

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

Reading is one of the activities carried out by someone to obtain information or knowledge that was not previously unknown to someone. Reading comprehension is the process by which the reader constructs the use of meaning as material for building information on the print page and knowledge stored in the reader's head. Woolley (2001:15) said that reading comprehension is the process of making meaning from the text. To teach understanding effectively needs to understand what is involved in the process. Reading is no longer seen as a static process and readers are not just passive. Johnson (2008:7) states that reading helps students become better writers. Reading comprehension becomes very important because reading is a thinking process to find out the meaning in the text that the readers read, they must read carefully from the text it used be represent to make sense in reading.

Based on the explanation about reading, it can be concluded that reading is an important aspect and has many inherent benefits in practice. Reading is very important because it makes students more empathetic, and knowledgeable, and stimulates the imagination. Reading helps students acquire knowledge and information. Reading can also expand a variety of information and can decipher the meaning contained in the text. (Ningrum & Pusparini, 2020) found that the more vocabulary the learner mastered, the better the learner's language skills.

Based on the initial observations and discussions of the researcher with the English teacher at SMP Negeri 5 Paloh, especially class VIII, there were several problems. For example, many students may have a limited vocabulary, they have difficulty making inferences from the text, they may not understand well the main idea structure and main reading ideas, so they have difficulty understanding the sentences they read and they have poor reading skills, so they have difficulty understanding the text they read. They always ask the teacher about the meaning of each sentence and it is difficult for them to choose the words to be the reference

of the text. This is an indicator of students' problems in reading comprehension. Therefore, in this study to improve student's reading comprehension, teachers need to use effective teaching techniques so that students can be active and motivated in reading comprehension. One of the effective reading comprehension learning techniques is the Index Card Match Technique to solve student problems.

In junior high schools, one of the objectives of learning English is to equip students with developing effective and efficient English reading comprehension. Reading comprehension becomes difficult for novice students because of limited reading knowledge and the methods used by the teacher are not effective for students. Reading comprehension can be the ticket to more information and greater academic achievement. Based on the school-based curriculum syllabus, there are several types of text that students need to master. White (2012: 3) states that reading comprehension is a process of understanding and meaning simultaneously through interaction and engagement with written language. In reading comprehension, students can get some of the information they need. To get the best results in the reading process, students must have a good ability to understand the text. However, reading comprehension for junior high schools is still far from expectations.

The advantage of the Index Card Match learning method is that it can invite students to interact actively with each other so that all students are actively involved in the learning process and can understand the concepts of learning material in a fun way. Index card match is a lesson that helps students to gain knowledge, skills, and attitudes actively and makes learning unforgettable (Silberman, 2009: 121 and 265). This is with the results of Lubis and Elias's (2019:12) Journal research which focuses on improving students' reading comprehension skills in descriptive texts using the index card match strategy. The results showed that the average student scores on each test continued to increase. Therefore, researchers use a technique to assist teachers in overcoming reading comprehension problems.

Based on the results of previous research, the researcher conducted research "The Use Of Index Card Match to Improve Students' Reading

Comprehension (Classroom Action Research on Grade VIII Students of SMP Negeri 5 Paloh Academic Year 2023/2024). Hopefully, the results can improve students' reading comprehension.

B. Research Problem

Based on the background above, the formulation of the problem that can be taken by researchers, among others "How can Index Card Match improve students' reading comprehension to the eighth-grade students of SMP Negeri 5 Paloh in the academic year 2023/2024?"

C. Research Purposes

This study aims to find out how the use of Index Card Match can improve students' reading comprehension of the eighth-grade students of SMP Negeri 5 Paloh in the academic year 2023/2024.

D. Significances of the Research

Based on the above objectives, the benefits that can be taken by the researcher include:

1. Practical Significance

The author hopes to complete this research. The author will provide positive feedback for improving the quality of teaching English, especially for students, English teachers, the authors themselves, and another researcher:

a. For the students

This learning process can help increase students' interest in reading and increase their awareness of the importance of reading comprehension. This alternative method is expected to increase students' skills and motivation in the learning process to improve their ability to understand the methods and functions of learning materials. And can improve learning outcomes to understand the reading.

b. For the teacher

Teachers can provide information about techniques for teaching reading comprehension and students' difficulties in learning, namely using the Index Card Match Technique to improve reading comprehension as an alternative to teaching variations in class and encouraging teachers to be more creative in creating a teaching atmosphere in class. With a better teaching strategy, students feel interested in learning English.

c. For the school

This research will improve school performance as well as add new teaching techniques to schools. Adding a collection of teaching methods that can be used for classroom learning and used in learning materials that require researchers to apply the Index Card Match method, makes student learning easier to understand efficiently and effectively.

d. For other researchers

The results of this study will be useful and can be used as a reference for those who need knowledge about research and similar issues using designs or other research models. Provide data and evidence for other researchers to validate and develop existing theories and practices in the field of language learning and literacy.

2. Theoretical significance

Theoretically, this research is useful for enriching the literature of junior high school students who have difficulty reading comprehension.

E. Scope of Research

To make the problem interesting to be discussed in depth, the authors focus on the following issues:

1. Research Variables

Research variables can be defined as the elements, characteristics, or circumstances that are used to be captured and observed during the research. In other words, the research variables are the elements that are the focus of the research. Arikunto (2010: 161) variable is the object of research or what is

the research point that can be measured and observed among the individuals or organizations studied. So it can be concluded that variables are everything that will be examined by researchers.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher classifies this research variable as a single variable, namely the use of Index Card Match on students' reading comprehension

2. Research Terminology

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

a. Reading Comprehension

Reading comprehension is a process of extracting and constructing meaning simultaneously through interaction with written language and understanding text to understand a passage in a sentence or story.

b. Index Card Match

This method is done by matching the cards used in the learning process. This method is carried out by matching cards consisting of two parts, namely questions and answers that are matched by students in pairs between questions and answers.

c. SMP Negeri 5 Paloh

SMP Negeri 5 Paloh is a junior high school level where class VIII students are in interactive skills. The research carried out teaching practice, especially for class VIII B with the research title "The Use Of Index Card Match To Improve Students' Reading Comprehension (A Classroom Action Research to the Eighth Grade Students of SMP Negeri 05 Paloh in the Academic Year of 2023/2024).

F. Action Hypothesis

The hypothesis is used to predict the tentative answers. Singh (2006:54), "the hypothesis is a tentative solution problem". Based on the research problem, the action hypothesis of this study is that the use of Index Card Match can improve the reading comprehension of class VIII students of SMP Negeri 5 Paloh.