

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents: (1) Background of the research, (2) Research problem, (3) The objective of the research, and (4) Significance of the research.

#### **1.1 Background**

English is a complex communication tool and can be studied formally or informally. English is a very important subject for all students to master because English will later be used in everyday life, from elementary school to high school. English lessons are still available and English also has a complicated grammatical structure and can be changed to form phrases or sentences (Chomsky, 1965). Based on the current curriculum, one of the objectives of learning English at school is to develop communication skills in English both spoken and written. These communication skills include listening, reading, and writing. According to Wardiati (2017:5), language has an important role in the development of knowledge social, and emotional students in studying all fields of study to speak the language well and correctly. Education is needed and learning Indonesian is an important aspect that needs to be taught to students in elementary schools. Therefore, the government created an Indonesian language curriculum that is mandatory to be taught to students at every level of education, namely, from elementary school to tertiary level.

Reading is a fundamental language skill and plays a crucial role in the learning process at school. By reading, someone obtains information. Information from reading materials from various media. Reading is also a means of

communicating. According to Yulia (2005:2), in general people in developed countries like to read because the culture of reading has been instilled since childhood.

Reading is "the heart of education," according to Farr. R (in Dalman, 2014: 5), which implies that it is the central component of education. This clarifies why reading is crucial to the educational process in schools. Reading is one of the main methods for gaining knowledge and information. This knowledge will certainly be understood and mastered optimally through an active, diligent, and continuous learning process. An effective learning process is carried out, among other things, by carrying out activities by reading itself. It is with this knowledge that humans are capable solve all the problems in their life.

The significance of reading skills in learning English at the junior high school level is substantial and should not be overlooked. Mastering reading skill not only provides access to various sources of knowledge but also becomes the main foundation for understanding or studying other learning materials. In this era of globalization, where information can be accessed easily through various media, good reading skills are the main key to students' success in understanding and applying knowledge.

In this research, the researcher selected Junior High School Fitra Abdi Palembang as the institution to examine, given its essential role in enhancing students' reading skill, particularly in the eighth grade. During the researcher field practice observations at Junior High School Fitra Abdi Palembang, it is observed that many students still struggle with reading and comprehending English texts. A

large portion of students faces challenges with understanding new words, phrases, or sentences. Although reading skill are fundamental for engaging with English courses, students often lack interest or enthusiasm due to limited vocabulary and feelings of boredom. Consequently, they encounter difficulty identifying main ideas, analyzing text structures, and pinpointing specific details within the material. Additionally, students find it challenging to interpret word or sentence meanings based on context and struggle to identify the communicative purpose of the text.

However, efforts to enhance students' reading skills come with challenges, particularly within the English learning context. English teachers at this school face various obstacles that impact the effectiveness of instruction, especially in advancing students' reading skill.

Therefore, it is necessary to look for innovative learning approaches that can improve students' reading skills of Junior High School Fitra Abdi Palembang. One method that attracts attention is the use of the reading logs method. Reading logs are a method or tool that allows students to actively engage in reading activities and reflect on their experiences. Using reading logs is a technique based on reader response theory. A reading log is a piece of paper where readers can freely express their own ideas and opinions, according to Rakana (2017:5). The reading log format varies depending on the instructor. Generally, it includes topics for readers to fill in the information and share their own opinions, experiences, and information, such as character names, page numbers, story titles, settings, summaries, issues, etc. Since the use of reading logs not only involves readers with text but also improves their reading understanding and allows them to have a deep understanding, reading

log is considered important in the development of reading understanding, according to Rakana (2017:6).

In other words, reading logs is a means of taking risks, speculating, asking questions, submitting opinions, and building knowledge for students. Using a reading log, researcher can see to what extent a student understands the text and with the reading log students can overwrite their opinions, their analysis, and what they like and dislike about the text.

