

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Speaking, writing, listening, and reading are four abilities that should be included in language teaching and learning. Those abilities are inextricably linked. Since reading is a gateway to knowledge, it is a great habit to instill in everyone. Allah Almighty has instilled in us the value of reading, and by doing so, we can learn everything we need to know about our needs from the Qur'an. Allah sent the first verse of the surah about reading, (Surah Al-'Alaq verses 1–5) to the prophet Muhammad through Jibril:

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

The verse told us the value of reading in that surah. It demonstrated that Allah had asked Prophet Muhammad to read. Reading, as a result, has existed for a long time and must be done by humanity in order to develop our comprehension and knowledge in all areas. Surah Ar-rad verse11:

لَهُ مَعْقِبَتٌ مِّنْ بَيْنِ يَدَيْهِ وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِ يَحْفَظُونَهُ مِنْ أَمْرِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُغَيِّرُ مَا بِقَوْمٍ حَتَّىٰ يُعَيِّرُوا مَا بِأَنْفُسِهِمْ ۗ
وَإِذَا أَرَادَ اللَّهُ بِقَوْمٍ سُوءًا فَلَا مَرَدَّ لَهُ وَمَا لَهُمْ مِنْ دُونِهِ مِنْ وَالٍ

Surah Ar- Ra'd verse 11 affirms that Allah the Almighty does not change the fate of a people, before the persistent people change their own destiny. Man is given the ability by Allah the Almighty to change his own destiny, meaning that we as humans are given the ability by Allah the Almighty to be independent in wading through life and try not to depend on others, if we want to succeed then we need to strive to achieve it, not just stay waiting for the help of others.

Students are said to be independent if they are able to perform their learning tasks without dependence on others. Students who do not have independence in learning can be seen when following the teaching and learning process he will be passive, dare not ask if faced with difficulties, in the repetition of cheating a friend's work or cheating from the sheets from home and lack critical thinking.

Reading and writing are important not just for the Qur'an's goal of creating educated people, but also for the creation of culture, the generation of new knowledge, and the development of an advanced dynamic civilization. Reading is an ongoing process that requires the ability to recognize and comprehend words. Reading is a vital activity in people life because it allows one to keep up with current events. Reading is a very useful activity because it can increase knowledge and can improve students' language skills. Reading is

unquestionably an essential practice for improving one's language skills (Patel & Jain, 2008, pp. 117-123).

For almost two years, the Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia, particularly in Tanah Laut, has been a painful problem for all people on the planet. Without exception, all aspects of human existence on Earth are disrupted, including education. However, because to the covid -19 pandemic, the activity known as school has now ended. All people over the world are being asked to remain silent at home in order to prevent the corona virus from spreading.

The government has been implementing a Work from Home policy (WFH). This policy is a community-wide effort to allow people to accomplish all of their job at home. The Covid-19 pandemic has had an impact on education in Indonesia as well. In response to the restrictions on engagement, Indonesia's Ministry of Education has issued a policy that calls for the dissolution of schools and the replacement of teaching and learning activities with online platforms.

English was formerly taught in traditional face-to-face sessions. This technique has changed as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak. People keep their distance due to the Pandemic. To keep the virus from spreading, even students are not permitted to attend classrooms. Teaching and learning are done online in this setting. However, there are numerous issues that arise when this

learning process is carried out. In addition, in face-to-face learning, if a student does not understand something in a text, she or he can ask other students and the teacher about it, and she or he will receive an explanation from them right away. Students, on the other hand, find it difficult to ask questions of their classmates and teachers when learning online.

According to Circular Letter No. 4 of 2020 from the Minister of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia on Education Policy Implementation in the Emergency Period of Corona Virus Disease Spread (Covid-19). The learning system is run on a personal computer (PC) or laptop connected to an internet network connection. Educators can learn together at the same time using social media groups such as WhatsApp (WA), Telegram, Instagram, Zoom, or other media (Mendikbud, 2020, pp. 1-3) .

According to the explanation above, reading is an important language that students in Senior High School must learn. The teacher must provide the reading material. Reading material is any text or passage that conveys a message or ideas to the reader through the act of reading in English has major skills, there are Reading, Listening, Speaking, and writing.

Depending on the current situation, all teaching and learning activities are done online, especially in MAN Tanah Laut. Currently this school is undergoing a transition period to the new normal from online learning to face

to face learning. Especially in this research it will be discussed reading materials that students use for individual learning and identify the challenges, that students face when using the source of reading materials for individual learning in English class at MAN Tanah Laut during COVID-19. Based on the phenomenon about the researcher wants to conduct research with the title: **“Source of Reading Material for Individual Learning During COVID-19 at MAN Tanah Laut”**.

B. Research Questions

To guide the study, the researcher formulates the research question as follows:

1. What are the sources of reading materials that students use for individual learning in English class at MAN Tanah Laut during COVID-19?
2. What are the challenges that students face in comprehending the source of reading materials for individual learning in English class at MAN Tanah Laut during COVID-19?

C. Objectives of Study

Related to the formulation of the problems, the objectives of this research are:

1. To know the source of reading materials that students use for individual learning in English class at MAN Tanah Laut during COVID-19.
2. To find out the challenges that students face in comprehending the source of reading materials for individual learning in English class at MAN Tanah Laut during COVID-19.

D. Significance of Study

The results of the study are expected to give significance as follows:

1. For the English teachers, this study to find out reading source of reading material and prevent the challenges that students face on comprehending the source of reading material for individual learning.
2. For the English students, this study will add reading material for individual learning.
3. For the researcher, this study hopefully can give early information and reference to conduct study on the similar topic with different situation.

E. Definition of Key Terms

1. Source of Reading Material

Source of Reading Material that can be accessed by individual students without the teachers. The students can be accessed through with magazine online newspaper.

2. Individual Learning

Individual learning is a form of learning in which students of MAN Tanah Laut work on their own. The aim of this study is to see how well students of MAN Tanah Laut can solve problems COVID-19 in online learning.

3. COVID-19

COVID-19 is a virus that carries a high risk of affecting all aspects of life; the entire environment is affected in terms of business, industry, and education.