

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the background of research, the research question, the purpose of research, significances of the research, rationale, the hypothesis, and the previous research.

A. Background

English in Indonesia has been integrated in the curriculum from the elementary to the university level. In English, there are four primary aspects that must be mastered. Those are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Reading is the main aspect of the English language. Students can gain knowledge and information if they read a lot of passages. According to Grellet (1981:1), reading comprehension skill of a written text is done in order to learn how to comprehend a text required. Besides, students whose English is a foreign language avoid learning English because they think it is difficult to understand.

This research is conducted due to the problem found during teaching practicum in a junior high school in Bandung. The students have difficulties in comprehending a text in English. The students tend to be less focus during reading a passage. Their concentration can be brought back when the teachers use several activities such as singing and ice breaking. Therefore, teachers need to find the appropriate media in teaching reading comprehension to students so that the students will be enthusiastic and focus.

This research is focused on knowing the students' improvement in reading comprehension using background music as media. Teaching language

by using media in the classroom is the effective one that can be implemented by the teachers. There are some media that can be used by teachers in teaching reading comprehension to the students. One of them is using background music. It will help and encourage the students in learning language more easily. Giles (1991) says that most pupils function very well with music in the background and the right music at the right time can make them less stressed, more relaxed, and more productive.

Previous researches have been conducted related to the effect of using background music. The first, Rashadi & Fahman (2011) conducted a research on background music to reading comprehension in the Iranian context. The result showed significant result different differences between the performance of the group exposed to music and those who were not exposed to music. The second, Sahebdel & Khodabdust (2014) also researched the effect of background music while silent reading in the EFL learners reading comprehension. This was conducted in the Iranian EFL context. The result showed that listening to background music had the significantly positive effect on the Iranian EFL learners reading comprehension. This research is an in implementing the media of background music, to know the ability in reading comprehension.

B. The Research Questions

From the description above, the research questions of the study are:

1. What is the students' reading comprehension before using background music?

2. What is the students' reading comprehension after using background music?
3. How significant is the difference between students reading comprehension before and after using background music?

C. Research Purposes

Based on the research above, the purposes of this research are as the following:

1. To find out the students reading comprehension before using background music.
2. To find out the students reading comprehension after using background music.
3. To find out the significant differences between students reading comprehension after and before using background music.

D. Significances of research

The research absolutely would provide a significant contribution to two aspects namely practical and theoretical significances.

1. Practical significances

The results of this study are expected to be used by the teachers, students, educational institution, readers, and the writer for the following purposes. The first, this research is expected to have significances for the teacher in the practical implementation of English language learning and teaching. The teachers are expected to use various media in teaching English, especially in reading comprehension. For instance, the background music is one of the media that can be used to teach reading comprehension.

The second, the result of this study may support the students to be able, enjoy, feel relax, and focus. The students may get the significant result in reading comprehension. Furthermore, if this research is good enough, the students can use this method in their reading activity. In addition, the students' result of using this method will be better than those who use a conventional method in reading comprehension.

The third, the junior high school in which the writer conducted the research, should continue some methods for supporting English teaching-learning process specified to reading comprehension. Moreover, the school can provide some facilities to support the teaching process. The fifth, the significances of the research are for the readers. The readers can get more information about the way of teaching in reading comprehension from this research. The last, the writer hopes that this research will be beneficial to researcher herself especially when the researcher has become a teacher in the future. The writer will use this method to change the mindset of the students that reading comprehension in learning English is enjoyable.

2. Theoretical significance

The result of the study may have a positive effect for learning English in reading comprehension. Moreover, this study could support and add information to the literature related to background music in reading comprehension.

E. Rationale

According to Nuttal (2000: 2), reading means a result of interaction between the writer's mind and the reader's mind. It is the way how the readers try to get the message or intended meaning from the writer. In addition Pang (2003: 6), reading is defined as understanding written texts. He said that reading consists of two related processes; word recognition and comprehension. The word recognition is defined as the process of getting how written symbols correspond to one's spoken language while comprehension is the process of making the meaning of a word, sentences, and connected text.

The difficulties of reading a text are caused by monotonous media which is used in the learning process. The use of monotonous media is a serious problem because the difficulties influence other teaching and learning components. The students are not able to comprehend a passage well so that they cannot grasp the information of the passage comprehensively. Due to the problems, a media could be used. This research proposes background music as a media to improve the students in reading comprehension. Background music is the media used in the learning process. It is a media for the teacher that makes the classroom more interesting. According to Hornbly (2006:81), background music is a position of the music that people are not paying attention to. It means it is just atmosphere carrier. Background music will not disrupt the learning it is only a background and students pay attention on the learning. There are a lot of types of music during the learning, but in this

research focused on using background music. In the 1930's, music was received as a media to learning in the classroom. Music has the effect of the condition and makes the students on relaxation in the classroom.

F. Hypotheses

According to Creswell (2012:111), hypotheses are statements in quantitative research in which the investigator makes a prediction or conjecture about the outcome of a relationship among attributes or characteristics. It means in hypotheses, it predicts whether the research influences the outcome or not. According to the explanation above, the hypotheses of this study are as follows:

1. H_0 accepted if $t_{\text{account}} < t_{\text{table}}$: it means that there is no significant improvement in students' using background music with reading comprehension.
2. H_a accepted if $t_{\text{account}} > t_{\text{table}}$: it means that there is significant improvement in students' using background music with reading comprehension.

G. Previous Research

There are a lot of researches which determine the effect of using background music on the reading comprehension. There are five significant researches related to this topic. The first, Hall (1952) has researched the effect of background music on the reading performance of 278 eight and nine graders. He reported that 48% of the students increase their total score when music played. He also noted that students with below average IQ's and achievement increased their scores the most with background music played.

The second, the effect of music on reading comprehension was researched by Fogelson cited in DeMers (1995:11). This study used 28 eighth graders in two English classes. Both groups took the Iowa Test of Basic Skills for eighth graders. The experimental group listened to music by Mantovani entitled *Favorite Show Times* while taking the test. Fogelson found the experimental group did worse than the control group on the test. This suggested that the students found the music distracting or type of music used may have had an adverse effect. The third, the research about the effect of background music in the classroom has been done at Bowling Green State University by Stegemiller (2013). The result showed that when music was played, the students have higher ability to learn in the classroom.

The fourth, Kang & William (2012) have done a research entitled “The Effect of Background Music in Second Language Learning”. The result showed that background music had potentially effect to the second language learning, related to specifically the students’ in reading comprehension. The last, the research was done by Sujaya (2013) in Indonesian context. The result provided that background music could help the students to improve their reading comprehension significantly.

Based on the previous research above, there is only one research found, which is related to background music in Indonesian context. Based on the problem, the research on background music needs to be developed. Therefore, the recent research was concerned on background music. This is used as media to know the students’ improvements in reading comprehension.