

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of The Study

Language is an organized communication tool in the form of units, such as words, groups of words, clauses, and sentences both orally and in writing. There are many languages and one of these definitions is that language is a human communication system expressed through a collection of sounds or expressions that are structured to form larger units such as morphemes, words, and sentences which translated from English. Language in the sense of Functional Systemic Linguistics (LSF) is a form of social semiotics working in a situational context and cultural context which is used both orally and in writing. In this view, language is a construct that is formed through functions and systems simultaneously.<sup>1</sup>

English is important, because it is used in many aspects of life such as communication, knowledge, education, technology, culture, and art. English learning involves mastery of the four language skills. They write, speak, read, and listen. The fourth basic skills are taught in a way to integrate.

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<sup>1</sup> Wiratno, tri, riyadi santosa, *“Modul 1 Bahasa, Fungsi Bahasa, dan Konteks Sosial”* (Yogyakarta: pustaka pelajar, 2018) hal. 2-3

Reading is type one of important in skill especially in learning in educational academic setting. The ability to read is very necessary for students because by reading students will more easily understand the lesson. Therefore, it is important for students to improve their reading skills. The students in order to be able to master a good reading, they are needed to always get used to reading ability by finding the content of the text. To state that the importance of reading to students is not only related to the development of knowledge but also related to the ability to think in society. This thinking ability will be the basis for developing intelligence such as emotional, moral and verbal intelligence.

The purpose of reading is none other than a step to obtain facts, ideas, to know knowledge, stories to be able to conclude what is read to be able to group or classify to be able to assess or evaluate and to be able to compare or contrast. The second benefit is that our brains are much more developed. It's different when the brain is accustomed to reading. It feels like the brain becomes more active in thinking and trained to do small analyzes. At least this small habit will affect you in expressing ideas speaking words and so on. At least your way of thinking is clearer and more developed.<sup>2</sup>

Reading is not as easy as what people think because it is not only read a sentence and say it out to others but also have to understand the content of the

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<sup>2</sup> Deepublish, "Pengertian Membaca: Arti, Tujuan, Manfaat dan Komponen Membaca", 16 of December 2019.

reading text and its purpose. They are on the level of frustration though they have studied English for many years.

The problems that currently occur to students in mastering reading skills and improving their reading skills are the lack of student motivation in reading, lack of interest and enthusiasm for student learning, lack of students' basic of English skills, shyness and fear of using English, and the use of inappropriate media monotonous. From this problem, there is a need for new innovations in teaching English lessons, one of which is the need for the use of media that can attract students' attention to reading, be interested in learning, motivate students in reading, enthusiasm in learning and reading and media that is not that alone. One of them is by using the wattpad application.

Wattpad is an application platform which is widely used by a group of people and usually users of this application are popular among teenagers and adults for those who like reading and writing, the goal is not far from users both reading and writing. The authors in this application are from various parts of the world, so the authors write stories in this application written in a variety of different languages and we as users as well as readers can select the language of the stories that they prefer based on their own interests. Wattpad also has many stories and genres including adventure, fantasy, historical fiction, horror, humor, science fiction, and urban.

SMAN 8 Kota Serang is one of the schools or places of education that is still active in educating the nation's generations. This school has also been accredited B, in this school there are also very complete facilities to support learning activities such as a library, language lab, science lab, computer lab, and many more. The English learning method at SMAN 8 Kota Serang is very good, but there are still some problems for students, namely students still tend to be shy and reluctant to pronounce in English, even reluctant to interpret English word cities using a dictionary, still have difficulty in pronouncing words or sentences and some students are also notable and proficient in reading texts in English. Therefore, this school still needs a lot of guidance to focus more on learning English in order to further improve skills in English.

Based on the above background, the writer or researcher is interested in researching using classroom action research (CAR) in the classroom about reading ability, how to improve reading ability and changes in students in improving their reading ability using the research media that the author wrote submit to school. The author also hopes that the school that the author chooses can help and support the student learning process at SMAN 8 Kota Serang. Therefore, the researcher proposes a study entitled ***“USING WATTPAD APPLICATIONS TO INCREASE STUDENTS’ READING ABILITY (Classroom Action Research Students of Tenth Grade at SMAN 8 Kota Serang)”***

This research using Classroom Action Research (CAR) then researcher will collaborate with teachers concerned at the same time will help to research soon resolved and help the teacher to apply this method to the students are so that the student will not feel difficulty again to read English text.

## **B. Identification Problem**

Based on the background of study, researcher can be identified the problem of reading as following:

1. Lack of student motivation in reading.
2. Lack of interest and enthusiasm for student learning.
3. Lack of students' basic of English skills.
4. Shame and afraid to use English.
5. The use of monotonous learning media.

## **C. Limitation of The Study**

Based on descriptive of the problem above, due to the researcher have some limitations such time, reserves, energy, and information. So, this study only focuses on increasing students reading ability using wappad application at SMAN 8 Kota Serang. The subject of this research is the students at tenth grade of SMAN 8 Kota Serang.

