

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This research discusses background of the research, scope of the research, statement of the research, objective of the research and significance of the research.

A. Background of the Research

Since English is the most widely used language in the world and has played important roles in various fields of study, the ability to use English is extremely needed. Nowadays, having English ability either spoken or written has become one of the requirements in enrolling university and job placement. In testing the English ability, proficiency tests are employed. They can also show if a person is ready for certain kinds of schooling or work. Test of language proficiency can be divided into two board categories. First, English as a second language (ESL) tests measuring communication or language skill. Second, bilingual tests that show which of two languages a person is more skilled in.

As one of proficiency tests, test of English as a foreign language (TOEFL) is one of standardized test that measure students' proficiency level in English. Standardized test consist of different types of multiple-choice questions, given to a large number of people at the same time, graded by computer and timed. The purpose of TOEFL is indicating English proficiency of a person to colleges and university (primarily in U.S. and Canada) and to government and other agencies for placement of students in universities. Besides, TOEFL is used in work as one of employer recruitment mechanism nowadays.

To measure the comprehension ability of foreign language learner, it can be used a TOEFL test. TOEFL or Test of English as a Foreign Language is a standardized test to measure the English ability of non-native speakers. Nowadays, TOEFL is used to get scholarships in order to continue further study in English speaking countries. TOEFL is also used to apply for a job vacancy. The reliance of TOEFL has reached such a point that most domestic universities use this standardized set this precondition because they believe that TOEFL is able to evaluate students' ability and skills to understand English in academic tasks.

To have good score of TOEFL, a person needs more knowledge of English and appropriate strategies in taking the test. The strategies can be used to each students in answering the test. Every section of the test has different strategies to be employed.

The Reading Comprehension section of the TOEFL test consists of five reading passages, each followed by a number of reading comprehension and vocabulary questions. Topics of the reading passages are varied, but they are often informational subjects that might be studied in an American university: American history, literature, art, architecture, geology, geography, and astronomy, for example. Time is definitely a factor in the Reading Comprehension section. Many students who take the TOEFL test note that they are unable to finish all the questions in this section. Therefore, you need to make the most efficient use of your time in this section to get the highest score. The following method is the best way of attacking a reading passage to get the most questions correct in a limited amount of time.

In reading section, the students are tested to understand, interpret and analyze reading passage. It also tested the knowledge of English vocabulary. The questions are about course, implied details, main idea, organization of ideas, reference, specific information, stated details, vocabulary and transition.

The researcher reason wants to conduct research to reading comprehension have found that in the study conducted by Samad, Jannah and Fitriani (2017) are the difficulties face by the students in answer TOEFL test, the limited of time, the long of passages, makes the students needs some strategies to overcome the difficulties that they facing in answer TOEFL question to reaching a correct answer reading text so that able to increase their chance for success and to answer the items correctly.

Based on the background above the researcher will conduct research with the title *“Students’ Strategies in Comprehending Reading Section on TOEFL at English Home Community”*

B. Scope of the Problem

In this research, the researcher focuses on students’ strategies in comprehending reading section on TOEFL at English Home Community.

C. Statement of The Problem

To enable the researcher to conduct this study, the researcher formulate the following statement of the problem “What strategies are used by the students in comprehending reading section on TOEFL questions”?

D. Objective of The Research

The objective of the research is to know the students' strategies in comprehending reading section on TOEFL at the English Home Community.

E. Significance of The Research

There are two kinds of research significance as follows: (1) the theoretical significance and (2) the practical significance.

1. Theoretical Significance

It is expected to increase the students' literature related to strategies in comprehending reading and provide more information on problem in particular section on TOEFL.

2. Practical Significance

a. Teachers

The result of this research is expected to be used by teachers in teaching reading comprehension section on TOEFL.

b. Students

The result of the study is expected to be useful for students English Education Study Program and another English language learners who study TOEFL. The researcher hopes that the students will get more information about strategies in comprehend reading section on TOEFL so they can improve their reading skill.

c. Researchers

The researcher hopes that the students will get an appropriate strategies in comprehending reading section on TOEFL