

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### **A. Background of Study**

Every human being around the world communicates with other people using language. One of the languages that the most widely spoken language in the world is English. According to Crystal (1997, p. 4), now English is the most widely taught as a foreign language in more than 100 countries, including China, Russia, Germany, Spain, Egypt, Brazil, and Indonesia. English is an international language that must be studied in Indonesia from elementary school to university, and there are even some institutions that require mastery of English both in writing and orally. Before learning English, of course, you must learn the basics first, such as learning reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills (Louder, 2008, p. 9). All these skills must be learned by students as the basis of communication. These skills are important to master without neglecting each other. However; in practice, reading and writing appear to be prioritized. This may be due to the fact that reading and writing are used more than any other skill. Proven on student exams or national exams.

There are many sources that students can get in learning reading and writing skills, from books, internet, social media and other sources that have been widely distributed among the public and used as references to take studies for information and enjoyment (Harmer, 1989, p. 16). Allah says in Surah Al Alaq verse 1 - 5 as follow:

أَقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ (١) خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ (٢) أَقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ (٣) الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ (٤)  
عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ (٥)

This verse explains that Allah teaches us to read because reading is important in our lives. Therefore, at school or college students who want to get good academic grades must be diligent in reading, because by reading students will get various knowledge and one of them is writing skills, students who read a lot will tend to make them think logically. critical, broad, and get more ideas. Reading is one of the English skills that has a very important role apart from the three skills of writing, speaking and listening. While, Nuttall (1982) said that reading is the meaningful interpretation of printed or written symbols.

With reading people can get a variety of information, knowledge, and other ideas (Larsen, 1987, p. 125). Reading is a multifaceted process, which can be described at various time and developmental stages as a thinking process. Therefore, the ability to read the text of any reading will provide benefits to the reader. All of these purposes of reading require not only good reading skills but also getting used to it in reading. It means understanding something is the main goal read. Reading habits are considered as one of the influential factors in the success of writing essays. Therefore, to improve writing skills. Reading skill is important throughout the lifespan, recreational reading has been found to improve reading comprehension, writing style, vocabulary, spelling and grammatical development, it is necessary to improve students' reading habits (Jain, 2008, pp. 113-114). The benefits of the habit of reading are enormous, reading habits will allow students to broaden their perspective. So, the habit of reading will help students to speak confidently and build skills. Simultaneously, reading habits and writing skills are intertwined (Julio Cesar, 2011).

Writing is one of the important skills in communication. By writing, students can transfer information and knowledge to others by pouring their ideas into writing. According to Olsttain as quoted by Murcia (2001, p. 207), writing is an act of communication showing the interactive process that occurs between the writer and the reader through the text. There is a written communication relationship between the writer and the reader. Meanwhile, for students writing is a challenging skill. It is also considered to be the most complex activity among the four skills in English (Brown H. D., 2007, p. 391). As Brown stated, writing is a complex activity that involves many skills to define ideas and transfer ideas to a piece of paper in a clear and comprehensive manner for the reader (Browne, 2007, p. 81). In addition, to Being able to write well and effectively requires several competencies such as vocabulary, grammar, critical thinking skills and others.

There are various ways that can be done to improve students' writing skills, such as: by having the habit of reading. because there is a strong relationship between students' reading habits and his writing skills. According to Ferris and Hedgcock as quoted in Ilham (2012), reading is the basis of writing because data is obtained through reading contains print-encoded messages and snippets of information about how pragmatic, and rhetoric is a combination to create an important message.

In addition, individuals who want to write should have the capacity to read and comprehend one's reading material. Reading helps them to have a better writing style, progressed grammatical competence and great spelling. Eckhoff cited in Ilham (2012), reported that reading activity influences children's written work, demonstrating that youngsters mirror the type of composing that they are exposed after they read. Hence, the researcher want to conduct the research about the correlation between reading habit and writing.