Bonyadi (2014:385) argued that reading log methods not only make students active readers and independent learners but also foster their interests and motivation. In addition to enhancing reading comprehension, reading logs help capture students' personal opinions and attitudes towards books, as well as track their progress (Lyutaya, 2011:26). Neufeld (2011:673) further noted that reading logs encourage students to set personal goals and monitor their development. This method can be considered as a potential solution to improve the reading skill of students in the eighth grade of Junior High School Fitra Abdi Palembang.

This research intends to examine the effectiveness of the reading logs method as a strategy for enhancing the reading skill of the eighth grade students of Junior High School Fitra Abdi Palembang. By identifying the challenges teachers may face in applying this method, the research aims to offer insights and suggestions to improve the quality of English language education at the junior high school level. The ultimate goal is to contribute to the development of more effective teaching strategies that can boost students' reading abilities.

With these objectives in mind, the researcher plans to explore how the reading logs method can be implemented, assess its impact on student reading skills, and identify any difficulties teachers may encounter during its application of this research with the entitled "**The use of reading logs method to improve students' reading skill to the eighth grade students of Junior High School Fitra Abdi Palembang**".

## **1.2 Research Problem**

### **1.2.1 Identification of Problems**

Based on the background outlined above, the researcher identifies several issues to be addressed in this research, as follows:

1. Reading comprehension challenges: Many eighth-grade students at Junior High School Fitra Abdi Palembang struggle with understanding English reading texts, particularly when it comes to unfamiliar words, phrases, and sentences.
2. Vocabulary limitation: one of the main causes of reading difficulties is a lack of vocabulary understanding, which makes students feel difficult and unenthusiastic about learning to read.
3. Lack of interest and motivation: boredom, and enthusiasm in learning to read are also caused by limited vocabulary, so students find it difficult to understand reading material thoroughly.
4. Difficulties in text analysis: students experience challenges in finding the main idea, recognizing the generic structure of the text, understanding specific information, and referring to the meaning of words and sentences based on the context of the text.

5. Difficulty in determining the communicative purpose; students also have problems in determining the communicative purpose of the text they read, which shows that their ability in critical reading is still lacking.

### **1.2.2 Limitation of the Problem**

Based on the problem identification above and so that the research can be more focused, the problem is limited to the reading logs method experiment which will use descriptive text material about pets, tourist attractions, and historical places in English language learning for the eighth grade students of Junior High school Fitra Abdi Palembang.

In this research, the researcher wants to know whether there are differences in English learning outcomes between students who are treated using the reading logs method and students who are not treated using the reading logs method. Thus, it can be assessed that the learning method is one of the factors that influences students' English learning outcomes or not.

### **1.2.3 Formulation of Problem**

Based on the background described above, the problem formulation in this research, "Is there any significant difference in improving the students' reading skill to the eighth grade students of Junior High School Fitra Abdi Palembang using reading logs method and those who are not?".

### **1.3 The Objective of the Research**

Based on the problem formulation outlined above, the objective of this research is to determine whether there is a significant difference in the improvement of reading skill between the eighth grade students of Junior High School Fitra Abdi Palembang who use the reading logs method and those who are not.

### **1.4 Significance of Research**

It is hoped that the results of this research will provide the following benefits:

#### **a. Theoretical Significance**

It can be used as a novelty in the teaching and learning process and can be an inspiration for the progress of the world of junior high school education.

#### **b. Practical Significance**

##### **1) For Students**

It is hoped that this research can provide pleasant memories to students, especially students of Junior High School Fitra Abdi Palembang so that they can participate in learning optimally.

##### **2) For Educators**

It is useful for increasing knowledge and information as well as an alternative for applying the reading logs method, especially at junior high school level.

### 3) For Schools

With this research, researcher hopes to be able to provide new ideas and input in order to improve students' reading skill and students' interest in learning, especially in learning English, and can improve the quality of the school.

### 4) For Further Researcher

The findings of this research are expected to serve as a valuable reference for future researcher in selecting effective teaching methods for Junior High School Fitra Abdi Palembang.