

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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

A. Background of the Research

English is the one of international languages which is the main language of printed information, can be in the fields of technology, economics, trade and science. The most important and vital way to process information is reading. By had a reading skill students can understand verses, textbooks and references written in English, students are able to absorb information and knowledge. Based on the curriculum presented in the academic field, language skills are categorized into receptive skills and productive skills. Speaking and writing are productive skills, while listening and reading are receptive skills.

Reading is a tool of communication in written language through the texts form. It is the most of efficient way to get some 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 are 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 any content classes where

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

In teaching and learning reading, skill there are kinds of particular problems which will need to be addressed. The first problem is reading comprehension. The problems are related to background knowledge, cultural knowledge, and the type of the text. Background knowledge is the students' previous knowledge or knowledge of the world. If students are lack prior knowledge in reading a text, they can not understand it, because they have not know yet what the explaining of the text. A reader uses background knowledge to integrate new information from a text into he or she prior information.

Reading ability is very useful and important skill. By this skill, people are also able to broaden their knowledge by reading many kinds of English texts. Reading is also very essential for students. They could developing their knowledge and get much information related to their studies through reading academic books, news paper, magazines, and advertisements.

Reading is the most complex and competence thing for most students in Indonesia, especially English students. Students who learn to read will agree that reading comprehension is not a simple process because English is a second or foreign language. They still have competence in understanding English test.

Reading is the process of identification, interpretation and perception of written or printed material. Comprehension is the understanding of the meaning of 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 deals with the language content. Furthermore, reading establishes a link between the writer and the reader.

Based on the explanation above, this research aims to determine the difficulties of learning reading comprehension on narrative text faced by English students at Khairun University with the title "Students' Competence in Reading Comprehension in English Khairun University language study program.

In this research to find students' competence in reading comprehension researcher uses narrative text because narrative text is the one of text which is used to learn, and improve students' reading skill. That's why researcher is interested to use narrative text for finding students' difficulties in reading comprehension.

B. Scope of the Research

This research focuses on the students' competence in reading comprehension on narrative text faced by the fifth semester of students' of English language education study program of Khairun university.

C. Statement of the Problem

Based on the background above, the research problem can be formulated as follows:

1. What are the students' competence in reading comprehension on narrative text?
2. What are the factors causing students' competence reading comprehension on narrative text?

D. 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, the results of this research are expected to be an input for the English teachers in developing their professionalism in teaching reading comprehension.
- c. For prospective researchers, the researcher hopes that this research will be useful for increasing knowledge and skills, especially in understanding English reading texts as prospective English teachers.