

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. RESEARCH BACKGROUND

English is the first widely spoken international language. English can be called a global or universal language as a matter of fact, most countries in the world use English as their primary language. This is consistent with Brumfit (2001), who states that English is the international language and the most widely used medium of international communication. It can be recognized that English is a foreign language that is often used in Indonesia and has even been taught in schools. English lessons are one of the lessons taught to students from elementary school to college. Learning English is a hope for Indonesian students as an opportunity for them to broaden their international insight and knowledge and also help improve their English communication competencies.

In learning English there are four abilities that students must master, one of which is reading skills. Starting from elementary school to college reading skills are very important for students. Reading skills are important for students because it is important to achieve student academic success. As is known, many learning materials or information are in the form of English text writing such as in books, articles, journals, newspapers, and other types of text writing. Therefore, students are expected to have good reading skills to understand the information contained in the text of the text. As stated by Permendiknas No.23 of 2006 in the curriculum, students are intended to have reading skills, which aim to clearly understand the meaning or content of written language, both interpersonal and transactional. They are also expected to gain knowledge and information from the text. In addition, Nuttall (1982) states that in understanding the content of the text students are expected to be able to determine main ideas, find specific information from texts, identify references and inferences, and also understand vocabulary.

In conclusion, reading plays a significant role in society as it is essential for acquiring information, knowledge, and enjoyment. It is a complex process that involves word identification, comprehension, and interpretation. Reading is not only crucial for academic success but also has practical applications in various aspects of life, including personal enrichment, communication skills, cognitive development, emotional well-being, and social skills.

Based on the pre-observation conducted at SMA Negeri 1 Sungai Kakap, students have some problems learning English, especially in reading. The average student of class XI seems still to have difficulty understanding the content of a reading text. Most students find it difficult to identify the main ideas in a text, students also do not seem to understand a lot of vocabulary, it is seen that they also have difficulty finding specific information and references from a text, and seems hard to identify conclusions from a topic in reading texts.

When the students find difficulty in reading, the teacher should be able to solve this problem. Therefore, adequate learning media support is required to meet the growing learning demands of students, particularly in English classes. As previously stated, a variety of factors influence the success of the learning process. According to Magdalena & Astikawati (2018), teachers can increase students' interest in learning, motivate them to study, and make it easier for them to comprehend what they are teaching by using educational and motivational videos and Microsoft Powerpoint presentations that are relevant to the subject matter being covered. If teachers want to make it easier for students to learn in the classroom, they need to use learning media that students will like.

Based on the problem, the researcher purpose of the solution is to improve the reading skills of students in learning English. The solution is using interactive and educational learning media which is by utilizing the Canva application in the teaching and learning process. In this current digital era, Canva as a learning media is seen helping to support the learning English process. Canva is an online design program that provides various tools such as presentations, resumes, posters,

pamphlets, brochures, graphics, infographics, banners, flyers, certificates, diplomas, invitation cards, business cards, thank you cards, and so on (Tanjung & Faiza, 2019). Canva can provide a fun and creative learning experience and create a positive learning environment. A positive learning atmosphere improves students' motivation, concentration, attitude, and memory. Learners will be more engaged in the learning process and more easily able to retain information and knowledge from the learning materials received during the learning process. Smaldino et al. corroborate this in Yundayani et al. (2019), where visual educational media such as Canva make imaginative ideas more realistic, motivating students and increasing their attention, and they can repeat and recall previous knowledge.

To support this research, some previous studies were reviewed by the researcher, the first is a research conducted by Wahyuni, et al. (2022) entitled "Increasing Students' Interest in Learning English Through Canva Application". This research focuses on examining students' interest in learning English subjects by using the Canva application as a learning medium. From the results of this research, it was found that the use of the Canva application as a learning media can increase students' interest in learning, so it can be said that students' interest in using the Canva application as an English learning media is very high. Then, there is a research conducted by Puspita, et al. (2022) entitled " Development of Teaching Materials to Improve Reading Comprehension Skills for 5th Grade Students: Canva App Supported". This research focuses on measuring the effect of developed application-based Canva on improving reading comprehension in 5th grade. The results of this research suggest that the use of Canva's application-based teaching materials significantly improves the reading comprehension of information texts in fifth grade.

