

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Reading is considered an important language skill, since through reading the students would acquire a variety of information that has not previously been obtained. Reading along with speaking, listening, and writing, is one of the four language skills. Unlike speaking and listening, which most people can do automatically, reading must be taught and cannot be done unintentionally. Reading has become a priority scale that all students must master. Reading can help someone gain a lot of information, knowledge, and vocabulary.

According to Harmer (2007:100), reading is useful for language acquisition. Provided that students more or less understand what they read, the more they read, the better they get it. The constant repetition of reading can aid in the development of good reading habits. Studying can aid in the development of reading habits and comprehension. As a result, the two variables of reading comprehension that will be emphasized in this research study are reading habits and comprehension.

In addition, Guthrie (2007:310) states that reading comprehension would be more effective if it is being supported by motivation. The authors reconstructs a message and encode it in printed language, and the reader decodes the printed language and reconstructs the message. Reading comprehension is essential in English learning as an English reading habit because readers must understand the

information. Students must improve their reading habits in order to improve their reading comprehension.

Habit is behavior that has been repeated until it has become less automatic, enacted without purposeful thinking, largely without any sense of awareness (Nilsen, 2012). Patel and Jain (2008:114) state that reading habits do not only help students to get knowledge and wisdom from the culture of heritage, but are also very helpful in passing for leisure. Furthermore, having a good reading habit has several advantages. For example, by having a good reading habit, students can open up knowledge of the new world and expand their knowledge.

Reading habits can assist students in gaining meaningful knowledge. Reading habits can also help individuals improve their personalities, develop appropriate thinking methods, and generate new ideas. Reading habit is an important component to master when learning English because it has an impact on students' reading comprehension ability. Palani (2012:92) states that reading is a process of thinking, evaluating, judging, imagining, reasoning, and problem solving. In short, reading is an active process which involves making sense and deriving meaning from printed or written words as a means of understanding what has been read. It has been revealed that positive attitudes and high motivation are associated with reading achievement and reading habits.

The students need reading in the learning process. Through reading, the students could read in any references for doing their assignments. However, if the students read the book without comprehending skills, they may not acquire the conclusion to answer their task. Therefore, reading habit and reading

comprehension are the two elements that could not separate away from the students reading ability and learning process.

In relation to this study, the writer would like to conduct research to analyze and to know the correlation between reading habit and reading comprehension in the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 1 Payangan. Thus, the title of this research is “The Correlation between Reading Habit and Reading Comprehension of Eighth Grade Students of SMP Negeri 1 Payangan in academic Year 2022/2023.

### **1.2 Research Problem**

Considering the description above, reading habit and reading comprehension are important things in learning English also to get information and also knowledge. Based on the topic chosen and the background of the study stated above, the researcher formulates the problem as follows: Is there any significant correlation between reading habit and reading comprehension of the eight grade students of SMP Negeri 1 Payangan?

### **1.3 Objectives of the study**

The objectives of the study is to find out whether there is any correlation between reading habit and reading comprehension of the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 1 Payangan.

#### **1.4 Limitation of the study**

Limitation of study is required to avoid the discussion to be overlapping from this study. Therefore, the researcher will limit the present study focusing on correlation between reading habit and reading comprehension of the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 1 Payangan in Academic Year 2022/2023. The researcher limited the research on reading skill especially text structures and linguistic elements to carry out social function of descriptive texts by stating and asking about descriptions of people, place, objects and animals, the types of the material is about descriptive paragraph.

#### **1.5 .Significance of the study**

The main concern of this research is to find the correlation between reading habit and reading comprehension of eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 1 Payangan. The result of this research is expected to be important and useful for both theoretical and practical significance.

Theoretically, the findings of the study are expected to give more empirical evidence to the existing research findings in teaching and learning reading. For the teacher is to convey the comprehension of their students throughout and provide information that is useful in designing reading comprehension intervention programs that hopefully can increase their knowledge in reading comprehension.

Practically, the findings of the study are intended as valuable informative feedback to English teachers regarding the degree of relative failure and success

in teaching reading comprehension. Furthermore, for the students the findings are expected for students to increase reading comprehension. Meanwhile, for other researchers, this research can be used as a reference to conduct similar research.

### **1.6 Definition of Key Term**

There are two keys will be used in this study which could be defined operationally. In order to avoid misinterpretation and misunderstanding among the readers, it would be important for the researcher to give crystal clear information regarding the variables of terms that are used would be as follow:

1. Reading Habit

Reading habit is a behavior to read, which is done regularly to understand information and get entertainment from written material.

2. Reading Comprehension

Reading comprehension means the act of understanding and comprehending what is being read from the text.

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## **CHAPTER II**

### **THEORETICAL AND EMPIRICAL REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Theoretical Review**

The theoretical review is a part to discuss the detail of the theoretical background which is taken for this research. In this chapter, the researcher describes two points which support the relevant theoretical review from many related literatures to support this study. The description includes reading habits and reading comprehension

##### **2.1.1 Reading Habit**

Reading is an activity that helps people learn their abilities by enriching their knowledge. Students, particularly in the teaching and learning process in school, must broaden their capabilities in order to achieve a higher grade and pass their topic. Reading is one of the abilities that students can utilize to obtain information. Students who do not read will not gain knowledge and will not be able to pass the topic. By reading, enable students to enhance the current information and technology, enjoy literature, find ideas and do so many things.

