

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Language is a human system of communication that uses arbitrary signal, such as a voice sound, gestures, or written symbol. In this case, people who always need to communicate each other cannot deny that language is as one of important aspect in this life. In addition, a language is our intimate friend from the past and the future because a language is how the way a human being send a message to their partner or between humans. Language is very important aspect of communication for human beings. People can communicate, share their feeling, experience, etc. Language used by all people around the world.

So, many language in this earth, but today, as we know English is a famous language for communicating to each other. English is a language of a high importance in the international relationship either formally or informally. Considering English has crucial position, the Indonesian government realizes that English has to be learned by Indonesian people without ignoring the status of *Bahasa Indonesia* as own national language. In Indonesia, English has been taught from junior high school to university.

English is an international language that is widely spoken in the world in many areas. Since every nation and tribe has its own language,

therefore there are so many different languages that are used in the world. The languages are used to communicate, send messages, or even as an identity of a nation or a tribe. Nowadays, many people learn English. In Indonesia, English has been taught from junior high school to universities. We can use many ways to learn English more effective. This difference is seen as the sign of the exercises and the greatest of Allah the Almighty, as it is stated in the Holy Qur'an Ar Rum at verse: 22, as following:

يَا أَلَك لَبَنِي فَمُكْ إِنَّا وَهْمُكَ أَنْتَ نَسْفُكُ أَل تَخِاضُ رَأْلَ لَتَوَا وَامَّ سَلُّكُ لِهَيْخَتَا يَأْنِمَ وَ
نَيِّمَ لَاعُلْ ل

The verse states that the God has created the universe and also various language and skin colors, showing that He has the ability to create everything as the real evidence for those who understand. So, the verse explains that there are so many languages in this world that has been created by the God, and one of them is English.

The one way to learn English is reading. With reading they can find every piece of knowledge in this world. They can read novel, magazine, advertisement, or even something useful on the internet such as education journal, business journal and so on. In reading a text people can get a new view, as new eyes to see something that they never imagine before. In addition, reading is one of the important way to learn English and build a knowledge. Reading is the most important thing to learn a

language because Allah commands to all human beings in the holly Qur'an surah Al-Alaq 1- 5

مَرَّكَتُلَّابَ رَءُورَقَا (٤) لَعَنَنْمَسْ نِإِقَالَخ (٥) لَبَحْ ذَلَّابِمَسْ إِبْرَقَا

مَلَعَيْمَلَانَمَسْ نِإِقَالَعَلَبْلَبَحْ ذَلَّ (٣)

Those verses contain of an exclamation and also signal about the urgency of reading. The word رَءُورَقَا that means “please read” was twice repeated with definite purpose. The meaning of reading in above verse comprises of deep meaning. The word رَءُورَقَا is a command to read and discover knowledge that exist in our surroundings.

They can read the English texts in a lot of media; such as English books, magazine, newspaper, novels, film, advertisements, and even status in Facebook. Through reading, students can get new information to enrich their knowledge. Reading is one of receptive skills. A receptive skills is a passive skill. Meanwhile, reading is not totally passive, because reading requires a reader to receive the messages, process in the brain, and make understanding on what has been delivered by a writer. This skill is not easy because it requires many knowledge and strategies. If the reader fails to choose the strategies, she or he also fails in reading.

Reading has many purposes for the reader. To understand the written text, students must be able to decode the words on the page and extract the meaning. Reading can be useless when the students do not understand on what they read, because reading is an activity that requires

the reader to understand what they read. To understand what students read, they should know the meaning of its words.

Reading is an activity to deliver messages from the writer to the reader. In delivering the messages, every writer has a style to deliver and express the messages by using language style. One of language style that uses several terms or specific words to express is by using idiomatic expressions. As Peter states, idiom refer to expressions or phrases which are peculiar to a given language and which carry either a literal meaning or a non-literal meaning depending on the intent of the writer (Peter, 1974, p. 288). In other words, idiomatic expression, as the term is used here, are ambiguous, and to be understood must either be known as a unit or deduced from the context.

