

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Language is a systematic tool of communication by the use of sounds or conventional symbols in written language. So, the language is a medium to express in an idea, thought opinion, wish and feeling. It is the code that we all use it to express ourselves and communicate to others. It is communication by word of mouth. It is the mental faculty of power or vocal communication. It is a system for communicating ideas and feelings using sounds, gestures sign or mark. (Mekay& Hormberger, 1996, p.3)

It becomes an important thing and people around the world use it as a gift from God to human beings as adjusted to one of the Holy *Qu'ran* stated in the Al-Hujurat verse 13 as follows:

يَتَأْتِيهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاهُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاهُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا ۚ إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاهُ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ ﴿١٣﴾

Based on the verse above, it is known that Allah has created humans from different nations, genders, and tribes with their own specific characteristics, so a mean is needed to reveal everything people want to say, and the language whether it is oral language or body language is the necessary tool, so that the significance of language in the lives is incomparable. It is not just restrained to being a means of

communicating one's thoughts and ideas to the rest, but has also become a tool for forging friendships, cultural ties as well as economic relationship.

One of all languages in the world is English, it is essential and important language in global era, because nowadays English is an international language and used by 129 out of 190 countries in all over the world as their means of communication. It shows that around 68% of those countries are speaking in English.

Moreover, in this modern developing age, people are demanded to facilitate the development of their knowledge in any sectors in order to be able to answer any supplicated problems related to the progress of any modern development. So, English is used to fulfill the need of the technology development in the world, and it has been becoming an important language in educational field, not only in the universities, but also in primary and secondary schools in Indonesia and other developing countries. As Education and Culture Department (1996, p. 2) stated English is one of languages that have rules and defined patterns, whereas English is said as an instrument to express concepts, ideas, opinions and feeling similar with native speakers and also as an instrument in absorption and development of science, technology and culture.

Furthermore in teaching – learning process, English is intended to develop four skills (Alexander, 1975, p. viii), one of its crucial skill is Reading. As known, everybody ever read, hear, see, and tell something occur around society in daily life. As the human beings who live normally, people do the activities every day, never just quiet without do anything because they live in this world which full by things that they can do, see, hear, feel, and touch. The examples are reading newspaper, watching television, seeing a movie, and listening to the radio.

In addition, people in the 21st century have a strong desire to learn more knowledge and read more original books and newspapers. So people should be encouraged to do more reading in English. Reading English books, magazines etc can improve reading ability step by step, speeding up cultivating and forming good reading habits. Then people can realize how English is used in reality by reading.

Moreover, to study reading is very important. Because there are many advantages from study it. By reading, the knowledge on culture will be increased. If every rule is written in English from one country, everybody will know what the country is like. For instance read novel from another country, knowledge about the other country with its culture are going to easily obtained. In learning English, someone doesn't only study it to master grammar or vocabulary but also master the culture of the target language. If he does not know about the culture, he will get difficulties to understand to communicate with a native speaker. Although, he may learn about English words through the dictionary, he still need to learn the English culture, so that the communication can be understood and misunderstanding will be avoided. As Gurrey (1999, p. 113) states by Reading, the reader can learn about the lives of other people, lives in other lands or country, and she/he can improve and develop her/his mind and imagination with new and significant ideas and experiences.

Furthermore, with Reading the reader can develop and improve his competence to his major or profession. It is in accordance with the message of Allah the Almighty in the Holy *Qur'an*, Al-Alaq verses 1-5 as follows:

أَقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ ﴿١﴾ خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ ﴿٢﴾ اقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ

الْأَكْرَمُ ﴿٣﴾ الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ ﴿٤﴾ عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ ﴿٥﴾

Those verses contain of an exclamation and also signal of the urgency of Reading. The word “*iqra*” that means “read” is repeated until twice with definite purpose. The meaning of reading in verse above comprises and discovers knowledge that exists in our surroundings.

At current time, human has entered the 21st century, an era of intellectual economy or rather the Internet. Peoples' knowledge is increasing at an astonishing speed .By the way of reading, a learner can master these high-tech and cultural knowledge concerning English-speaking countries. As reading is the only time-saved way to absorb foreign advanced technology, by reading, the contributions to the construction of our motherland are delivered. In that case, reading becomes necessary and urgent, especially for young generation not only students who are majoring in English but also all students in all Departments and faculties at Universities.