Habit is an abstract theory in habit theory there is no single correct definition (Gardner, 2012:32). People repeated actions out of habit without thinking about why this self-concept had to occur. Behaviorists view habits as routines of behavior that are repeated regularly and tend to occur subconsciously. As a subconscious self-concept, reading habits can help students to

gain academic achievement to a great extent. In order to develop certain reading habits, people must implement these practices action. Based on the definition given above it can be said that as repeated actions, habit involves a process of unconscious pattern. It reflects person's personality, good or bad, and they went constantly and regularly.

According to Nunan (2006:69), reading is a set of skills that involves making sense and deriving meaning from printed words. Moreover, Serravallo (2010:43) defines reading as thinking, understanding, and getting at the meaning behind the text. As a result, people are easily exchanging information wiith others, updating current situation and improving their knowledge. Reading allows people to broaden their thoughts and obtain new information, which can increase their knowledge and comprehension of literature.

Reading habits are activities that demonstrate a preference for various types of reading and reading interests. According to Davidovitch (2016:129), the reading habit is also defined as the manner in which an individual arranges his understanding. Moreover, Linse (2005:69) states that reading habit is a set of skills related to the making of flavor and fosters the meaning of the word that has been printed. In term of acquiring these habits: they have to put these habits into practice.

Zwiers (2004:3) states that reading habit more clearly describes the automatic and unconscious process that is involved in constructing meaning from text. Then reading habit refers to an automatic process as the readers read the textual material and derive meaning unconsciously. Reading habit can increase

student' comprehension of the text. On the other hand, Patel and Jain (2008:114) state that reading habits not only help students to get knowledge and wisdom from the culture of heritage but are also very helpful in passing for leisure periods. Reading habit becomes an important factor of successful readers.

Based on the definition above, habit involves an unconscious pattern of repeated acts. It represents a person's personality, for better or worse, and they went constantly and on a regular basis. Reading will help the learner acquire and develop important knowledge, as well as achieve great academic success in school.

### **2.1.2 Reading Comprehension**

Reading comprehension is the ability to comprehend written content. Reading frequently and reading content that is fascinating is the best approach to improve reading comprehension. According to Wolley (2011:15), reading comprehension is the process of making meaning from text. Reading comprehension is only used when readers comprehend the meaning of the text. Understanding text can help you receive the information you need to develop your understanding of the text during the reading process.

Reading comprehension is the process of extracting and constructing meaning through interaction and involvement with written language (Chair, 2002). In other words, reading comprehension is the process that readers do in order to construct or understand the meanings of the text through reading activity. According to McNamara (2007:109), comprehension arises from cognitive

processes and activities, including word decoding, lexical access, syntactic processing, inference generation, reading strategies, and post-reading activities. The readers must be able to recognize words to comprehend the text.

Boardman (2007:8) states that reading comprehension involves much more than readers' responses to text. Reading comprehension is a multicomponent, highly complex process that involves many interactions between readers and what they bring to the text (previous knowledge, strategy use) as well as variables related to the text itself (interest in text, understanding of the text types). It is important for them to make connections between the reading materials and their fundamental knowledge in order to understand what they are reading. This is done by applying a reading strategy that starts with being interested in the reading material itself.

Reading comprehension must be mastered by the reader. It will be easier for the reader to find information in the text if they comprehend. Reading success can be defined as understanding the meaning of the text and recognizing the aim of the book. According to Yossuke (2011:1), reading comprehension is a complex process in which the reader uses their ability to find the information. It means that, the reader must be able to comprehend the meaning of the text, because the ability to read is not only to read aloud what is written but to understand what the reader reads. As a result, in order to understand the meaning of the text, the reader must comprehend a certain number of words. It is tough to understand a reading book if you do not have enough vocabulary.

## 2.2 Empirical Review

An empirical review is a review of the knowledge and hypotheses currently available on the issue, as well as the topic's historical context. The purpose of providing an empirical review was to show relevant research that are comparable to the current study. As a result, it might be used to support the current study by considering the results when determining whether or not the current study was as successful as the relevant empirical reviews. And places the researcher in a better position to deduce the significance of this own result.

Additionally, the related research entitled “The Correlation between Reading Habit and Reading Comprehension of the eighth grade students of SMP (SLUB) Saraswati Denpasar in academic year 2020/2021” conducted by Sindhu (2021). The result of the analysis showed that there is a positive and significant correlation between students' reading habit and their reading comprehension. It could be seen from the analysis by using SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Science) version 19. The writer used questionnaire and multiple choice as instruments.

The other research related to this present study was “The Correlation between English Reading Habit and English Reading Comprehension for EFL Students” That was conducted by Andriani et al (2021).The analysis showed that there was significant correlation between reading habit and reading comprehension.It could be seen from the analysis by using SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Science) version 23. The writer used questionnaire and multiple choice as instrument.

Considering the findings of the previous researches, they needed to be discussed in order to get an innovation and development to the present study. Both of the previous researches used multiple choice as the instrument of reading comprehension. Furthermore, there was a strong possibility for the students to guess the answers or easily cheat their friends in reading comprehension. In the present study, the researcher employed a short answers task to measure the students' reading comprehension. In addition, the students had a little chance to guess the answers because they needed to understand the reading text in order to answer the question in short answers task.

### **2.3 Hypothesis**

The hypothesis proposed by the researchers in this study are as follows: there is a positive correlation between student reading habit and reading comprehension of the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 1 Payangan.

