

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of Study

Human being are social creatures that cannot live alone in fulfilling their daily necessities. They need to interact to each other in their life. Everybody needs to communicate with his or her surroundings. The effective tool to communicate with other is language. Language as communication tool will make us able to express our feelings, idea, or wishes, and to know another feelings, ideas, or wishes. In this regard, Pinocchio stated that “*Language is the means by which results of human thought and action are passed on*” (Pinocchio: 1987).

Language can make a harmony among individuals, societies, ethnics and nations. Besides that through language people can know each other understand more about something around them. Language is a gift of God for human being adjust to one of the Holy Qur’an, *Al-Hujurat*: 13 has granted to our capability in communicating to each other as follows:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا إِنَّ  
أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ

خَبِيرٌ

The verse explains that Allah creates many different human and nations with cultures in the world. It also explains that Muslim is asked to know each other. Of course, it needs some languages in order to make the same understanding when communicate each others.

So, language has very important role in our life. The function of language is not only as a lesson to study but also it is used to express the idea, mind, opinion and feeling either orally and written to others. Murcia and Lois in their book, stated, “The essence of language in human activity, activity on the part of one individual to make himself understood by another and activity on the main first” (Murcia and Meinthos :1959).

There are so many languages in the world and English is the most important one. First, English is an international and universal language, and used in almost all over the world. Second, people use it as a communication tool. Third, like other states in the world, Indonesia has programmed English as one of compulsory subject from elementary school until university, not only in the formal but also informal like in course institutions.

Reading is one of skills that must be mastered by students. According to L.G. Alexander (1975) stated that “the students must be trained adequately in all four basic language skills :listening, speaking, reading, and writing. If the teacher is to train his students in all four skills, he must make efficient of the time at his disposal”. Reading also enable to turn writing into meaning and achieve the goals of independence, comprehension, and fluently. Reading skill

are specific abilities which enable a reader to read the written form as meaningful language, to read anything written with independence, comprehension and fluently, and to mentally interact with the message. Marry Finocchiaro (1974) stated that “Reading is one of the important skills in English. It is the way of getting meaning from printed or written material”.

Allah in His Holy Qur’an, Surah al-Alaq:1 commanded people to read:

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ (1)

This is first verse in Holy Qur’an and commands of Allah to human to read because of reading are one of ways to get information. We can get information from any sources. For example we can get news from newspaper, advertisement, brochure, etc with read them. So, reading is important skill for people to learn something new.

Reading can be divided into extensive and intensive reading. To develop extensive reading students should be encouraged to read such authentic literature, as books, periodically, advertising leaflets, manual, etc. Intensive reading, both skimming and scanning is usually trained during the lesson and there are a lot of exercises that can be performed while reading.

For reading activities teacher usually give examples or read simple reading of the text in English. There are many kinds of text to develop reading comprehension such as descriptive, narrative, recount, report, explanation, exposition, and discussion text, news item text and prusedure text. News item text is one of texts that taught in the eleventh grade students of Senior High

School included at MAN 2 Model Banjarmasin where the writer does research. News item is a text which informs readers about events of the day. The events are considered newsworthy or important. This type of text can be found in scientific books, journals, magazine, newspaper articles, etc. In order side, this text can help students improve their ability in giving surprise and amazement.

From the first observation research, the writer finds that many students still have difficulties in understanding news item texts. When the writer did teaching practice assignment in PPL 2 at MAN 2 Model Banjarmasin, the writer taught the eleventh grade students in this school about news item texts. When the writer gave them some passage of news item texts and the questions based on those texts, some students still confused to answer it and cannot explain what the content of the text as about.

Based on that problem. The writer is interested in observing and conducting a research entitled: "THE ABILITY IN UNDERSTANDING NEWS ITEM TEXTS OF THE ELEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS AT MAN 2 MODEL BANJARMASIN ACADEMIC YEAR 2013/2014"

## **B Statement of Problems**

Based on the background above, the writer will investigate and focus the following questions:

1. How is the students' ability in understanding news item texts of the eleventh grade students at MAN 2 Model Banjarmasin academic year 2013/2014 ?
2. What are their difficulties in answering questions about news item texts of the eleventh grade students at MAN 2 Model Banjarmasin 2013/2014?

### **C. Significance of Research**

The result of this research is expected to give contribution as follow:

1. For the students, improve their ability in reading comprehension especially in news item texts.
2. For the teacher, be appropriate strategies to improve the successfulness of teaching and learning process.
3. To enrich the writer's knowledge and other readers in general about reading skill in English.
4. As information and comparison the next researchers who want to investigate more details about the same problem
5. As information for the literary source of the IAIN Antasari Library.

### **D. Definition of Key Terms**

To avoid misinterpretation about the title, which is adopted in this study, the writer hereby feels necessary to explain some term concerning the title as follows:

- 1 According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, Ability means the mental or physical capacity, power or skill required to do something. Students ability is meant that the student has skill to do something in himself/herself. Simon said that the ability means "riches, wealth or substance, which are the means or which furnish the power of doing the certain acts. On the other hand Hadari Nawawi, said that "ability divided into two kinds, they are actual ability and capacity. Thus, actual ability is someone who can do something, meanwhile capacity is ability to do something that still unreal or probable, until someone can learn to do it. From several definitions above the writer takes conclusion that ability is someone's capability in doing something well by using knowledge and skill. Thus, the meaning of ability in this case is capability or skill for doing or using knowledge finely to improve ability that we have.
- 2 Understanding means the act of one who understands a thing, in any sense of the verb; knowledge; discernment; comprehension; interpretation; explanation. If the students can answer the questions based on the text, also can explain or give their opinion about the text that they have read, it means that the students have understood about the text. In this case the students in order to understand the text, they should know the knowledge of the topic, knowledge of language structures, knowledge of text

structures and genres, knowledge of cognitive and meta cognitive strategies, their reasoning abilities and their motivation.

- 3 News item texts is a type of spoken or written text that is intended to which informs readers about events of the day. The events are considered newsworthy or important. News item are popular among science, academic community and educated people. the word “ News” in Oxford Learner’s Pocket Dictionary means new information about something that has happened recently. The word “item” in Oxford Learner’s Pocket Dictionary means single thing or unit in a list or single piece of news. In everyday life we can find news text in magazine, newspaper, and you can read news on the internet and on a school bulletin

Therefore, this research is intended to know and measure the students’ ability especially in understanding news item texts and their difficulties in understanding news item texts of the eleventh grade students at MAN 2 Model Banjarmasin.