## **D. Statement of Problem**

In relation to background of the problem above, the researcher proposed research question is how is the increasing students' reading skills using wappad application?

### **E. The Aim of The Study**

Relating to the research question above, the researcher aim of this research is to find out changes and increasing students' reading skills using the wappad application.

### **F. Significance of Study**

This study will give advantages for the students, the teachers, and also the readers or the next researchers.

#### 1. For the Students

They have a new way to learn English, especially in reading ability. They can apply the strategy to read text well. They also are going to have the good reading when they are usually trained to read a text.

#### 2. For the Teachers

It gives insight how to teach reading through another strategy. Teachers can use wappad application as media of learn in English and as the teaching strategy to give attractive learning English in class. It could make their learning in classroom is more enjoyable and interesting.

#### 3. For the Readers or the next Researchers

They could get knowledge after reading this study and give some information for next study and make improving from this study.

### **G. Previous Study**

Before writing this study, the researcher also found some related previous study to enhance the quality of this study, some of the previous study can be

described as follow:

First, the researcher obtained a journal to use as a previous study entitled "The Use of Herringbone Technique to Improve Students' Reading Ability Assisted by Wattpad Application" by Rizka Mufariza. This research was conducted at Harapan Mekar High School with 31 students as subjects. This research studies the improvement of students' reading ability by the Wattpad application with the herringbone technique using class action research methods. This study aims to improve students' reading skills through the herringbone technique in reading narrative texts. As a result, the herringbone technique can improve students' reading skills, to be concluded based on the researchers' recommendations for improving students' reading skills.<sup>3</sup>

Secondly, the researcher used the journal that was used as the previous study with the title "Extensive Reading on Wattpad and Its Benefits to Students' English Skills: Students' Perceptions" by Intan Permatasari, Agus Wijayanto, Diah Kristina<sup>4</sup> discussing extensive reading using wattpad and the benefits for students in learn English skills. This study presents students' positive perceptions towards extensive reading on wattpad. The perceptions of the students were categorized into three elements namely cognitive, affective, and conative component. In cognitive component, the students perceived

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<sup>3</sup> Rizka Mufariza, "The use of herringbone technique to improve students reading ability assisted by wattpad application", English Education Program, 2019.

<sup>4</sup>Intan Permatasari, Agus Wijayanto, and Diah Kristina. "Extensive Reading on Wattpad and Benefits to Students' English Skill: Students' Perceptions". *ELS-JISH: ELS Journal on Interdisciplinary Studies on Humanities*, Vol 3. No. 4 (2020): 1-12

extensive reading on watsapp is a fun and enjoyable activity as watsapp provides them enormous reading materials in various genres that they can select based on their personal interests. In affective component, the students feel happy doing the activity on the platform with all the features it provides. In conative component, the students revealed that they discovered the platform and encouraged themselves to use it for extensive reading activity.

Third, researchers use journals or articles used as previous research with the title "Using Watsapp Strategies to Improve Students' Reading Skills at SMAN Luwu Utara" by Indah Lestari. In this study, researchers used Watsapp to find out the increase in students' abilities in learning reading skills using the Watsapp strategy in class XI SMA Negeri 3 Luwu Utara. The population of this study were students of class XI SMA Negeri 3 Luwu Utara. This study used purposive sampling with a sample of 20 students. The results showed that the Watsapp strategy was effective in improving students' reading skills.<sup>5</sup>

Based on those three previous studies the researcher tried to explore the influence of students in improving their reading skills in English lessons by using the Watsapp application as a narrative text and recount text material in SMAN 8 Kota Serang.

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<sup>5</sup> Indah Lestari, "The Use of Watsapp Strategy to Improve Student's Reading Skill at SMAN 3 Luwu Utara" State Islamic Institute of Palopo, (Palopo, 2022).



## H. Organization of Writing

The researcher arranged with five chapters and every chapter has some points to explain this chapter

**Chapter I is Introduction.** This chapter has some contents: these are Background of study, identification of the problem, limitation of the study, statement of the problem, the aims of the problem, significance of Study, previous study, and the organization of writing.

**Chapter II is Theoretical Frameworks.** This chapter consist of theorist from some experts we have conducted the research such as: Part I explain about reading skill: definition of reading skill, the purpose of reading, types of reading, assessment of reading, and strategies of reading. Part II explain about watsapp application: definition of watsapp application, kinds of literation watsapp Application, and advantages and disadvantages of watsapp application.

**Chapter III is Research Methodology.** This chapter consist of the methodology that writer going to use in conducting this research. There are: research method, time and setting of the research, population and sample, technique of data collection, instrument of data, and technique of data analysis.

**Chapter IV is Finding and Discussion.** It contains description of data analysis, and interpretation of the data.

**Chapter V is Conclusion and suggestion.** It consist conclusions for suggestions.