

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background of study, research question, objectives of study, significance of study, and definition of key term.

A. Background of Study

Related to Indonesian's reading interest, based on data of UNESCO in 2012, Indonesia is very low in reading interest. It is showed that the index reading interest in Indonesia reached 0,001 (Suara Pembaharuan, 2015; Kemendikbud; 2016). It means that from 1.000 populations, only one resident who is interested in reading. As it mentioned before that reading is crucial thing in language learning. It is also mentioned in the Holly Qur'an surah Al-Alaq verse one till five:

إِقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ (١) خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ (٢) اقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ (٣) الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ (٤)

عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمُ (٥)

Meaning :

“(1) Read: In the name of thy Lord Who createth, (2) Createth man from a clot, (3) Read: And thy Lord is the Most Bounteous, (4) Who teacheth by the pen, (5) Teacheth man that which he knew not”

That verse explained about the importance of reading mentioned by Allah to obtain information, vocabulary, knowledge and so forth. Allah is the one who has the strength to give human beings an ability to read. The verse showed that reading is one of the main commands by Allah to all mankind. Based on the verse, it can be inferred that reading is the bridge to all knowledge. Without reading, people will not be able to acknowledge the truth. Therefore, reading is very important to be learned by everyone especially in this case, by students.

Improving the quality of human resources is essential to reading activities. Reading activity can be seen as a source of knowledge and information to improve the quality of human life. For students, acquiring reading skills is the most important skill for successful learning. Students specialize in all aspects of the educational program as a result of their strong reading academic text. It turned out that most of the activities that students did during the learning process were reading activities.

Reading academic text is one of the most important elements for English readers. It is the process of recognizing words that becomes a meaningful idea (Hoover & Gough, 1990). It can be understood as the ability to take information and derive sentence and discourse interpretation. From that statement, it cannot be ignored that reading academic text is used to know all about variety of disciplines areas of the study.

Students in the English Teaching Department must acquire all language skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing. However, foreign learners of English believe that reading skills are the most difficult of all other skills, even after many years of learning English. Studies have shown that reading academic text is a complex process and students generally have difficulty building the meaning of written text (Grabe & Stoller, 2002). In fact, they can read the text, but it is difficult to identify and understand the content of the text. Difficulties in understanding texts are a serious problem in improving the quality of student learning when participating in academic activities. Nowadays, having a good ability to understand texts is essential for university students to acquire knowledge in all courses. Reading a variety of books helps college students read effectively as an intellectual community. Especially in a foreign language such as English, the importance of reading skills is especially true for university students because they need to absorb new information primarily through written text such as textbooks, journal articles, and web pages. Therefore, they have to spend a lot of time reading books to improve their knowledge and improve their reading skills.

In the lecturing class, the university students are demanded to be self-learners that they have to be able to get knowledge both from lectures and from the academic reading texts read by them. The current issue nowadays for the university students is that they are lack ability to read large number of academic text of English. Majority of the students show

the low level of reading strategy that needed to successfully understand the text. As a result, they do not know how to read effectively which can improve their knowledge of academic field. Among other things, the students' weaknesses in reading the text are not aware of their reading process. Simply, they do not know how to read effectively and what to do after reading process.

Having a good ability to understand the reading text does not come easily. The students get used to reading variety of books to form their habit in reading text. Therefore, reading academic text requires the integration and application of multiple strategies and skills. These strategies include memory, cognitive, compensation, and metacognitive (O'Malley, Chamot, Manzanares, Kupper, P, & Russo, 1985).

Based on the description above, it can be said that reading strategies is important for student, especially for freshmen who have join in English education department because first semester students are new to campus and are still adapting to reading learning at the university level. The present study focuses What's strategies are uses by student in coping with reading academic text and what are the problems students have in coping with reading.

B. Research Questions

Based on the background above, the problem of this study can be formulated as follow:

1. What strategies are used by students first semester of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin in coping with reading academic text?
2. What problems are faced by students first semester of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin in coping with reading academic text?

C. Objectives of Study

Based on the research question above, the researcher has formulated the major objective of this study is to find out strategies used by students in coping with reading academic text and problems faced by students in coping with reading academic text.

D. Significance of Study

The result of the study is expected to give significances contribution to the body of knowledge theoritacally and practically.

1. Theoretically

- a. This study is intended to contribute research on students understanding of the strategies used by students in coping with reading academic text and the problems students have in coping with reading .
- b. The result of this research can be useful as the reference for next researcher who wants to conduct a research on the same or similar topic as in this research.

2. Practically

a) For Learners

This research shows the strategies used by students in coping with reading academic text and the problems students have in coping with reading. Then, it is also useful for the department to reflect the success of applied curriculum, especially academic reading. In addition, it can be a reference for the lectures of English Teacher Education Department UIN Antasari Banjarmasin dealing with how they should teach and direct their students.

b) For teacher

This research can be a reference for teachers to find out the strategies used by students in coping with reading academic text and the problems students have in coping with reading, and teachers can apply it in reading learning.

E. Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misinterpretation and to have the same idea and concept to understand this study, the researcher tries to clarify the terms used in this study as follow:

1. Students strategy

Strategy that is meant in this research are specific actions, behaviors, steps, or techniques used by students. In this research, the researcher focus on the strategies carried out by students first semester of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin in coping with reading academic text.

2. Students problems

Problems that is meant in this research are students problems in coping with reading academic text. In this research, the researcher focus on the problems carried out by students first semester of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin in coping with reading academic text.

3. Coping with reading

Coping with reading that is meant in this research is how students solve reading problems used certain strategies. In this research, the researcher focus on the coping with reading by students first semester of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin.

4. Reading academic text

Reading academic text that is meant in this research is different from everyday reading. Academic reading requires a more active, probing and recursive strategy than does recreational reading.