

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of Study

Islam is a religion that put knowledge in high position. Islam commands all Muslims to seek knowledge to anywhere in the world, even to a country far away from home. Allah also said in His verse, Al-Mujaadilah: 11, that He would raise the person who has knowledge to the high position.

يَتَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِذَا قِيلَ لَكُمْ تَفَسَّحُوا فِي الْمَجَالِسِ فَافْسَحُوا يَفْسَحِ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ ۗ وَإِذَا قِيلَ ائْشُرُوا فَأْشُرُوا يُرَفِّعِ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ ۚ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ ﴿١١﴾

Education is one important way for human to be knowledgeable. Good education can improve good quality of people and the country. One of the must-learn education is language education, especially English language which is used as a tool to communicate with others from different countries.

In this development of dynamic era, people are demanded to be able to speak in English because it has become very popular language today. Most countries around the world use English as their second or foreign language for the sake of communication. People around the world use language to communicate with others. In Indonesia itself, English is taught as a lesson at every level of schools; not only for adult, but also children learn it.

English has been applied in school curriculum and the students have to learn it whether they like it or not, as Harmer stated that probably the

greatest number of language students in the world do it because it is on the school curriculum. English has determined as the common subject that is used in every level of education, from toddler until university level.

English is one of foreign languages that is used in Indonesia. For some schools, it is also used in English classrooms for delivering the lesson or daily communication. This condition makes English difficult for Indonesian students. They have limited time to practice the language. Because of a foreign language, like a native language, requires a lot of practices. In order to master a language, students should use it in everyday activities, through a real practice.

Nowadays, the ability to comprehend English is necessary for millions of people. By understanding English, people are able to communicate in English and also able to read many kinds of English texts. The ability to read in English is crucial in contemporary society. People find many texts written in English, from holiday brochures to academic books, newspapers, pamphlets, magazines, traffic direction, advertisement and so on. Therefore the ability to read English text in any form will give the great deal of advantages in live.

Nobody doubt the importance of reading, whether in social life or for students. Knowledge can be obtained from reading. The more we read, the more information and knowledge can be obtained.

Reading has a great influence for students and very important role in learning. According to Schulte (2014, p.1), reading is a continuous process

of translation. When someone starts capturing words from a text, s/he begin to fill her/his mind with information to either add to her/his knowledge or to provide certain pleasure to him/her. As reading can reflect the translation of certain data into quite different form like entertainment or information, reading cannot be separated from translation. In other words, they are correlated. The important of reading for the life of mankind is also mentioned in the Holy Qur'an, Al-'Alaq verse 1-5 as follow;

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﴾

Based on the verses above, can be concluded to know the whole thing in this world such as, information, knowledge and experiences we have never been before can be gained from reading because reading is the key of knowledge development. Unfortunately, some research findings indicate that English reading habit of most Indonesian students is still far from sufficient. Then, how to accustom someone to read English texts? There are many kinds of English reading material that expected can grow students' interest in reading.

Every human being has a tendency to do something that can give pleasure for him/herself. Starting from this happy feeling then there will be an interest to acquire, develop and maintain something that believes could give pleasure. Likewise with reading, after getting the pleasure of reading, it will

appear a tendency to develop further or at least encourage interest in retaining the pleasure that has been achieved.

Many types of book also affect someone's reading interest. A person is more interested in reading text if it is not only full of text, but also accompanied by pictures or illustrations. There are many types of book that not only contain of text but also accompanied by pictures, like story books (fairy tales, fables), magazines, comics and many others. Those kinds of reading material are not just for children reading material but even adults can enjoy it. Although the story books, novels, magazines, comics are aimed to entertain the readers but have a very large role to someone's reading interest.

Comic has other components beside text, such as picture, speech balloons and boxes, onomatopoeias and non-pictorial icons. Those components are integrated to create the expectation effect toward the readers. One of popular comics is Japanese comics which present images to the general public that mainly for entertainment and fun.

The content of Japanese comics are not only about fantasy or things that tell about fictional, but also history, culture, economics, politics and instructions on how to cook is made in comic form. In addition, Japanese comics have many various genres, unlike American comics which 80% of American comics' genre is superhero. This can be evidenced by both of genders and number of children, teenagers, college students and even adults are particularly enjoyed this one kind of reading materials.

In recent years, the Japanese comics (*manga*) have gained remarkable popularity outside Japan, particularly in the U.S. and Europe (Lee, 2009, p. 1011). There might be a variety of driving forces for this phenomenon: Western society's increasing fascination with contemporary popular culture in Japan; the critical and commercial success of Japanese animation (*anime*), which is often based on comics; Japanese governmental agencies' support for *manga*-related studies and events overseas; and a variety of Japanese comics for girls, which immediately created a new rapidly growing market.

