

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Reading is one of the activities that cannot be separated in the world of education. Reading activities can be likened to the heart of education. This is evident from the reading skills taught from elementary school to tertiary education. Reading is the key to a student's success [1]. Reading is an essential factor in any teaching endeavor. Information and knowledge are obtained from reading activities. So reading is a skill that must be mastered by students. Like any other skill, reading also requires an ability. If a person's ability is low, the information and knowledge obtained will also not be optimal. There will even be a misunderstanding of the information and knowledge acquired.

Reading is a communication process from writer to reader [2]. It involves letters, words, sentences, and clauses. Reading is one type of practical communication that uses the sense of sight through several media, textbooks, captions, novels, news, social media, etc. Through reading, we can gain experience, develop new concepts, solve problems by studying word usage or the implementation of grammar rules, and at the same time gain much knowledge. The main goal is to understand the reading material, but the reality shows that most students do not understand the material. Their daily interactions can best be remedied by reading.

Most students encounter problems comprehending English text [3]. There are still many students who think that reading is a challenging activity that causes students' ability to read to be low. Students believe that reading is one of the skills that are considered difficult for students. So, it causes students not to think that reading is an activity that must be mastered. Starting from the assumption that reading is difficult, it forces students to have difficulty in working on questions with slightly long readings. This is because students do not understand the meaning and information contained in the reading.

Therefore, a graded reader is an excellent learning medium to start enhancing reading comprehension. Graded readers are classified as textbooks with different difficulty levels for students to read or learn foreign languages [4]. The primary function of a graded reader is to create a series of stepping stones so that language learners can read simple material. Beginners cannot read non-simple documents easily because of their difficulty, and to bring learners to the point where they can read non-simple texts, they must read materials that are not simple. Difficulty levels gradually increase until they reach this point. As used by Oxford Publishing, Cambridge, Penguin Readers, etc., the difficulty level of reading will increase as the level of the reading book increase. The vocabulary, number of words, and structure. Suppose the level is up, so the vocabulary, number of words, and structure will be more difficult.

Much literature has shown that graded readers, sometimes called simple readers, enjoy several advantages over student textbooks. First, graded readers can provide exposure to students' broader and larger narrative texts related to everyday life that will be read during the study inside or outside the classroom [5]. Students can choose what to read, so there is no compulsion in learning. Then the second is that the level of difficulty in reading books can be controlled by selecting a range of levels, making it possible for students to choose a range of levels from easy and then going up a level by level in learning the latest vocabulary. Next is the third, with the selection of controlled reading books using various interesting and unique themes, students will feel motivated to always read to improve their reading skills. With graded readers, readers are proven to experience increased reading ability, vocabulary, range of expression, and other knowledge obtained from reading [6]. This is because reading causes language learners to do something that can train the brain to get used to reading. That habit will lead to an increase in brain work which ultimately processes the ability to read, vocabulary, range of expression, and other knowledge that has been obtained from reading. So that in the end, the language learners who have read graded readers are motivated to help

promote extensive reading activities to novice students who still have a low interest in reading.

The Preliminary research was done in SMA TAMANSISWA before the research in the form of an interview given to English teachers in 10th grade. She said that students' achievement in reading was still poor. The reading interest of grade 10th students is low due to a lack of reading habits. When doing much reading questions, students would find it difficult to answer the question because they do not understand the content of the text. Based on this fact, teachers should provide a variety of instructional techniques in the reading classroom to motivate students to understand the text they are reading.

From explanation in advance, the researcher is interested in conducting the title: **The Effectiveness of Using Graded Readers Textbook to Enhancing Reading Comprehension Students of 10th Grade Senior High School.**

1.2 Formulation of the Study

Is using graded readers textbooks effective to enhance students' reading comprehension at 10th Grade Senior High School Tamansiswa?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

To determine the effectiveness of using graded readers to enhance reading comprehension of students' 10th Grade Senior High School Tamansiswa.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Research is an activity that is expected to bring something valuable and can using as a reference for further researchers who will conduct research. This research has theoretical and practical benefits :

1.4.1 Theoretical

Researchers have a goal with this research. The results can be used as reference material for further research and add to the latest research to enhance students' reading comprehension, especially in Senior High School.

1.4.2 Practical

- a) For Students: Can be used as a new media and model to improve reading skills in learning activities, especially English.
- b) For Teacher: Graded readers are a medium that can be used as a reference for teachers in carrying out student learning activities, especially English lessons, to enhance reading comprehension. So that if students' reading abilities increase, students will find it easier to understand reading to improve other skills.
- c) For the Next Researcher: The next similar research can use this research as a reference.

1.5 Scope of the Study

This research was conducted in the discipline of teaching English. The research focuses on graded readers as a medium to improve students' reading skills, especially in understanding and searching for the main ideas and content of the reading text.