

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

As English is the main foreign language in Indonesia, English becomes one of the compulsory subjects at school. The students get English for the first time when they study at a junior high school. However, nowadays, many people take their children to the English course. Moreover, there are some elementary schools which teach English as one of the lessons. The reason why a lot of parents want their children to know English as early as possible is because they realize that:

1. English is an international language.
2. a lot of textbooks are written in English.
3. books on the development of the knowledge are usually in English.

In their studying English, the students have to develop their reading, listening, writing and speaking skills in English. And the most important skill is reading, since there are a lot of books, especially in the university, are written in English. By reading text-books,

magazines, newspaper and other literature, one can gain more knowledge.

In Indonesia, reading is given the most emphasis among the other language skills in accordance with the SMU curriculum of 1994. At SMUs, the main purpose of English teaching is to enable the students to read, comprehend, speak and write (Debdikbud, 1994). But eventhough they have got reading comprehension since they were at junior high school, still a lot of students could not comprehend a reading text well.

Based on the problem above, the writer suggests a reading strategy. The strategy used is note-taking. The writer chooses this strategy with some considerations:

1. It is very difficult to conclude what the reading is about, especially in the textbook or a long passage.
2. It is very difficult to find out where is the main, sub-main or supporting details in the textbook or a long passage.

Weiland, Kingsbury and Berliner (1957) said that on the value of note-taking in learning lecture materials have shown that learners remember the information they have reproduced in some notes form much better than lecture information but did not take down in note form. So the writer takes this strategy for her thesis.

The reason why the writer takes SPARC technique is because in the SPARC technique, the students can do reading activity step by step. Firstly, he has to glance to the book (survey), then, he has to see to the table of contents (Preview). After that he can ask some questions according to the title or what he wants to find, then he starts to read the book. At last he can review again whether he has answered his questions or not, or he has already found what he looked for.

To know further about SPARC technique and the application of note taking strategy, the writer entitled this thesis: "Note-Taking Strategy In Reading Comprehension Based On SPARC (Survey, Preview, Asking Questions, Reading, and Checking Comprehension) Technique".

1.2 Statement of the Problem

This study is intended to answer the question below:
How does this strategy improve the students' comprehension in reading?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The main objective of the study is to describe how this strategy improves the readers in reading comprehension.

i.4 Significance of the Study

This study is a library research. Thus, all the information is obtained from the theories of the experts written in their books. This strategy is expected to give benefits to the students/learners especially for the readers who need to improve their reading ability.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

Because of the limited time, the writer limits her study on the reading ability. The strategy that the writer used is note-taking. This study focuses on the teaching of reading to the students. The example material given in this thesis is intermediate level.

1.6 Definition of Key-Terms

Preventing the ambiguity, misunderstanding and misinterpretation, the writer defines the key-terms used in this study. This thesis entitled “Note-Taking Strategy In Reading Comprehension Based On SPARC Technique”.

1. Note-Taking : Note is a shorthand character, a mark by which a thing may be known, or a symbol (Webster, 1983). Taking is derived from the

word 'take' which means to the act of one who or that which gets possession (Webster, 1983). It can be concluded that, note-taking is the act of writing down something to get possession.

2. **Strategy** : A careful plan or method or a clever stratagem (Webster, 1983).
3. **Reading** : The act or practice of a reader; the act of rendering aloud written or printed material (Webster, 1983).
4. **SPARC** : A strategy of reading comprehension. It stands for survey, preview, asking questions, reading, and checking comprehension (Holburt, 1981).

1.7 Organization of the Thesis

This study which discusses the strategies to improve the reading ability consists of five chapters. Chapter I is the introduction which consists of the background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, definition of key-terms and the organization of the thesis.

Chapter II presents the selected theory of reading comprehension. Chapter III presents the strategy of note-taking. Chapter IV is the application of the note-taking strategy. And at last, the writer will conclude and give some suggestions in chapter V.