational activity. Vocabulary development is a process that continues throughout a person's "reading life."

**d. Fluency**

Fluency is the reader's ability to read quickly, accurately, and expressively. Fluency allows the reader to quickly reach the distance between recognizing a word and understanding its meaning. Therefore, every student is required to combine and use several reading skills at the same time. While

fluency is most often measured through oral reading, good readers also demonstrate this skill when reading silently. Fluency comes as a person develops their phonemic awareness, phonetic skills, and vocabulary.

#### **e. Comprehension**

Comprehension is what people think about reading. This is the aspect of reading that everyone else creates. Comprehension is understanding a text or text content. Comprehension is the most complex aspect of reading. This involves the other four aspects of reading and requires the reader to utilize general thinking ability. Like vocabulary, comprehension is developed and improves over time through instruction and practice.

Based on the above aspects, reading ability is a process that someone must possess to increase the ability to read. Then there are several aspects of reading ability. In this study, researchers use components such as; pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. The five indicators are used to design the assessment as outlined in the specification table and included in the reading test.

### **B. Spelling Bee**

The definition of Spelling Bee is among the oldest educational competitions in the United States of America, dating back to as far as the 1700s. This game comes from the Spelling Bee Competition, a competition where participants are required to spell words, and it can be held at any level of each school to the national (Yusuf et al., 2014). Spelling Bee is a teaching method by using a spelling of each word or there are letters so that students can easily recognize the pronunciation of the sound of a word and can also increase vocabulary insight. Teaching reading and spelling together gives students more opportunities to apply common patterns in spelling each word (Reed, 2012).

Spelling Bee can help students improve their spelling, increase vocabulary, and develop correct use of English. Besides that, a spelling bee can also help build self-confidence. More importantly, a spelling bee is a fun way to help students overcome difficulties spelling problematic words and improve vocabulary. With spelling bee, students learn and memorize many words. Based on the statement above, Spelling Bee is more than a memorizing activity, Students are also introduced to a complicated thinking process when they receive several clues to correctly spell the word, such as definition, alternative pronunciation, kinds of words (noun, adjective, verb), and the use of words in a sentence (Sari, 2017). Besides, it is an excellent

alternative to practicing students' spelling ability. Students participate more in the classroom to know what they write and speak correctly. The difference can be seen in the learning method, and the researcher wants to introduce the learning method by using the spelling method to learn students' reading ability.

### **1. The Importance of Spelling Bee**

Spelling is one of the sub-abilities of reading. Also, pronouncing words based on their reading form is a valuable reading ability; it is becoming increasingly important to adequately support this young generation in building a solid foundation in spelling and vocabulary, leading to greater literacy (Payra & Cardona, 2015).

The spelling bee is an exciting way of helping students overcome any difficulties they have in spelling problematic words. It can increase vocabulary because, with a spelling bee, students learn and memorize many words. Spelling Bee is believed to be able to bring great benefits to children who are learning English. Parents and teachers can use the methods used in this competition to train the English language abilities of children and students (Wahidah, 2018). The spelling of over seventy percent of English words is predictable; however, three percent of the words are so irregular that they have to be learned as individual items. These irregular spellings are very common words like one, two, would, are, was, and were.

### **2. Teaching Reading Ability Using Spelling Bee**

There are teaching reading ability using spelling bee. Related to Slavin (1996) :

1. The teacher prepares some words or sentences. Then the word or sentence is in the form of random or some words are omitted. For example, the spelling of t-a-b-l-e is scrambled to become t – b – l – a - e, or a word is omitted to become t - - b - - e.
2. Then, the teacher will spell each word and emphasize each letter as the student points to each spoken letter.
3. Then, students are allowed to ask for repetition (maximum three times), example sentences, and the word's meaning. This will help participants with tricky homophones in English (words that sound the same but are spelt differently, for example, leave/leaf) and give them the best chance of spelling their words correctly.

4. Students are given the opportunity to read or find if there are words that are difficult for the sentences or words that have been given.
5. Using coloured pencils, students place a dot under the wrong part of the word and then write the correct word to the side.
6. Then students will be given a pre-test to compose or complete sentences or words according to the spelling that will be given.

### **3. Advantages and Disadvantages of Spelling Bee**

In Spelling Bee has advantages and disadvantages. According to Payra & Cardona (2015), the spelling bee has the following advantages:

- 1) Spelling bees are not only essentially 'American' events, but they can also involve knowledge of the subtle intricacies of the English language and the rich history of the words that comprise it.
- 2) The brain has a broad capacity for language learning, so students' abilities extend far to distinguish between several languages and interpret contextual cues to know which language is appropriate in a particular setting. It shows that students benefit cognitively, linguistically, and culturally from learning more than one language.
- 3) Literacy junior high school students play a role in encouraging learning, enabling students to explore information according to their interests, especially among students whose English is a second language.
- 4) Spelling bee can be a fun and educational activity that encourages student learning and growth of language ability.
- 5) The spelling and vocabulary abilities developed by these students enable them to develop understanding and confidence in English.
- 6) The spelling bee, in this way, is an important teaching method for leading educational institutions and serving to advance literacy in young English learners.
- 7) Contrary to popular belief, spelling bees are not about memorizing words. The spelling bee method can analyze words, collect and store information, learn basic words, and recognize language patterns.