To understand about idiomatic expression the students should be used strategy. Strategies provide the means to tackle complex problems in more efficient ways and practice, the strategies lead to skills that become automatic and quick over time. Strategies in reading are essential, not only to successful comprehension, but to overcoming reading problems and becoming a better reader and comprehender.

Idiomatic expressions consist of two or more words and make a new meaning. It has different meaning from the lexical words. For example: "*It is cats and dogs raining*" if it translates by word and literally, it will become weird and irrational. The aim of learning idiomatic expression is to understand what the meaning of idiomatic expression

based on context to get a complete comprehension. Sometimes students translate word by word and idiomatic expression cannot be translated word by word because idiomatic expression has a different meaning with its individual word. This is the cause of some students getting difficulty to understand the text which consists of idiomatic expressions because students do not have previous knowledge about idiomatic expressions.

Learning strategies are important for those who want to achieve what they want. Learning strategies will help them to improve their skill quickly in an efficient way. It will also become their references to know their selves. In learning language people use many ways, some of them master the language fast using a language learning strategy while the other even though are using the same strategy, the result is not as they want and this may make them frustrated and blame their selves as they are not smart enough and giving up on learning the language. Learning strategy can help students complete tasks successfully despite their disabilities by utilizing the strength they bring to the learning process.

Learning strategies in reading shows students that their success or lack of it in the mastery in idiomatic expression. Most students can learn how to use strategies in reading more effectively; when they do so, they become more self-reliant and better able to master in idiomatic expression. They begin to take more responsibility for their own learning, and their motivation increases because they have increased confidence in their

learning ability and specific techniques for successful to master the idiomatic expression.

There is a previous study written by the student of English Department of UIN Jakarta entitled “*The Relationship between Idiom Mastery and Reading Comprehension (A Correlation Study at the 4th Semester of The Department of English Education Students of UIN Jakarta)*” by Tias Atma Andriani (2014). The aim of this study is to know wheather there is significant relationship between idiom mastery and reading comprehension at the 4th semester of Department of English Education Students at UIN Jakarta. The sample of this study is 33 students. The method used in this study was quantitative method and the technique used was a correlational technique. In colecting the data, idiom test and reading comprehension test were used. The score of idiom test were collected from twenty multiple-choice questions. In addition, the reading comprehension test was also given to the students to assess their reading comprehension. So, these study have similarities in the method and idiomatic expression but have different in reading. She used reading comprehension and I used reading strategies.

Yesim Ozek and Muhamrrem Civelek also investigated *A Study on the Use of Cognitive Reading Strategies by ELT Students*. Similar study, Rebecca J Baier investigated *Reading Comprehension and Reading Strategies*. Another study about *The Advantages and Importance of Learning and Using Idioms in English* by Eliana Edith Roberto De Caro.

Based on writer's observation, some sixth semester students of English Department IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin have difficulty in understanding novel and text that consists of idiomatic expressions. Most of idiomatic expression that occur in the reading and phrasal verb. Phrasal verb is a verb which is a combination of a verb and an adverb, a verb and a preposition, and a verb with an adverb and a preposition. For example, *stood me up, down in the dumps, jumped down his throat, etc.* They interpret the meaning of idiomatic expressions by translating word by word that has different meaning from the real meaning words. Moreover, this case may happen when the students are not aware about the idiomatic expressions that they read in the text. This thing emphasizes that idiomatic expression need to be noted in reading, because it depend on reading strategies.

Based on the explanation above, the writer assumes that mastering idiomatic expressions has a relationship with reading strategies, so the writer wants to conduct a research with the title : *"The Correlation between Learning Strategies in Reading and The Mastery in Idiomatic Expressions at The Sixth Semester Students of English Department IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin"*. The writer tries to correlate learning strategies in reading and the mastery in idiomatic expressions at sixth semester students of English Department in IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin. The reason of choosing six semester of IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin is due to mastery idiomatic expression, students should be in advance level and I think six

semester students is right choice and consideration of distance and ease. Furthermore, the result of this study hopefully will give contribution to the development of learning English at English Department IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin.

