

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Study

English is an international language and also an important medium that will make it easier for us to communicate with other countries. "EFL (English as a Foreign Language) students must study English so they can use English when traveling or communicate with other people, from any countries, who also speak English. "Harmer (2010: 12).

Based on the statement above, in this era globalization that communication will be the important skill in global life, People was always try to communicate with each other accurately and efficiently. The influence of globalization will force them to have communication skill in which information is in important knowledge. In addition, there are many counties where English is used as their second language. That means, English is important especially in reading because reading is part of daily life and reading will increase our knowledge.

Reading is an important activity in life because reading can renew one's knowledge. Meaning reading is a basic skill that students need because reading can help them in obtaining knowledge and information through the reading texts. The students must also realize the purpose of the read is to understand the form of the reading and enrich the student's knowledge.

Grabe and stoller (2002:4) say: "reading can be thought as a way to draw information from a text and to from an interpretation of the information. It brings reading as one of many ways to cognize everything happened in the world". Based on the theory, it is one of the most important skills in getting many information from printing or text. By reading everyone is able to understand, strengthening the advances of knowledge and technology.

According to crawly and mountain in suswamon (2010:35) reading basically involves three basic components of recording, decoding, and meaning. Recording refers to words and sentences and then associates them with sounds according to the written system used; decoding refers to the process of translating the circuit of graphics into words. While a sense process works through perception and cognitive.

Reading skills focus more on reading comprehension, because the ability to understand reading material is the main goal to be achieved in learning to read. Reading comprehension is the ability to process text, understand the purpose of the text to be read. Without good reading skills, students cannot understand the learning process and the material being taught. Most students have difficulty understanding the text that is read, so that students cannot answer the teacher's questions about the content of the text. This makes them passive in class. The most students also still have low motivation in reading English texts.

Reading is a complex process, complex to learn and complex to teach (carnin, silbert, and kameenui: 1990:3). In this case the teacher must be able to create a technique or strategy that can help students read effectively, attractively and effectively. So that students do not feel bored in the practice of improving their

reading comprehension and can encourage students to take an active role in the classroom. Therefore, teachers must use good strategies that supported them in achieving students' reading skills. Thus the teaching and learning process not only goes well but also makes students proficient in reading skills. By using a RAFT (Role, Audience, Format, Topic) strategy RAFT strategy was helped students be more active, creative and train students to think critically in improving reading comprehension. RAFT first introduce by Carol Santa in 1988. Using the RAFT strategy, this strategy is basically applied to determine students' writing competence. RAFT is the one that first introduce by Carol Santa in 1988. RAFT stands for Role, Audience, Format, and Topic.

The discrepancy of the word RAFT, namely Role is defined as a point of view (the role of the writer), in this case the writer chooses the point of view and positions himself as whom in his writing. Audience is defined as the target of the writing, namely the reader who will read the writing or who is intended for. Format is defined as the format used in writing or how the structure of writing is chosen. Topics can be interpreted as topics that the writer will develop as essays (Ruddell, 2005: 288). RAFT strategy is a strategy that can make the students free in choosing the topics they will discuss (Santa cited Ruddell. 2005: 288).

In this research, the researcher focused on the effect of using Raft strategy to improve students' reading comprehension. Then, the Raft strategy was used as a strategy to help students prepare reading formats as practice material to improve students' reading comprehension.

## **1.2. The problem of the study**

Based on the background of the study, the problem of this research is as followed: “is there any significant effect of using Raft strategy on students’ reading comprehension?”

## **1.3. The objectives of the study**

Based on the problem above, the objective of this research is to find out the significant effect of using RAFT (role, audience, format, topic ) strategy on students’ Reading Comprehension.

## **1.4. The scope and limitation of the study**

RAFT (role, audience, format, topic ) is a reading comprehension strategy that was applied to improve the process of teaching English. To minimize the large area, this research only focuses on knowing the effect of RAFT strategies (role, format, topic) on students' reading comprehension in descriptive texts.

## **1.5. The significance of the study**

This research is expected to be useful theoretically and practically:

### **1. Theoretically:**

The results of this study were add to the theory of reading comprehension and become a reference for further studies.

### **2. Practically**

a. For students, this research was contributed to students' reading comprehension through the RAFT (role, audience, format, topic ) strategy.

- b. For the teachers, this RAFT (role, audience, format, topic ) strategy an affective learning strategy.
- c. For researchers, this research can be used as a reference in finding the best teaching techniques and getting more information from this research.