

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Language is a very important mean of communication in daily human life. Human being uses language, both in written and spoken form to express their ideas. Everyone uses language as a media to convey a meanings; it can be a system of communication, a medium for thought, a vehicle for literary expression, a social institution, a matter for political controversy, a catalyst for nation building. Accordingly, the people need a language which is understood.

One of the international languages which people need to understand is English. Nowadays, English is used as an international language by the majority of countries of the world. It also has a very important role in the development of education, communication, commerce, diplomacy, social, and scientific research. In Indonesia a lot of people are interested in learning English as a foreign language, because they know that English is the International language used in many countries all over the world. It has relation to the Holy Koran Ar-Rum verse 22:

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ خَلْقُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاخْتِلَافُ أَلْسِنَتِكُمْ وَأَلْوَانِكُمْ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ
لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

Thus, stated on the verse above, Allah explains that language is very important for human being. By learning a language, people are able to know and to understand each other in their lives.

English as a subject matter in university especially in English Department covers the four basic language skills: reading, speaking, writing and listening. Listening and reading are called receptive skills in which people the need ability to receive some information, while writing and speaking are called productive skills because people involve language production skill to produce written or spoken language.

Vocabulary is also important aspect in learning a foreign language. It is one element that links the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing altogether. In order to communicate well in a foreign language, students would acquire a sufficient number of words and know how to use them accurately. It is a crucial component in acquiring and understanding language. When students read something, it will sound good if they understand the words or vocabularies in a reading text. It will help and guide them in pronouncing, reading, and grasping the idea from the students' reading, so they will understand better. "Vocabulary is the stock of words used in a language" (Schmitt and Mc Carthey,1997, p.40). The more students have stock of words used in a language, the better it will make their performance. Mastering vocabulary is the ability to get or to receive lots of words and to know how to use the vocabularies in the context. By mastering vocabulary, students will know the meaning of vocabulary in the context and also help to avoid making mistake in reading a text.

Reading is a way to get better knowledge of one's own experiences and it can be an exciting journey to self-discovery. "Reading transfers experiences to the individual so that the reader may expand one's horizons, identify, extend and intensify his or her interest and gain deeper understanding of the world" (Green, 2002, pp.147-149). In simple words, it is a process of interpreting printed and written words.

In countries where English is learned as a foreign language, such as Indonesia, the ability to read in English is usually considered as an important skill especially for those who are learning English as their major study. They are engaged a lot of texts or references written in English. Consequently, having good skills in reading English texts is demanding and establishing good reading habits in English is significant as well. Shen (2006, pp.559-572) identifies reading habits, as how often, how much, and what the readers read. Moreover, Gaona (2011, pp.59-60) also explained the indicators of reading habit. They were reading frequency, books read, time spent on academic reading, time spent on non-academic reading, motivation in the family environments, motivation in the academic environments.

Many studies have been conducted in Indonesia on EFL students about their reading. They still mainly focused on researching reading in classroom settings with the basis to see the facts of the problems arousing in teaching and learning of reading, the reasons behind those problems and the ways to solve those problems. For example, Kusumarasdyati on her research with the title; *Vocabulary Strategies in Reading: Verbal Report of Good Comprehension*, stated

that the reasons behind this lack of interest in reading included students' limited background knowledge, inability to understand the content of the text, and complicated organizational structure of the text.

Moreover, Samrotul Muawanah on her research in 2014 which entitled *The Relationship between Students' Reading Habit and Their Reading Comprehension*, stated that reading habit is proven as one of the factors that influence students' reading comprehension. On the other hand, students' bad reading habit attitudes show impairment on their reading comprehension. However, she did not explain whether students' reading habit is also as a great significance factor in students' vocabulary mastery.

In IAIN Antasari, the second semester students of English Department have taken vocabulary subject in the first semester. They also just take Intensive reading one in the second semester students. Therefore, there is need a research to find out the correlation between reading habit and vocabulary mastery.

Based on the description above, the researcher wants to conduct a research entitled "*The Correlation between Reading Habit in English and Vocabulary Mastery on the Second Semester Students of English Department in IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin.*" This research is aimed to prove whether there is a correlation between students' reading habit and their vocabulary mastery.

B. Statements of Problems

Based on the background of the study, there are many problems that can be identified. The problems are as follows:

1. How is the reading habit in English on the second semester students of English department in IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin?
2. How is the vocabulary mastery on the second semester students of English department in IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin?
3. Is there any correlation between students' reading habit and their vocabulary mastery on the second semester students of English department in IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin?

C. Objectives of The Research

The objective of this study is to know the correlation between students' reading habit in and their vocabulary mastery. Therefore, the writer will find out the levels of reading habit and the levels of vocabulary mastery on the second semester students of English Department in IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin.

D. Significances of The Research

1. Theoretical Benefit

The result of this study hopefully will give some useful information about reading habit and mastering vocabulary. This study will also present the description and correlation between students' reading habit and their vocabulary mastery among the second semester students of English Department in IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin.

2. Practical Benefit

a. For students

The result of this study hopefully can be used as a starting point to develop students' understanding about reading habit, to improve their

vocabulary mastery, and to recognize them about the important of reading in mastering vocabulary.

b. For lecturers

The result of this study hopefully can be used by teachers to make their students have good reading habit and improve their students' vocabulary mastery in teaching process.

c. For readers

By reading this study, hopefully the readers will get useful information about reading habit and vocabulary mastery.

d. For IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin and other researchers

This study hopefully can be a reference for the library and also be a reference for other researchers in conducting a further research.

E. Limitation of Study

The problem can be limited only on reading habit and vocabulary mastery. Afterwards, the writer will find out the relationship between them on the second semester students of English Department in IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin.

F. Assumptions

The assumptions for the research problem are as follow:

1. Every student has different degree of reading habit.
2. The students have their own ability in mastering English vocabulary.
3. Students' reading habit is a great significance factors in their vocabulary mastery.

G. Hypotheses

There are two types of hypotheses which will be tested in this study. They are as follows:

1. Alternative Hypothesis (H_a)

There is a significance correlation between reading Habit and vocabulary mastery on the second semester students of English Department in IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin.

2. Null Hypothesis (H_0)

There is no significant correlation between reading Habit and vocabulary mastery on the second semester students of English Department in IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin.

H. Definition of Key Terms

The terms applied by this study explain as follows:

1. Correlation is an association between two or more variable, that is, where changes in one variable are reflected in changes in the other (Creswell, 2008, p.358). The correlation in this research means the relationship between reading habit in English and vocabulary mastery on the second semester students of English Department in IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin.
2. Reading is usually conceived as solitary activities in which the reader interacts with the text in isolation (Nunan, 1998, p.72). Habit is behavior that has been repeated until it has become more less automatic, enacted without purposeful thinking, largely without any sense of awareness (Per Nilsen, *et.al.*, 2012, p.2). Therefore, reading habit is when a person loves to

read and reads when the person has free time. The indicators of reading habit are reading frequency, attitude toward reading, academic reading, non-academic reading, motivation in the family environment, and motivation in the academic environment.

3. Vocabulary is the stock of words used in a language (Schmitt and Mc Carthey, 1997, p.40). Mastering vocabulary in this study is the students understand about word meaning, part of speech, word and grammar, word formation, collocation, and idiom.