

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This part presents: a) background, b) identification of the problem, c) limitation of the problem, d) formulation of the problem, e) objectives of the study, and f) significance of the study.

A. Background

Education is one of the important pillars in the development of a country, because it has a big role in forming a generation that is competent and competitive. In the educational process, reading has a very crucial role. Reading is not just an activity to interpret words, but also a gateway to acquire knowledge, broaden horizons, and develop critical thinking. Reading and reading comprehension are key skills that are not only important for academic achievement, but also for students' intellectual and personal development. However, there are still many students who experience a low reading motivation and interest in reading activities so this affects students' comprehension in reading.

This problem of low reading motivation and reading comprehension also occurred in students at SMPN 5 Jirak Jaya, Musi Banyuasin district, especially in eighth grade students. Grade 8 students at SMPN 5 Jirak Jaya had low reading motivation which affected their assignment grades and reading comprehension practice. More than half of grade 8 students did not reach the Minimum Completeness Criteria or *Kriteria Ketuntasan Minimum (KKM)* in reading assignment scores. There were 23 students in eighth grade class at SMPN 5 Jirak Jaya. It consisted of 14 female students and 9 male students. At SMPN 5 Jirak Jaya, English was taught twice a week. The duration of teaching is 80 minutes in each meeting.

The low reading motivation and reading comprehension among SMPN 5 Jirak Jaya students had a detrimental impact on their academic and intellectual development. These problems were serious obstacles in achieving optimal learning outcomes. Students who were not motivated to read tended to have a shallow understanding of concepts and information. This affected their learning performance in exams and assignments. In addition, low reading motivation and reading comprehension could also have an impact on students' critical thinking skills, analytical abilities, and reasoning of students.

There were several factors that caused and influenced the low reading motivation and reading comprehension of students at SMPN 5 Jirak Jaya. Several factors that influenced this problem included the absence of a link between reading material and students' daily lives, learning models that were less interesting and interactive (in this case the teacher still used the teacher center learning model), and a lack of positive reinforcement for students' efforts in reading. In addition, today's digital culture can also divert students' attention from traditional reading to digital content that is more instant and visual.

In dealing with this problem, a learning model was needed to significantly increase students' reading motivation and reading comprehension. One learning model that could be applied was Problem Based Learning (PBL), which places students in situations where they have to actively seek solutions to problems that are relevant to their lives.

Aulia (2023) in her research found that reading comprehension test scores of almost all of the students increased after the implementation of Problem-Based Learning. Berenji et al. (2020), in his experimental research indicated that the PBL group had increased engagement and more improved reading comprehension skill.

PBL encouraged student involvement in the learning process, increasing their understanding of the concepts being taught through application in real situations. This is because Problem-Based Learning encourages students to be problem solvers and learn through their understanding, not only just about being student-centered (Aulia, 2023). This learning model can increase student motivation because it gives a sense of responsibility in the learning process, and helps them see the relevance of the material to their life situations.

Based on the explanation above, to overcome these problems the researcher used the Problem Based Learning Model as a learning model to increase students' reading motivation and reading comprehension to the eighth grade students of SMPN 5 Jirak Jaya.

B. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background above, there are some problems in teaching and learning reading comprehension. The problem are presented below:

1. The students have low motivation to read.
2. The students cannot find general and specific information about the text because they have a little understanding to convey the meaning of the words.
3. The students get low scores in reading exercises because of lack of vocabulary.
4. The learning model used by the teacher was still monotonous. The teacher still used a teacher-centered model when teaching reading in the class. It makes students feel bored and the learning process become not effective.

After identifying the problems above, the researcher would be focused on increasing students' reading motivation and reading comprehension through Problem Based Learning Model to the eighth grade students of SMPN 5 Jirak Jaya.

C. Limitation of the Problem

The problem of the study is limited to increasing students' reading motivation and reading comprehension through Problem Based Learning (PBL) Model to the eighth grade students of SMPN 5 Jirak Jaya in the academic year of 2023/2024.

D. Solution of the Problem

To overcome the problems faced by the researcher and the students, the researcher designed a classroom action research to apply the Problem Based Learning (PBL) model to increase students' reading motivation and reading comprehension. The learning process is designed in terms of plan, action, observation, and reflection.

E. Formulation of the Problem

Based on problem above this research can thus be formulated as follows:
How could Problem Based Learning (PBL) Model increase students' reading motivation and reading comprehension of the eighth grade students of SMPN 5 Jirak Jaya?.

F. Objective of the Study

Based on the research question, the objective of this study was to find out how the Problem Based Learning Model could increase students' reading motivation and reading comprehension of the eighth grade students of SMPN 5 Jirak Jaya in the academic year 2023/2024.

G. Significance of the Study

The significance of this research was expected to provide some advantages for English teaching and learning processes. The significance of this study was presented below:

1. For the Students

This research is expected to make students be more motivated in reading so that their reading comprehension is better. Make students want to learn to read

2. For other Teachers

The researcher hopes that with this research, teachers will become more creative in utilizing and using various learning models and become more aware that the learning model in teaching English in terms of reading using problem-based learning is easy to understand and apply.

3. For the School

It is hoped that by conducting this research, the school will gain a better understanding of how to teach reading comprehension to their students.