

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

English is a foreign language that serves as an international language, making it essential to learn and master. English education has become one of the subjects that educational institutions must implement to prepare the nation's future generations to compete with the advancements in education in this era of globalization.

In the present day, the need for English is not limited to the field of education alone, it has become equally important in the professional world, where mastering English is considered a significant asset that can enhance one's value and opportunities. As a result, it is highly advantageous for students at all levels of education to incorporate English into their daily lives, using it alongside their native language. This approach will not only improve their language skills, but also help them adapt to global communication standards, without neglecting the importance of preserving and using their mother tongue.

English consists of four primary skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing. Among these, reading is one of the most essential skills. A student's daily life and academic success are greatly influenced by their reading ability, as it is closely connected to their overall proficiency in understanding and processing information. Reading skills play a pivotal role

in how students engage with various texts, whether for educational or personal purposes. For instance, a teacher might assign a task where students are required to identify the main topic of a story, which not only tests their comprehension but also helps them develop the ability to extract key information from a text. This ability to read effectively is crucial, as it supports learning across all subjects and helps students navigate through various real-life situations.

Researchers believe that introducing a wide range of reading materials, both written and visual, to children plays a crucial role in fostering a deep love for reading from an early age. By providing access to diverse types of reading content, children are not only able to engage with different forms of media but are also encouraged to explore new ideas and perspectives. Cultivating a passion for reading at a young age can have a lasting effect, as it can ignite a lifelong interest in reading, leading to the development of critical thinking skills and a continuous thirst for knowledge. This early love for reading can, in turn, have a positive impact on their academic success, personal growth, and overall well-being. It is essential for everyone, regardless of age, to learn how to read effectively, as reading is not just about decoding words, it involves understanding the meaning behind the words and connecting them to their own thoughts and experiences. Through reading, they have the opportunity to broaden their horizons, enrich their knowledge, and gain insights into the world around

them, making it an indispensable skill for personal and intellectual development.

As in surah Al-'Alaq verses 1–5, one of the suras in the Qur'an, which conveys the order to read because mankind were born into the world ignorant. Therefore, reading is advised to help us become aware of our ignorance.

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

This verses explains why Allah requires His people to read: because humans are born stupid and formed from a clot of blood. Moreover, the fact that Allah SWT uses the word "*Iqro*" twice in this surah implies that He wants to emphasize the importance of reading to His people so that they can learn what they do not yet know.

In reading, it is not merely about reading the text or recognizing words, but it also involves a deeper process of understanding the author's ideas, interpreting their intentions, and grasping the message they wish to convey to the readers. This intricate process requires critical thinking and the ability to connect the content with prior knowledge or experiences. Such an approach makes reading not just a basic skill but a highly complex and fundamental cognitive process that plays an essential role in mastering language and enhancing overall learning. (Rizal, 2018)

As a result, students who have mastered reading comprehension will find it easy to understand sentences and grasp the meaning of the text, whereas those who have not yet developed this skill will encounter significant challenges in doing so. However, this issue is not insurmountable and can be addressed with consistent practice and the implementation of effective strategies tailored to enhance reading abilities. One such highly recommended strategy for improving reading comprehension is the summarizing technique, which encourages students to identify key ideas and condense the material into a more manageable and understandable form. (Barton & Lee, 2013)

The summarizing technique is an effective strategy that focuses on presenting the author's main ideas in a concise and straightforward manner. By condensing complex information into its essential points, this technique allows students to better grasp the core message of a text. Additionally, the summarizing technique encourages students to read more attentively and critically, enabling them to identify and understand the underlying message the author seeks to convey. This method not only enhances their reading comprehension but also fosters critical thinking and analytical skills, which are crucial for interpreting and understanding written materials effectively. (Sujarwo et al., 2023)

According to the researchers, the summarizing technique is one of the simplest methods. By using the speed reading method (scanning or skimming), readers can quickly write down the conclusion and the author's

intentions from the material they have read. This technique can be a solution for PKU's students who face challenges in developing their reading comprehension, considering that the scope of the program at the Faculty of Ushuluddin and Humanities at the State Islamic University of Antasari Banjarmasin is largely distant from English. Furthermore, spelling and pronunciation in English differ significantly, making the correct pronunciation of words a major challenges.

In addition, a good summary should be composed of a series of well-organized sentences. The sentences in the summary should contain the main idea of each paragraph. The content of the summary must be easy to understand and written in the writer's own words. If the words used are not appropriate, it may lead to misunderstanding, which will ultimately make the summary less effective and difficult for the reader to comprehend. (Saputra, 2022) Keraf defines a summary (*precis*) as an effective way to present a lengthy composition in a concise form. The word *precis*, used in this context, actually means "to cut" or "to trim". Although it is presented in a shortened form, a *precis* must still retain the author's original ideas and approach. (Keraf, 2004)

Considering that English is the third most widely spoken foreign language after regional language and Indonesian, many individuals face challenges in understanding the meaning of English texts. This difficulty often arises due to differences in language structure and pronunciation. To address this issue such as skimming, scanning texts for key points, reading

both prose and poetry, and summarizing sections of the text can greatly enhance one's ability to comprehend and retain the material. These techniques can significantly improve reading comprehension and facilitate a deeper understanding of the content.