One of all faculties or departments in universities which realizes that English is needed by the students is Ushuluddin and Humaniora faculty IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin. It is the oldest Islamic Education Institute in Borneo. It had been successfully carried out their duties in arousing theological scholars that give positive contribution to the community, both through his devotion to the community or

through religious activities of the alumni that are scattered in three provinces, namely South Borneo, East Borneo and Central Borneo. It has a special class or program in Tafsir Hadits Department named Theologian Special Program (PKU) which is designed to develop Islamic sciences and strengthen their faith and commitment to the teachings of Islam.

The Vision of Theologian Special Program (PKU) Tafsir Hadits Department is being a center of national Islamic studies for the development of the theological sciences and the formation of professional scholars and clerics who are appropriate with development of the modern age, and holding fast to the teachings of the Qur'an and al-Sunnah.

According to its vision, it also has some missions to support or obtain its goal, one of it is guiding the students to master Arabic and English and have the skill in reading and understanding or comprehending the books and scientific journals which are written in both of languages. As the candidates of intellectual and religious theologian, the students are demanded to master English skill especially reading to improve their knowledge, because there are so many resources or references about the Islamic science and development of age are written in English, so they should be able to read more and comprehend many articles, journals, texts and books to increase their knowledge and as a material for lecture and teach the science of religion. As Graves claimed (2004) the more you read, the more words you gain exposure to, and they'll inevitably make their way into your everyday vocabulary. Being articulate and well-spoken is of great help in any profession, and knowing that you can speak to higher-ups with self-confidence can be an enormous

boost to your self-esteem. It could even aid in your career, as those who are well-read, well-spoken, and knowledgeable on a variety of topics tend to get promotions more quickly (and more often) than those with smaller vocabularies and lack of awareness of literature, scientific breakthroughs, and global events.

Based on the essential role of Reading and the goal of Theologian Special Program (PKU) Tafsir Hadits department, Ushuluddin and Humaniora Faculty IAIN Antasari, the researcher wants to know how good the process and what factors which influence teaching and learning Reading Comprehension there, and so the writer is interested to observe and conduct a research entitle **“Teaching and Learning Reading Comprehension at Theologian Special Program Tafsir Hadits Department Ushuluddin and Humaniora IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin.”**

B. Statement of the Problems

Based on the topic, the statements of problem of the study can be formulated as follows.

1. How is teaching and learning process of Reading Comprehension at Theologian Special Program Tafsir Hadits Department Ushuluddin and Humaniora Faculty IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin?
2. What are the factors that influence Teaching and Learning Reading Comprehension at Theologian Special Program Tafsir Hadits Department Ushuluddin and Humaniora Faculty IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin?

C. Objective of Study

The objectives of this study are to know how is the process of teaching and learning reading comprehension and what are the factors that influence teaching and learning reading comprehension at Theologian Special Program Tafsir Hadits Department Ushuluddin and Humaniora Faculty IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin.

D. Significance of Study

In this study the writer tries to organize the significances of study as follow:

1. To enrich knowledge and experience in scientific research especially for teacher in teaching and learning Reading.
2. To know the factors that influence Teaching and Learning Reading Comprehension at Theologian Special Program Tafsir Hadits Department Ushuluddin and Humaniora Faculty IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin
3. To widen and improve the writer's understanding about vocabularies and methods in teaching learning English

E. Definition of Key Terms

To avoid any misinterpretation toward the title adopted in this research, the writer will explain some terms based on Oxford Learner's pocket Dictionary (2003) in the title as follow:

1. Teaching is an active process in which one person shares information with other provides them with the information to make behavioral changes.
2. Learning is the process of assimilating information with a resultant change in behavior.
3. Teaching and Learning is a planned interaction that promotes behavioral change that is not a result of maturation or coincidence.
4. Reading comprehension

Reading comprehension is essentially the ability to understand what has been read. Reading comprehension is defined as the level of understanding of a text/message. This understanding comes from the interaction between the words that are written and how they trigger knowledge outside the text/message.

Based on the term above, the writer concludes that the meaning of the title is an active process in which teacher shares information about the text or message through reading with students, and provides them with the knowledge to make behavioral changes, then the students assimilate information they get with a resultant change in their behavior.