

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

In this chapter, the researcher shows background of the study, statement of the problem, limitation of the problem, research question, purpose of the study and significance of the study.

### **Background of the Study**

The reading ability is a significant indicator of academic success (Khajavi & Ketabi, 2012). In addition, reading in second language comprehension is also considered as an essential skill because a lot of scientific and technological information is published in English (Tabatabaei & Assari, 2011). Reading is one of the language skills that is important for students. This skill needs to be learned by the students. The students would be able to understand the content of a text by reading. It is appropriate with the statement from Schwartz (1994) who states that “Reading comprehension is not about memorizing and remembering what you read, rather about understanding the ideas conveyed and followed the author’s train of thought and reasoning”.( Cited in Anggraeny, 2011 ).

From the statement above, it is clear that reading does not only need ability in memorizing and remembering, but also ability in understanding about what the students read and following the author's mind. Reading is also something crucial and indispensable for the students because the success of their study depends on the greater part of their ability to read. On the other hand, if they have a good ability in reading, they would have a better chance to succeed in their study. In reading, to comprehend the text, the readers should be able to manage every part of the text, because it is easy to gain the competence in reading when the readers are able to organize the text. Sometimes, it is important for them to comprehend a reading text having knowledge in general view of the text.

Based on the interview to English teachers at Public Junior High School of 2 Bantarkawung, in Brebes, Central Java, the teacher explained that most students could not understand a passage of the reading text, especially in vocabulary, reading competence and grammatical structure so that they got difficulties and low score in reading. The teacher always asked the students to read passage one by one. Most of the students have difficulty to understand the text and to pronounce the word of the text. If these happened, the teacher corrected directly. The teacher informed that most of students were not interested in reading activity.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Based on the background of the study above, the writer identified that the students still feel difficult to understand the text and to pronounce the word of the text in reading activities. These two problems are categorized into reading competence. The researcher is interested in leveling the students reading competence.

### **Limitation of the Problem**

In this study, the investigation limits the discussion of The Students' Reading Competence. This research focus on the investigation about Reading Competence. This study conducted in Public Junior High School of 2 Bantarkawung.

### **Research Question**

By conducting this research, the writer wants to answer the problem: "How is the students' reading competence in Public Junior High School of 2 Bantarkawung?"

### **Purpose of the Study**

Based on the research question, the objective of the study in this research is to find out how was the level of reading competence of Public Junior High School of 2 Bantarkawung.

## **Significances of the Research**

The writer hopes that this research is useful for teaching learning English. The result of the research was expected to be useful for the following parts:

**English Teachers.** This research give beneficial for teachers. They would know the level of reading competence among students of Public Junior High School of 2 Bantarkawung. Furthermore, the teachers would know the kinds of motivation in reading Competence among students of Public Junior High School of 2 Bantarkawung such as intrinsic motivation and extrinsic motivation. In addition, the teachers would know about the advantages of reading

Reading competence for students of Public Junior High School of 2 Bantarkawung such as improve students' vocabulary, improve students' grammar and improve students' critical thinking so the teachers would use the reading comprehension to assign the students in reading. The research result is expected to be able to give some benefits to English teachers, teachers would be easy to make some schedule for their teaching in reading competence and would be easy when they teach their students.

**Students.** Students of Public Junior High School of 2 Bantarkawung would know the kinds of motivation in reading comprehension. In addition, students would know about the advantages in reading competence such as it makes improve students' vocabulary, improve students' grammar, and improve students' critical thinking.