

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

English is increasingly used as a medium of instruction in schools and universities, with subjects such as management, information technology and the humanities making particular use of English. English is also taught widely as a foreign language for students intending either further study in an English speaking country or as a requirement for employment.

People all have known that English is the language of international people. English is the most widely used language in the world. It is the mother tongue for more than 300 million people; it is the main commercial language for no fewer than 1.200 million people, with further 100 million or more coming into regular contact with it. This means that more people use English and come into contact with it than any other language. Everyday of the week millions and millions go the right round the world are using English at their work and their social lives (Jung Tsui, 1992, p.1).

People cannot imagine, if they do not use language as communication instrument, they will not know each other in different country. They cannot share their knowledge each other. it is true that Allah created language to give blessing for human beings, like He said in the Holy Qur'an in Surah Ar –Rum verse 22 as follow :

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ خَلْقُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاخْتِلَافُ أَلْسِنَتِكُمْ وَأَلْوَانِكُمْ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ
لِّلْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٢٢﴾

Basically, every human being that born into the world always has a preference to communicate each other, individually or group. this preference had motivated them to create symbol or tool that used in communication. The symbol is named by language. And as we know English language is the important thing and around the world use it.

There are two reasons why English to be important language and a lot of people used it in the world. Firstly, English has functioned as a scientific key, because a lot of science are written in English such as speaking or written and also important books both for scientific studying exact and social science. Secondly, English is as a medium language among of nations that learning English (R. Ag. Kamil, 1982, p. 9) English also has considered as the instrument to provide and develop science ; technology, art and culture for importance of national development (Department Agama RI of Standart Kompetensi untuk Madrasah Aliyah, 2004, p. 182).

Learning a language means learning the skills as well as the components of the language as follows :

- four skills of language : listening, speaking, reading and writing
- the language components : grammatical structure and vocabulary

(David P. Haris, 1969, p.9)

From the four language skills, reading ability is the main concern of English to be able to read English text books, journal, fictive story and references etc. Proficient reading depends on the ability to recognize words quickly and effortlessly. If word recognition is difficult, students use too much of their

processing capacity to read individual words, which interferes with their ability to comprehend what is read. Like in the Holy Quran in Surah al Alaq verse 1 as follow :

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ (1)

As in his book Teaching Reading, author Gertrude Hildreth (1959, p. 2) states that reading is a mental process involving the interpretation of signs perceived through the sense organs.

The process of reading actually becomes a substitute for sensory experience. As the eyes move across the lines of print the mental snapshots bring the print to life, enabling the reader to comprehend the ideas expressed by writers remote in time and place.

The ability to read easily heads the list because it is the most universal and the most generally useful for everyone today. Why do the world's leader attach so much important to teaching every child to read and write ? Because, as it has been said, the leading nations are reading nations. As Thomas Jefferson wrote in one of his letters, "people who read can be free because reading banishes ignorance and superstition" (1969, p. 9).

For students, the act of reading is part of their learning process, it is their need to study. To be specific, Hartley, Male and Shockley and Wills (1962, p.1) say that a college students must collect countless bits information and file them away in mind.

In reading, “skimming is high speed reading that can save you time and help you get through lots of material quickly” (Beatrice S. Mikulecky Linda Jeffries, 2004, p. 38). It is different from other kinds of high speed reading, such as previewing and scanning. In skimming, the reader get general sense of passage or book, not specific details. Reader eyes should move very quickly over the passage the pages and should read only the parts of the text that will answer the questions.

Readers skim when time is short or when they need to understand the general ideas but not the particulars of story, article or book. Richard Sutz & Peter Weverka (n.d) say “your reading comprehension takes a nose dive when you skim”. It means, when students skim the text they must comprehend well in short time.

In English Department of Education Faculty at Antasari State Banjarmasin, intensive reading and extensive reading have been taught before semester six. It means, the sixth semester students at English Department have studied about skimming that one of extensive reading tasks. Based on the reasons, the researcher interested to analyze how the students’ ability and the problems in skimming short story at sixth semester. Hence, the researcher make a research on the entitled:

“THE SIXTH SEMESTER STUDENTS’ ABILITY IN SKIMMING ENGLISH SHORT STORY AT ENGLISH DEPARTMENT STUDENTS OF EDUCATION AND TEACHERS TRAINING FACULTY OF ANTASARI STATE INSTITUTE FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES ACADEMIC YEAR 2013/2014”

B. Statement of Problems

1. How is the students' ability in skimming English short story at English Department of IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin Academic Year 2013/2014 ?
2. What are the students' problems in skimming short story ?

C. Objective of Study

1. To know students' ability in skimming English short story in the sixth semester English Department of IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin.
2. To know students' problems in skimming English short story.

D. Significance of Research

The result of this research is expected to give contribution as follows :

1. Information and comparison for the next research.
2. It is hoped that this research can contributes student's ability in skimming.

E. Definition of Key term

To avoid any misinterpretation toward the title, the writer feels necessary to explain some term in regard to the title as follows :

1. Students' ability is needed in everything, especially in School College, both in the ability to read, memorize and so on, but the ability of the student in here is students' ability to skim in reading short story.
2. Skimming is taking the most important information from the page without reading all the words.
3. English short story, one of reading material that may be skim.