Therefore, based on the problems described above, the researcher was inspired to conduct action research because the researcher wanted to know whether using

Canva could improve the reading skills of eleventh-grade students at SMA Negeri 1 Sungai Kakap for the Academic Year of 2022/2023.

B. RESEARCH PROBLEMS

Based on what the researcher has discussed in the background of the research, the problems in this research can be formulated as follows:

“How can Canva improve the reading skills of grade Eleventh (XI) students in SMAN 1 Sungai Kakap?”

C. RESEARCH PURPOSES

With the formulation of the research problem above, the purpose of this research is to investigate whether Canva can improve the reading skills of grade Eleventh (XI) students in SMAN 1 Sungai Kakap.

D. SIGNIFICANT OF THE RESEARCH

Hopefully, this research is very useful and gives goodness contribution to everyone related to English education. There is some expectation to be achieved from this research:

1. Theoretical Significance

- a. The result of this research is expected can be a reference for English students to do similar research or another researcher.
- b. The result of this research is expected can be used as information material for the English departments and also as knowledge in improving English education and apply it in the teaching-learning process.

2. Practical Significance

By compiling this research, the researcher hopes that this research can contribute and have a positive impact to schools, English teachers, students, and other researchers.

- a. To School

The researcher hopes that the positive result of this research could be useful for schools so they can develop learning media such as Canva that can be used in their schools for teaching and learning English, and also helps to improve students' reading skills.

b. To English Teachers

By conducting this research, the researcher hopes that this research can be useful for English teachers to increase their knowledge to develop learning media such as Canva media to support the English teaching and learning process, and significantly to help improve students' reading skills.

c. To Student

The researcher hopes that using Canva as a learning media can help students learn and improve their English especially their reading skills by allowing them to directly participate in active, creative, and fun learning experiences.

d. To Other Researchers

The result of this research can also provide a reference for other researchers to add to the existing shortcomings of this research. This research can be a source of information so that it can be further developed in other materials to help improve students' reading skills.

E. SCOPE OF THE RESEARCH

1. Research Variable

According to Creswell (2012), the variable refers to the characteristics or attributes of individuals and organizations that the researcher can measure or observe with variations among the individuals or organizations studied. Moreover, Sugiyono (2019) also stated that a research variable is an attribute, trait, or value of people, objects, or activities that have certain variations set by researchers to study and then draw conclusions.

From the statement above, it can be concluded that a variable is a characteristic of an individual or a group that has certain variations set by the researcher to be observed and studied and then conclusions drawn.

This research uses a single variable that applied to the Eleven (XI) Grade students of SMAN 1 Sungai Kakap. The single variable in this research is about improving students' reading skill by using Canva.

2. Research Terminology

The following definitions are provided to ensure the uniformity and understanding of these terms throughout the research:

a. Reading Skills

Reading is a crucial skill that is interconnected with other language skills. It is an activity that enables individuals to extract meaning from symbols or printed words, and utilize this ability to recognize, understand, and interpret language. Reading serves as a means of personal enrichment and lifelong learning. By reading extensively, individuals can broaden their horizons, develop critical thinking skills, and enhance their vocabulary and language proficiency

b. Canva

Canva is a design platform that can be accessed from both the web and app, which provides a variety of attractive design features and tools that make it easier for users to design as creatively as they like. The Canva design platform has been popular with many people. Starting from students, teachers, college students, lecturers, editors, and others user use Canva as a tool for designing various graphics.

c. SMA N 1 Sungai Kakap

SMA N 1 Sungai Kakap is one of the schools located in Sungai Kakap District, Kubu Raya Regency. SMA N 1 Sungai Kakap is clearly located

on St. Raya Sungai Kakap, Gg. Tuadi (behind the sub-district office). SMA
N 1 Sungai Kakap is a school that has accreditation “A”.