

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background of the research, statement of the problems, scope of the research, objective of the research and significance of the research.

A. Background of the Research

English is one of the international languages becomes the major language of printed information. It can be in technology, economics, commerce and science. The most important way which is vital in processing information is reading. By having the reading skills to comprehend passages, textbooks and references written in English, the students are able to absorb information and knowledge. Based on the school-based curriculum in the junior high schools that language skills are categorized as receptive skills and productive skills.

Language is the most effective tool to get communication with other people. Reading is a tool of communication in written language through the text form. It is the most efficient way to gain information about many aspects of life, including science and technology. By reading, people can absorb a number of information. Reading has a very important role and becomes a daily necessity for every person who wants to acquire whatever information which is required. Reading is an essential skill for learners of English as a foreign language. For most of learners it is the most important skill to master in order to ensure success not only in learning English, but also in learning in any content class where

reading in English is required. With strengthened reading skills, learners will make greater progress and development in all other areas of learning.

Mickulecky and Jeffries (2004) in Ismail & Basuki (2017:125), reading is very important since it can enhance students' general language skills in English; assisting students to think in English, enlarging students' English vocabulary, improving their writing, and it can be a good way to obtain about new ideas, facts and experiences. Therefore, on the basis of this opinion, the reading skill has been viewed as something that can help students to enrich their insight in English language. Meanwhile, Torres (2009,p.56), state that reading is the process of identification, interpretation and perception of written or printed material. Comprehension is the understanding of the meaning of the written material and involves the conscious strategies that lead to understanding. The process of reading deals with language form, while comprehension has to do with the final result, which elas with the language content.

Sadeghi (2007) in Mceke (2012,p.47), looked at reading comprehension as related to two main factors, internal and external factors. Internal factors, related to the reader, were things such as cognitive abilities and strategies, background knowledge, and effective characteristics, external factors were identified as text modality, text characteristic, time, and place of reading and others.

Based on the explanation above, reading comprehension is aimed to understand the content of a text and the search of information in a text. Besides,

reading comprehension can also give information about ideas, facts, theories which function as source of knowledge and reading experience, and literary work.

The first problem is reading comprehension. The problems are related to background knowledge, cultural knowledge, and knowledge of text type. Background knowledge is the students' previous knowledge or knowledge of the world. If students lack prior knowledge in reading a text, they cannot understand it because they do not know what the text is about. A reader uses background knowledge to integrate new information from a text into his prior information.

Reading is the most complex and difficult for most students in Indonesia especially for five semester students of English Study Program of Khairun University. The students who study reading would agree that reading comprehension is not a simple process because English is a second or foreign language. They still find difficulties in comprehending the English test.

Comprehension is the essential goal of reading and reading instruction. Effective comprehension instruction goes beyond literal comprehension by challenging students to make deep inferences about text, to think critically about the material they read, and to creatively transform the texts they encounter into other forms and formats. Moreover, effective instruction in comprehension should be engaging for students and teacher.

Based on the problem above, this research intends to know difficulties in learning reading comprehension faced by Five semester students of English study with the title "Students' Difficulties in Reading Comprehension at The English Language Education Study Program of Khairun University".

B. Scope of the Research

This research focuses on the students' difficulties in reading comprehension.

C. Statement of the Research

Based on above background, the research problem can be formulated as follows: what are the students' difficulties in reading comprehension at Five Semester of English Study Program?

D. Objective of the Research

Based on the statement above, the objective of this research is to identify students' difficulties in reading comprehension at the Five Semester of English Study Program of Khairun University.

E. Significance of the Research

1. Theoretical Significance

The results of this research are hoped to Giving the description for any further researcher who wants to study the same case, hopefully, this research becomes the source of information and reference.

2. Practical Significance

It is hoped that the results of this research will be beneficial for students, teacher and also prospective researchers.

- a. For students, Hopefully, the student can more understand about reading comprehension of texts. They can apply the skill of reading comprehension to decrease their difficulties in comprehension English reading texts..

- b. For teachers, This research will be useful for the teachers to diagnose the students difficulties in reading comprehension.
- c. For prospective researchers, the researcher hopes this study will be useful for to enrich and improve her knowldege and skill especially in comprehending English reading text as a candidate of English teacher.