CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

The first chapter of this research presents several topics. Those are background of the study, statement of the problems, purpose of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation and the definition of the key terms. Each section is presented as follows.

1.1 Background of the study

Teaching English in Indonesia is commonly focused on the four language skills. Those are listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Out of the four skills, reading is believed to be important in learning English. Reading skills are cognitive process that the readers use to make sense or understanding the text (Mickuleky, 2008). It means, the reading skill has an important role for the readers and students to understand the materials, gain information and explore their ideas.

Besides, according to Hamra & Syatriana (2012) argue that, students who had good reading skills will bring the impact for their reading comprehension. In addition, by reading a lot, students will obtain more information and enhance their reading comprehension. Thus, with good reading skill it might increase students’ motivation and interest in learning process.

Reading comprehension is a process of concurrently to draw up the meaning through cognitive interaction and involvement with the written language (RAND Reading Study Group, 2002, p.13). From a concurrent process, the reader
is acquiring information from the context and combining the different meaning from each paragraph in order to understand the meaning. So that, from the process the reader might gain some new understanding about a certain topic or things.

Nowadays, to make reading becomes an interesting activity for the students, teachers need to introduce media. It is hoped that students will find it easy to practice reading. In this case, media is a tool that brings a message or information for learning process used to help teacher while transferring their knowledge to the students (Arsyad, 2013, p.3). So that, by using media, teacher will help their students to understand the material, increase the quality of teaching and also give motivation to the student in learning English. As their motivation is growing, the student interest to learn something new is predicted to be increased significantly. Then, using technology such as mobile application in android that used for media in teaching and learning process give the student’s varied activities, and avoid student’s boredom.

Wang & Smith (2013) in their research entitled “Reading and Grammar Learning Through Mobile Phones (at Japan)” found that mobile phone-assisted was successful to be an effective method for improving students reading and grammar ability. Then, Kim (2014) found that blended learning with mobile phones for teaching EFL Korean learners improve the students reading skill and enhance the students’ interest to learn English. From those two researchers, mobile application for teaching media is considered capable of improving students’ activities in learning English especially for reading.

In this case, the researcher is interested in examining the existence of mobile application that called Expectra. In short, Expectra is an android mobile
application that designed as supplementary materials of reading comprehension for 10 graders Public Vocational High School. The features in this application will show the pictures that useful to give information about the meaning of difficult vocabularies, and exercises. Furthermore, the functions of this application are to support teaching process in reading and to motivate student in reading activities.

Thus, the researcher has an eagerness to apply Expectra Android Mobile Application in teaching reading comprehension at Public Vocational High School 4 Malang. Since, the Public Vocational High School 4 Malang was school with technology based which is possible to apply the Expectra Android Mobile Application. Besides, the reason to choose the Public Vocational High School 4 Malang not only the school used technology based but also because of the observation’s result that showed the students have difficulties in reading comprehension process, they just read without knowing the main idea of the text and the teacher only used a guide book to teach them. So, the process of teaching and learning becomes not effective. In addition, this study focuses on analyzing whether or not Expectra android mobile application as a teaching media significantly increases the students’ reading achievement at the tenth grade of Public Vocational High School 4 Malang 2016/2017 Academic Year.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In this present study, the researcher formulates one statement of the problem as below:

Does Expectra android mobile application as a teaching media significantly increase the students’ reading achievement at the tenth grade of Public Vocational High School 4 Malang 2016/2017 Academic Year?
1.3 Hypothesis

In an attempt to answer the statement of problem, this study presumes that
Ho: Expectra android mobile application does not significantly increase the
students’ reading achievement at the tenth grade of Public Vocational High
School 4 Malang.
Ha: Expectra android mobile application significantly increases the students’
reading achievement at the tenth grade of Public Vocational High School 4
Malang.

1.4 Purpose of the Study

Based on the problem above, the researcher proposes the goal of this present
study as below:
To identify whether or not Expectra android mobile application as a teaching
media significantly increases the students’ reading achievement at the tenth grade
of Public Vocational High School 4 Malang 2016/2017 Academic Year

1.5 Significant of the Study

The significance of this research tries to find out the whether or not Expectra
android mobile application increases the student’ reading achievement at SMKN 4
Malang.
1. Theoretically
Theoretically, this study is able to give information about the effect of Expectra
android mobile application in increasing students’ reading achievement. Additionally, it could be used by the teacher to vary the teaching learning activity in her or his classroom in order to attract the student reading interest.
2. Practically

In practice, this research is useful for the students to improve their reading skill while doing a complicated task in a fun way by using Expectra android mobile application. Furthermore, it gives them varied activities, avoid student’s boredom, initiate students to read English independently and improve their reading test score.

1.6 Scope and Limitations

This study specifically deals with teaching and learning process of reading comprehension at the tenth grade of Public Vocational High School 4 Malang. Furthermore, this study intends to measure whether or not Expectra android mobile application significantly increases the students’ reading achievement at the tenth grade of Public Vocational High School 4 Malang 2016/2017 Academic Year.

1.7 Definition of the Key Terms

In the definition of key terms, the researcher is aimed at avoiding misunderstanding terms which exist in the research. The terms which are necessary and have relationship with this study follow:

1. **Reading comprehension** is a process of gain the knowledge from a written language through cognitive interaction and motivation that happens in a reading process (Guthrie, Wigfield, & Perencevich, 2004). So that, reading comprehension could develop student knowledge, and build their mind to understand the text.

2. **Mobile Application** is a program or software that used in a mobile device such as mobile phones, smartphones and PDA’s to ease the work (Janalta
Interactive Inc in Ramadhan, 2015). By using mobile application, the user more easily to get information, entertainment, studying and doing office work.

3. **Android** is an operating system for mobile phones with technology based on open source (Ichwan & Hakiky, 2011). In addition, the developers are allowed to develop applications with source code-based from the android.

4. **Expectra** is an android mobile application designed as supplementary materials for reading comprehension at the tenth grade students of Public Vocational High School. The application consists of video motion graphic illustration, reading material that assisted by illustration graphic for difficult vocabulary, exercise, and game.

This chapter already covers the introduction of the research. It includes some issues about the teaching of reading in English and suggests the students to use media in improving their interest in learning English. In the next chapter, the researcher will be devoted to the review literature. The reviewed literature supports the reader’s understanding and completes the theoretical.