# CHAPTER I

# INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents: (1) background, (2) research problems, (3) research objective, and (4) significance of the study

## 1.1 Background

Reading is a process of translating letter or symbols to signal a meaning in form. Tennant (2013) states that reading is the recognition of words, from simple recognition of the individual letters and how these letters form a particular word to what each word means not just on an individual level, but as part of a text (as cited in Aliponga, 2013, p.73). In addition, Pourhosein Gilakjani and Ahmadi (2011) also state that the main goal of reading is to gain the correct message from a text that the writer intended for the reader to receive (as cited in Sabouri, 2016, p.230). In brief, reading is an activity of attaining information in linguistic written form.

Furthermore, reading is a beneficial skill in learning a language. Richards and Schmidt (2010) state reading can be defined as a process to understand the meaning of a written text (as cited in Ferdila, 2014). Mart (2012) states that Reading will help learners to decipher new words that they need for conversations. Through reading language learners will have vocabulary knowledge which will facilitate their speaking performance and their usage of structure in the target language will develop. Therefore, reading is an important

skill that must be mastered by students in order to help them obtain information in a written form easily.

Despite its vast importance, reading is less popular in Indonesia. According to Sergio (2012) states "for academic purposes, reading is important to use frequently language skills in everyday life as witnessed by the use of internet. Central Connecticut State University (CCSU), a university at New Britain USA, revealed the literacy level of Indonesian people unfortunately is listed among the worst in the world in the level of 60 of 61 countries. In the sense that the willingness of Indonesian people in reading should be given more attention by every involved element.

Therefore, the Indonesian government is still trying to improve reading in Indonesia. Proven from the syllabus of vocational high schools K13 reading in the odd semester there is every meetings (Syllabus, 2013). They are some kinds of reading in K13, such as reading for information, letters, passage, understanding and discussing a dialog, dialogues, stories which stimulate readers 'emotion, reading for information of passage, invitation letters, changing statements into reported speech. Clearly, based on some arguments above that reading is a quite important skill in Indonesia which should be given more attention.

Moreover, teaching reading is indeed a challenging task. Reading is an overlapping sub-skill and it is difficult to be taught and learnt in separation from other language skills (Albdour, 2015, p.61). Gundogmus (2018) says "Some teachers are unhappy in the process of reading and writing instruction (p.337)". In short, teaching reading skill is not an easy job for the teachers.

Reading instruction is concerned with numerous components. The problems are the difficulties in single word reading, sounding words/letters, reading sight words, comprehension, inadequate phonological processing (Ogano, 2012, p.13). According to Issacs (2012), the processing problem can also be seen in spelling and writing which are usually common with reading problem (as cited in Ogano, 2012). Hence, the parts of reading skills are the general problems that must be considered in teaching.

In order to solve the problem, the teachers must choose the correct solution to cope with it. According to Jayanti (2016), strategies and techniques can facilitate reading comprehension, such as helping students to read efficiently. Barlian (2013) states that a learning strategy is used as a form which has been determined by teacher before teaching in order to attain maximal result such as student' mastery on lesson given by teachers and teachers can obtain its satisfaction. Therefore, the teachers finds the solution of the problem and make the students more easily to understand the contents of reading.

Based on my preliminary study at Vocational High School Karya Andalas Palembang through an informal interview with two of students who got score 60 until 70. It indicated that the students at Vocational High School Karya Andalas had problems in reading. Consequently, the students at that school were difficult to increaser their score. Therefore, it is necessary for students to properly comprehend the word or the vocabulary of a written passage in order to be able to decode the message, thus comprehend a written text (Dian, personal communication, januari 12, 2019). So, the students the phenomenon about

students difficulties in learning English really happened at Vocational High School Karya Andalas.

Previous studies show that there are some problems in reading and solution to solve it. According to Shehu (2015), the problem of comprehend a written text are vocabulary the students can not to properly comprehend the words or the vocabulary of a written passage in order to be able to decode the message, thus comprehend a writen text, working memory is the students can not hold the information in working memory long enough the information to be more extensively processed, absence of extensive reading is the students usually fail to decode a text and analyze its meaning, type of text become a problem a problem because some texts are easy to be perceived some others are very difficult. According to Ugurlu and Kayhan (2018), too many problems are faced in the instruction of Turkish reading and writing skills to Syrian migrant children as foreign language such as lacking of public policies aimed at primary school program. Gundogmus (2018) found that the problems in teaching reading are the experience in the process included parental indifference, unreadiness of students, teaching of cursive italic handwriting, lack of professional experience, student absenteeism, lack of interest by students, and physical inadequacies; and their solution offers for eliminating these difficulties included education of parents, carrying out activities suitable for students, change of handwriting type, cooperation with parents, consideration of readiness level, and improvement of physical conditions.

In conclusion, according to the description above, an investigation of the problem and solution in teaching reading English by teachers will be conducted at Vocational High School Karya Andalas. Therefore, the research will be conducted with the title "The Challenges In Teaching Reading at Vocational High School Karya Andalas: Problem and Solution."

## 1.2 Research Problems

Based on the background, the research problems are formulating in the following questions:

1. What is the teacher of English's problems in teaching reading at One Private Vocational High School in Palembang?

2. What is the teacher of English's solutions to cope with the problem in teaching reading at One Private Vocational High School in Palembang?

## 1.3 Research Objectives

Based on the research questions above, there are two objectives of this study as follows:

1. To find out the teacher of English's problems in teaching reading at Vocational High School Karya Andalas Palembang.

2. To find out the teacher of English's solutions at Vocational High School Karya Andalas Palembang to cope with the problems in teaching reading.

**1.4 Significance of the Study**

The results of this study are expected to give benefical constributions for some ideas. This research gives the information and description to improve the teachers' quality in teaching and learning process for learners.

Second, the result of this study hopefully can give information for the students about reading skills, be expected to engage their interests  in reading classes, and improve their  reading achievement.

Third for me this research will give many benefits and information about problem and solution in teaching reading. The result of this research will help me as a teacher in the future to know about reading better.

The last, this research is also expecting to give information for others research about reading. The next researchers can used this research as a reference of further research related to reading, especially problem and solution.