According to Payra & Cardona (2015), the spelling bee has the following disadvantages:

- 1) Not only encouragement from teachers or other friends, but students also need parental encouragement as a basis in the learning process; this becomes

the main motivational factor. On the contrary, if students already know Basic English, it will also help in the learning process, and benefits seem to be a great motivational factor.

- 2) That students are required to know each letter symbol and then arrange it into a word.
- 3) Some Students learn in their way because they choose flexible lessons.
- 4) If it is not repeated continuously, most students will quickly forget the shape and sound of the letter.

From the explanation above regarding the advantages and disadvantages of spelling bees, it can be concluded that the advantages of learning to use spelling bees are that students can know the basics of the English language and its preparation; even students can demonstrate that students benefit cognitively, linguistically, and culturally from learning more than one language; can also play a role in encouraging learning enabling students to explore information according to their interests, the spelling bee is also a fun and educational activity in student learning and growth of language ability; spelling and vocabulary ability can develop understanding and confidence in English, teaching methods using spelling bees can be applied as a teaching system; and lastly, the spelling bee method can analyze words, collect and store information, learn basic words, and recognize language patterns.

While the disadvantage of using spelling bees is that it requires the role of parents to teach the basics of English, it takes a long time to explain it because students are required to know each letter and make it into a word, and if it is not repeated continuously, students will quickly forget the shape and sound letters, and finally, some students learn in their way because they choose flexible lessons

### **C. Previous Relevant Study**

Several studies on Spelling Bee have been conducted by some researchers previously. Thus, the researcher elaborates those studies below.

Rohmawati (2015) conducted a study entitled "Effectiveness of Using Spelling Bee in Teaching Vocabulary Using Descriptive Texts and Finding Student Perceptions Towards the Spelling Bee Game for Class VII SMP in Cimahi." The result of the study is that the Spelling Bee improved students' motivation to learn vocabulary; students got themselves to be more confident and were encouraged to answer again until they got the right answer. Almost all students get perfect marks on

spelling tests. It can be concluded that Spelling Bee is effective to be applied in English vocabulary learning classes.

Ramadhan (2021) conducted a study entitled "The Effect of Spelling Bee Game in Reading Narrative Text of The Tenth Grade Student at Senior High School 3 Singingi Hilir". The results of the study seen from the effectiveness of the Spelling Bee game in reading narrative texts can be seen from the control class that the percentage is higher than the percentage of the experimental class. It can be concluded that there is a significant effect of using the Spelling Bee Strategy on reading comprehension of narrative texts.

Khasanah (2019) conducted research entitled "The Influence of "Spelling Bee" Technique Toward Students' Pronunciation at 7th Grade of MTs NU 01 Mambaul Hikmah Tegalwangi in The Academic Year 2018/2019". The results of the study were seen from the effectiveness of the use of the Spelling Bee technique in improving students' pronunciation could spell and pronounce the word spell, the students easier to understand the words that were given, and the Spelling Bee made the teaching-learning process more interesting and attractive. It can be concluded that there is a significant effect of using the effective "Spelling Bee" technique to improve students' pronunciation.

Choriana (2016) conducted a study entitled "The Use of Spelling Bee Game to Improve Students' Understanding of Simple Past Tense". The study results are seen from the effectiveness of the use of the Spelling Bee game in increasing students' understanding of the simple past tense. It can be seen from the students who are very enthusiastic about participating in the game and taking tests. It can also be seen from the average before, and after the researchers used this technique, there was an increase every cycle. This means that the spelling bee game can significantly increase students' enthusiasm. There is also an increase in each process after using the spelling bee game and the application of the spelling bee game as a teaching method to improve students' understanding of the simple past tense.

Handayani & Zaharani (2021) conducted a study entitled "The Effect of Spelling Bee Game on Students' Vocabulary Mastery". The results of the study seen from the effectiveness of the use of the Spelling Bee game in increasing word mastery, it can be seen from the average value of the experimental class after and before being taught using the spelling bee game showed higher results, it can be concluded that the spelling bee game showed better results. The spelling bee game is

significant in the application of the spelling bee game as a teaching method to influence students' vocabulary mastery.

Based on the previous relevant research above, it can be concluded that the teaching method using Spelling Bee can improve vocabulary knowledge, can determine reading comprehension, can train and improve students' pronunciation, increase students' understanding of the simple past tense, and also affect students' vocabulary mastery. Therefore, researchers are interested in using Spelling Bee to see the effectiveness of students' reading ability.