B. Statement of Problems

As this study explained in the background of the study, this study is designed to answer these questions:

1. How is the students' learning strategies in reading at the sixth semester students of English Department IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin?
2. How is the students' mastery in idiomatic expressions at the sixth semester students of English Department IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin?
3. Is there any correlation between students' learning strategies in reading and their mastery in idiomatic expressions at the sixth semester students of English Department IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin ?

C. Objective of Study

The objective of this study is to know:

1. How the students' learning strategies in reading is.
2. How the students' mastery in idiomatic expressions is.
3. To find out whether there significant relationship between students' learning strategies in reading and their mastery in idiomatic expressions

are used by the sixth semester students' of English Department IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin is.

D. Hypotheses

Based on explanation above, the hypotheses that the writer used as a guidance to conduct this study are:

1. Null Hypotheses (H_0)

There is no correlation between learning strategies in reading and the mastery in idiomatic expressions at the sixth semester students of English Department IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin.

2. Alternative Hypotheses (H_a)

There is a correlation between learning strategies in reading and the mastery in idiomatic expressions at the sixth semester students of English Department IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin.

E. Significance of Study

The writer expect that the study will give the benefits for English students in reading strategies, they are :

1. The more students know about learning strategies in reading, the more they get better to master idiomatic expressions.
2. Students can learn and master idiomatic expressions to give them the benefit in learning and comprehending.

3. For the reader, to give more knowledge about reading strategies and idiomatic expression.
4. And I hope it can be inspiration for the next research.

F. Limitation of Study

Based on the research question above, the writer will limit the discussion of *“The Correlation between Learning Strategies in Reading and The Mastery in Idiomatic Expressions at The Sixth Semester Students of English Department IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin”*. The research itself will focus to answer of research question.

G. Definition of Key Terms

In order to make the readers get easier in understanding this study, here the researcher will give the definition of some key terms that important to be understood as the following:

1. Correlation

Correlation is a connection between two things in which one thing changes as the other does. It is an attempt to provide specific conditions, so that someone would do something.

2. Learning Strategies

Learning strategies are processes which are consciously selected by learners and which may result in actions taken to enhance the learning or use of a second or foreign language through the storage, retention,

recall, and application of information about that language”. (Cohen, 1990, p. 4)

3. Reading

According to Grabe and Stoller, “reading is the ability to draw meaning from printed text and interpret the information. A reader has a several purposes and each purpose has different skills and strategies to understand the text (Grabe & Stoller, 2002, p. 11). Reading is an interactions between the reader and the writer. The text provide messages from the writer, and the reader understands what the writer wants to give. Reading is also about comprehending process. The readers need to understand what the writer intended to convey in written text (Grabe, 2009, p. 15), they have to be active to construct the meaning of the messages, so that there is no misunderstanding between the writer and the reader.

4. Mastery

Mastery is the great skill/knowledge. To gain control of something is to overcome something, able to control other, dominating, very skillful, and great skill. In this research, it means the mastery in idiomatic expressions at the sixth semester of English Department IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin.

5. Idiomatic Expression

Idiomatic expression is an expression whose meanings cannot be inferred from the meanings of the words that make it up. Idiomatic expression consists of two or more words that have different meaning from their individually meaning of every word. Idiomatic expression forms a new meaning that usually unclear and different from the meaning of its words. Moreover, idiomatic expression is a assigning of a new meaning to a group of words which already have their own meaning (Makkai, 1987, p. vi). When these words meet and joined into a word it will make a new meaning. To sum up, idiomatic expression is an expression whose meaning cannot be inferred from the meanings of the words that make it up.