

## **CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION**

In this chapter, the researcher presents about the introduction which consists of background of the study, problem of the study, objective of the study, significances of the study, and definition of key terms.

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

Reading is one of the language skills that should be mastered by students. It is very important because every activity in the classroom always has connection with reading. It is supported by Bamman (1963, p.1) who stated that reading is truly a basic mean of learning in all subjects. Thus, as one of the importance language skills, reading has to be taught intensively.

Based on Bernhardt (2011, p.7) reading comprehension is a process of simultaneously extracting and constructing meaning through interaction and involvement with written language. In similarities Grabe and Stoller (2002, p.17) define reading comprehension as the ability of understanding and interpreting information in a text correctly. It means that, researchers describe comprehension strategies in different ways and their lists of strategies may vary somewhat, but there is general agreement about the kinds of strategies that readers employ as they use their knowledge to comprehend text.

The researcher believes that by using small group discussion technique, the students can work together to solve their problems, discuss, and share the information that they have before. It is supported by Hammer (2007, p.118) who said that by doing small group discussion some benefits will be met, one of them is it can help the students to get various information from some sources.

In addition, Gibson (2010, p.4) writes that the purpose of using small group discussion technique is to develop students' abilities to formulate and debate arguments or to refine their critical understanding of a particular topic. So, in small group discussion, the students are free to talk, share their knowledge, give their opinion or ideas with their group, and discuss the descriptive text together. In other side, by using small group discussion technique students are more motivated in reading and comprehend descriptive text. That is why the researcher chooses small group discussion technique to improve the students' reading comprehension achievement, especially in descriptive text.

There are several researchers used small group discussion technique, such as Umiyati in 2011 and Kluwer in 2015. Their research finding and result showed that the use of small group discussion technique can improve the students reading comprehension in descriptive text.

In Elementary School curriculum, based on syllabus 2013, the standard competence of teaching English reading skills to the fifth grade students is learning some texts in form of descriptive text. In addition, based on the information from SDN Kotalama 5 Malang: The school is located at Jl. Muharto Gg.VII No.54, Kec. Kedungkandang, Kota Malang. In the fifth grade English teacher in SDN Kotalama 5 Malang, the question in English

examination subject contain those kinds of texts and the students are asked to comprehend them. That is why reading comprehension is very important to the students because it has a relationship with the students' achievement.

In fact, most of Elementary school students cannot acquire the aspect of language well. Most of them are still confused to comprehend an English text. They still find difficulties in finding the meaning of the text. Mostly, they cannot understand what they have read because they do not understand the meaning of the text. It means that their reading comprehension ability is still low.

In line with that, there were some problems faced by the second year students at SDN Kotalama 5 Malang in comprehending a descriptive text. The researcher found the students' problem when the researcher did the pre-test. First, most of students found the difficulties in finding the meaning of the descriptive text. Second, students were still confused in comprehending a descriptive text by themselves, especially in determining the general statement.

Seeing the ability of the second year students of SDN Kotalama 5 Malang that still need to be improved, the researcher decided to apply small group discussion technique to solve the students' problems in reading comprehension achievement, especially in descriptive text.

By looking at those previous studies, the researcher is optimistic that small group discussion technique also can improve the students reading comprehension achievement. Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in implementing small group

discussion technique in order to improve the students' reading comprehension achievement in descriptive text in the fifth grade students of SDN Kotalama 5 Malang.

### **1.2 Problem of the Study**

Based on the background of the study, the problem of the study is “How can small group discussion technique improve the fifth grade students' reading comprehension achievement on descriptive text at SDN Kotalama 5 Malang?”

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

Based on the problem of the study above, the objective of the study is “To find out can small group discussion technique how improve the fifth grade students' reading comprehension achievement on descriptive text at SDN Kotalama 5 Malang.”

### **1.4 Significances of the Study**

Through this study, it is expected that some benefits will be met.

1. Help the students to comprehend reading text easily and to improve the students' reading comprehension achievement in descriptive text by using small group discussion technique.
2. For the teacher, the result of this study can be used as a new way in teaching reading comprehension.
3. For further researchers who are interested in conducting the similar research in improving the students' reading comprehension achievement through small group discussion technique, the result of this study can be used as a reference in conducting the research.

### **1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study**

The study mainly focused on teaching technique to improve students reading achievement in English class at the Fifth Grade of SDN Kotalama 5 Malang, during academic 2017-2018. The study started from last October '6 until November '10. The instruments that used in the study are pre-test, post-test, and field notes.

### **1.6 Definition of Key Terms**

There are some key terms included in this study. In order to give more insight to the readers, avoid misunderstanding and ambiguity towards the terms and misconception of the ideas used in the study, the key terms are described as follow:

1. **Reading Comprehension:** is an activity of the students to understand and find out the important information from a written text. Also the ability to read, process it, and understand its meaning.
2. **Descriptive Text:** is a text which says what a person or thing is like. Its purpose is to describe and reveal a particular person, place or thing.
3. **Small Group Discussion (SGD):** is a process of learning by doing small group discussions the aim of enabling students to have the skills to troubleshoot related subject matter and issues encountered in everyday life, the purpose of using SGD technique is to develop students' abilities to formulates and debate arguments or to refine their critical understanding of a particular topic.