Therefore, the importance of seeking knowledge has been emphasized in the hadith of the Prophet Muhammad, which state:

طَلَبُ الْعِلْمِ فَرِيضَةٌ عَلَى كُلِّ مُسْلِمٍ وَمُسْلِمَةٍ

(Hadith narrated by Ibn Majah, authenticated by Shaykh Albani in Sahih wa Dha'if Sunan Ibn Majah no. 224)

The hadith above clearly indicates that seeking knowledge is a duty and obligation for every Muslim, irrespective of their gender. This teaching highlights the significance of knowledge in Islam, emphasizing that both men and women are encouraged to pursue knowledge throughout their lives. In this context, the students of PKU have embraced this principle by focusing on enhancing their reading comprehension skills, particularly through the practice of creating summaries.

By mastering the technique of summarization, PKU's students are able to extract the core ideas and main points from the texts they read. This skill not only helps them better understand the material, but also enables them to retain the most important information, making it easier for them to apply the knowledge gained in their studies to real-life situations. Moreover, the act of summarizing requires critical thinking, as students must identify

and interpret the key concepts, and express them in their own words, which further deepens their understanding of the subject matter. Therefore, by integrating the practice of creating summaries into their academic routines, PKU's students are effectively adhering to the Islamic teaching of seeking knowledge, improving their academic abilities, and enhancing their overall intellectual growth.

This research adopts a narrative inquiry approach to explore how PKU students personally experience and respond to challenges in reading English texts. Rather than only measuring comprehension outcomes, this study focuses on the stories behind their struggles, strategies, and reflections during the learning process. By presenting their voices, this research provides insights into how the summary-making technique shaped their understanding and motivation in learning.

B. Definition of Key Terms

1. Reading Comprehension

Reading comprehension is defined as the process of constructing meaning from the printed text, involving cognitive and social factors. (Kusumarasdyati, 2023)

Summary skills support acquisition of reading capabilities by strengthening knowledge of text through identification of critical ideas, creation of concise notes and restatement of concepts for sustainable comprehension competencies . (Oluoch et al., 2023)

The ability to understand, interpret, and analyze a text. It involves constructing meaning from a text, and it is a crucial skill for academic and professional success. Reading comprehension is the ability to grasp and accurately interpret the information presented in a text. It involves reading with understanding. Essentially, reading comprehension refers to efficiently extracting key information from the text.

2. Summary-Making Technique

Summarizing technique is a strategy that guides students to identify key ideas in a text, condense the information into concise notes, and articulate those main points using their own words to enhance understanding and retention. (Nafilah et al., 2024)

Summarizing is an important skill which involves multiple cognitive activities that occur during abridging a text such as identifying relevant content, understanding the text and generating a short version of it or collectively.

In summarizing, students understand and comprehend the reading text through a process of deep thinking in order that they can really identify the main points of the reading text that will be written shortly. (Nurhayati et al., 2018)

A strategy used to condense and restate the main points of a text in a concise form. In this research identifying key information and effectively communicating the essence of the text. Summarizing is a

strategy that can help students in understand reading correctly by directing students' attention to crucial things sections and recognize the most critical points of the material.

3. PKU's Students

This is a superior program for developing ulama cadres through the Ushuluddin and Humanities Faculty Islamic Boarding School - Antasari State Islamic University, Banjarmasin. And there are several things that characterize PKU at UIN Antasari Banjarmasin, namely: a superior program based on the integration of academic traditions and Islamic boarding school traditions, intensive student development based on global insight and local wisdom, providing scholarships in the form of free UKT fees (Single Tuition Fee) and campus dormitory facilities (Boarding College).

C. Research Questions

1. What challenges do students have when they want to learn summary-making technique?
2. What strategies do they use to overcome these challenges?
3. What are the benefits of using the summary-making technique?

D. Research Objectives

1. To identify the challenges faced by PKU students in summary-making technique.

2. To explore the strategies used by the students to overcome those challenges.
3. To understand the benefits students gain from using the summary-making technique.

E. Research Significance

This research is significant because it gives voice to the real experiences of PKU students in learning to understand English texts. By exploring their personal stories, the study provides insight into the challenges they face, the strategies they apply, and how summary-making helps them grow as learners. The findings can inspire educators to design more empathetic and student centered approaches to reading instruction, especially for learners with limited exposure to English.