

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background

Reading is good thing in life because it is a factor of great importance in the individual development and the most important activity in school. It is needed in every level of field of study. There are particularly in cases when students have to read English material for their own special subject with a limited vocabulary anyone will also has limited understanding in terms of listening, speaking, reading and writing.<sup>1</sup>

Reading the most important single in study, and the curriculum stated that out of the four skills, listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The main emphasis is one reading skill because it is believed that acquisition on reading in a second or foreign language priority.<sup>2</sup> Reading is an important skill because one of the keys to get knowledge is reading, students use too much of their processing to read individual words, which annoy their ability to understand what is they read. Particularity in cases where students need to read English material for their own special subject with a limited vocabulary anyone will also has limited understanding in terms of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Reading is a process, which can be described at various time and developmental stages as a thinking process. Reading ability is the main concern to be able to read English textbooks, journals, and references. Since most of textbooks and

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<sup>1</sup>Andrew p Jhonson, *Teaching Reading and Writing a guidebook for Tutoring and Remediating Students* (New York: Rowman and Little field Education, 2008)

<sup>2</sup>Harry Maddox, *How to Study* (Greenwich: Fawee Premier.2008)

references are written in English, many students who find difficulties in comprehending them usually have their texts translated or extracted. It would be better if they can do it by themselves, rather than depend on their English teacher

Some studies explain the objective of learning reading is to improve the students' ability to understand a text, to help them organize their ideas, to consist and create meaning, to communicate information and ideas of text and to develop their knowledge in reading text over time, and to make progress their learning purpose in reading. indeed it is very true that what we need to understand together the concept of reading is not just to recite a reading, but we are able to understand the meaning of what we read, so that it can be information both for ourselves and for others.

Bagheri&Faghih in intan satriani mentioned that there are two factors that affect the ability of students or an individual in reading. which says, that there are two important factors which influence reading comprehension process namely the reader variable and the text variable. Readers' variables are the approaches used by readers, motivation, personality, their background knowledge, sex, and self-esteem<sup>3</sup>. The importance of these factors has been chosen as the interest in language learning, due to the high effect on learning a foreign or a second language.

In line with the previous statement, self-esteem gives impact to the students comprehension or proficiency. Self-esteem here is an evaluation made by an individual and usually associated with respect for himself, he believes himself capable, important, and valuable. however, every individual does not always have

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<sup>3</sup>Satriani Intan, "*Relationship Between Self Esteem And Reading Ability Of Indonesian EFL Sttudents*", (Unpublished ELTIN Journal, Vol. 5/1, 207)

high self-esteem, there are some people or students who actually have low self-esteem.

Self-esteem is the one of popular concepts in language and psychology. It refers to an individual's tendency as a person which indicates their judgments of their own worthiness or their appreciation to their own. Self-esteem is divided into two aspects: self confidence which is the sense of efficacy and self respect which is the sense of worthiness. self-esteem is self-confidence (a feeling of personal capacity) and self-respect (a feeling of personal worth) that affect every people to believe that they have capacity to defend their life, understand and solve problems, get happiness and good respect from other people. It is also supported by the theory from Block that self-esteem is a crucial factor in the developmental process of teens<sup>4</sup>. It means that self-esteem is the crucial aspect that influence the students developmental included developmental of their ability.

From this explanation, the writer assumes that self-esteem may have contribution in success of learning especially reading because self-esteem may influence the students' confidence and the students' learning motivation. If the self-esteem of the students is high, the students trust their own ability in English and it may help them to improve their ability include the reading comprehension ability.

Study conducted by Timothy et al suggest that self-esteem strongly correlated with oral communicative skill and the students with low self-esteem can not express their opinion or their idea in English confidently<sup>5</sup>. Other studies, Richardson indicates

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<sup>4</sup> Block, Jack, and Richard W. Robins. "A Longitudinal Study of Consistency and Change in Self-Esteem from Early Adolescence to Early Adulthood." *Child Development* 64.3 (1993): 909-923. Academic Search Complete. Web. 10 Sep. 2011.

<sup>5</sup> Timothy J. O., Sheldon, S., & Norman, G, *Extending self-esteem theory and research (2nd ed.)*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001)

that self-esteem affect the students' reading comprehension achievement. It means that self-esteem is not only having a relationship between speaking and writing ability but also reading comprehension. Besides that, "The reading ability of students can be a direct indication of their level of self-esteem It can be assumed that self-esteem may effect the students' reading comprehension achievement.

Based on preliminary research from the XI of SMA Negeri 4 Parepare the researcher found that students still have many problems in learning English especially in reading. The researcher interviewed Mrs Nurliah Beddu, S.Pd as English teacher. She said that every student has a different level of Self-esteem, which tends to be some of them confident in their abilities in the learning process, especially in english, which may have an impact on students' reading comprehension..

Based on the explanation above, the researcher interested in conducting research with the title **"The Correlation Between Students' Self-esteem And Students' Reading Comprehension At The Second Grade Of SMA Negeri 4 Parepare"**

### **B. Research Question**

Based on the statement in the background, there are three problem that will be investigate through this study. The problem is:

1. How is the students' self-esteem at the second grade of SMA Negeri 4 Parepare ?
2. How is the students' reading comprehension at the second grade of SMA Negeri 4 Parepare?
3. How is the relationship between students' self-esteem and reading comprehension at the second grade of SMA Negeri 4 Parepare ?

### **C. Objective of Research**

Based on the problem statement above, the objective of the research is :

1. To find out the students' self-esteem at the second grade of SMA Negeri 4 Parepare.
2. To find out the students' reading comprehension at the second grade of SMA Negeri 4 Parepare.
3. To find out the relationship between students' self-esteem and reading comprehension at the second grade of SMA Negeri 4 Parepare.

### **D. Significances of the Research**

1. For the teacher

The teacher can apply the method of reading learning that is able to be reached by every character of students, both students who have high self-esteem and who have low self esteem

2. For the students

Students will know and understand, whether they have high self-esteem or low self-esteem. By knowing this a student will be motivated to increase his self-esteem. because self-esteem can affect student confidence and student motivation. If students' self-esteem is high. Students trust their own abilities in English and that can help them improve their abilities including the ability to read and understand reading.

3. For the researcher

This research is also expected to give benefit as referenced for the researchers who want to run research related to this one.