Furthermore, many studies have been conducted on the effect of reading habits on students writing ability. Krashen (2014) stated, that the writing style does not come from the real one writing experience, but rather from reading. Many researchers argue that Students who have good reading habits create a higher number of skills in thinking, communicating and writing. In addition, students who read a lot get a lot of vocabulary in English. Obviously, with a lot of vocabulary that students know will make it easier and help them in writing skills. Parry (1991) stated, “to establish a solid foundation for building vocabulary to do in academic courses, we should encourage our students to read as much as they can before they leave class”.

There are also several studies related to this research. The first one is the study conducted by Linuwih & Winardi (2020), this study discusses the influence of reading habits on students' writing skills. The study was conducted on 62 second year students at Widya Kartika University Surabaya. Based on the results of his research, it shows that reading habits have a significant effect on writing skills by 82.3% and the rest is influenced by other factors not examined in this study.

The next study from Safitri D. I., (2018), the researcher discuss about reading habits and its effect on academic writing skill, a study of master degree students at Sebelas Maret University Indonesia. The finding of this study showed that the major participants had the same appointment. 60% participant thought that reading habit provided a great effect in their academic writing skill. 20% participant thought that reading gave big effect and the rest 20% participant thought that reading had sufficient effect in their academic writing skill. So the result of this study showed that students of master degree program agreed that reading was a necessity.

Another research about the correlation between reading habit and writing skill from by Anggeriyanti (2017), who conducted research on the relationship between students' reading habits and their writing skills. The research was conducted on 44 second semester students of IKIP-PGRI Pontianak. Based on the results of their research that they have a Medium to Good Classification. This means that the students' skills in the written test are Medium to Good with the correlation value between variables is 0.470 where the strength of the correlation between students' reading habits and students' writing skills in the second semester of the English Study Program is considered to have a fairly strong relationship.

From the explanation above, the researcher intends to investigate the empirical evidence about the problems, the writer intends to investigate whether or not there is a correlation between reading habit of sixth semester students' in English Education Department UIN Antasari Banjarmasin and their writing skills especially in Essay writing. The research title is "The Correlation between Students' Reading Habit and Writing Skill in Essay"

## **B. Research Question**

This study was carried out to answer the following research questions:

1. How is the habit of reading English in the sixth semester students of the Department of English, Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training at UIN Antasari Banjarmasin?
2. Is there any correlation between students' reading habit and their writing skill in essay?

## **C. Objective of Study**

This study was conducted to achieve the following objectives:

1. To investigate the habit of English reading habit in the sixth semester students of the Department of English, Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training at UIN Antasari Banjarmasin?
2. To find out whether there is any correlation between students reading habit and writing skill in essay.

#### **D. Hypotheses**

This study proposes two hypotheses as follow:

1. Research hypothesis (*H<sub>I</sub>*): There is a significant correlation between students' reading habit and their writing skill in essay.
2. The null hypothesis (*H<sub>0</sub>*): There is no significant correlation between students' reading habit and their writing skill in essay.

#### **E. Significance of Study**

##### **1. Students**

The result of the research will motivate the students to read more than they did before, students in English education department UIN Antasari Banjarmasin. It also encourages them to learn English by reading a lot of books to improve their vocabulary. In addition, by improving their vocabulary mastery, they will be able to increase their writing skill in essay.

##### **2. Lecturer**

The result of the study can give information to the lecturer about the students' skill writing essay in correlation with students' reading habit. The lecturer can encourage their students to read more books especially English books, because by reading more books students can also improve their other English skills. It also gives a simple and practical way in improving Students' English in writing skill.

### **3. Other Researchers**

The result of this research will be useful for other researchers who will conduct the research in the same field. It can be a consideration as well as a recommendation of the other research in case they will carry out any further research in the same field.

## **F. Definition of Key Terms**

To avoid misunderstanding, there are some terms which need further detail to be explained.

### **1. Reading Habit**

Reading habit is Activity that is carried out continuously depending on the amount of reading and the frequency of reading.

### **2. Writing**

Writing is an activity of expressing oneself in English to transfer the writer's opinions, ideas, and feelings that are collected in words and sentences.

### **3. Essay Writing**

An essay is a piece of writing that contains several paragraphs of opinion and is subjective and argumentative from the author.