Due to there are many of Japanese comics readers among young adults around the world includes Indonesia, Japanese comics are translated into English subtitle so they can enjoy reading them. Japanese comics which are translated into English are not only for entertainment but also can help student broaden their knowledge, especially in vocabulary mastery.

In educational field, comic can be used in the language class to increase the knowledge of students in language usage. The use of comics in instruction has several educational benefits for students, Carol L. Tilley, a professor of library and information science at the University of Illinois, believes that comics improve students reading comprehension, and foster vocabulary and a love of reading.

In learning English, students cannot be separated from translation activity. Translation is used to understand what people say and express in their language, what people write in their letter or to communicate with other people. However, students cannot understand completely what they

read if they do not understand the language that is used. For example, students are asked to read an English text and if they do not understand or do not even know the meaning of word, phrase or sentence, they will not understand what they read. Therefore, translation is needed to solving the problem.

The ability to translate well is an art. It requires special talent and training (Lado, 1961, p.261). Therefore, the translator should re-express the meaning of source language (SL) as exactly possible into target language (TL) that people can understand the message easily. From the explanation above, students can realize the need of competent translator. The competence can be obtained through formal and informal way, such as formal education, training, life experience, etc.

One of formal educations that prepare its students not only be professional teachers but also able to translate many kind of English works, English Department of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin puts translation as one of subjects that be taught to students. In translation subject students learn the theory of translation, such as definition of translation, methods of translation, procedures of translation, kind of translation styles and quality of good translation.

According to Nida (as cited in Fitria, 2011, p. 2), the most important factor that determines the process of translation work is broad knowledge of the translator. It means the translator must know about many things that related to social-culture, technology, linguistic structure, etc. of both the

country and community which was spoken in the original text as well as from the country where the translation result will be read.

In this study, the researcher decided to investigate the relationship between students' reading interest in online Japanese comics and their English translation ability due to the researcher discovered a fact that some students of English Department of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin who read online Japanese comics have good score in translation subject. The researcher decided to conduct this research to the sixth semester students of English Department in UIN Antasari, because the students of this semester have interest in reading online Japanese comics and they have learned translation subject.

The research about reading interest had been investigated by Adha Asvihand Noor (2015), a student of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin. The result of the research was there is a positive strong correlation between X variable (reading habit) and Y variable (translation ability). Another previous study is written by Lia Nurshohifah (2014) a student of English Department, State Islamic University Syarif Hidayatullah, Jakarta. The result of this research was there are correlation between three variables; X1 variable (reading interest), X2 (vocabulary mastery), and Y variable (reading ability on descriptive text).

Comparing to the two studies above, this research focuses on finding out the relationship between two variables, namely students' reading interest in online Japanese comics (X variable) and students' ability in translating

English text into Bahasa Indonesia (Y variable). From the description above, the title on which the researcher conducted is: “Students’ Reading Interest in Online Japanese Comics and Their English Translation Ability”.

## **B. Statement of Problems**

Based on the descriptions above, the researcher constructed the research questions, as mentioned below:

1. How is the students’ reading interest in online Japanese comics?
2. How is the students’ English translation ability?
3. Is there any significance correlation between students’ reading interest in online Japanese comics and their English translation ability?

## **C. Objective of Study**

Based on the problem formulation above, the purpose of this research can be set as follows:

1. To find out the students’ reading interest in online Japanese comics.
2. To find out the students’ English translation ability.
3. To find out significance correlation between students’ reading interest in online Japanese comics and their English translation ability.

## **D. Significance of Study**

The result of the study is expected to be useful as following:

1. For Students

The result of this study is expected able to widen students’ reading interest and to accustom them to read any English reading texts in order



to widen their knowledge and ability in translating English to Bahasa Indonesia and vice versa.

## 2. For Lecturers

The lecturers can find out the level of the students' ability in translating reading text from English to Bahasa Indonesia and understand their students' interest and ability so they can give the solution to overcome the problems in students' reading interest and translation ability too.

## 3. For Other Researchers

The finding of the research hopefully can be useful as information and additional reference to English Department of Tarbiyah and Teachers Training Faculty.

### **E. Hypothesis of Study**

The hypothesis of this study was prepared as a tentative answer for the research problem stated previously. In this case, the hypothesis can be formulated for this research:

Ha :  $\rho \neq 0$  There is a significance correlation of students' reading interest in online Japanese comics and their English translation ability.

Ho :  $\rho = 0$  There is no significance correlation of students' reading interest in online Japanese comics and their English translation ability.

### **F. Definition of Key Terms**

To avoid misunderstanding towards the title of this research, the researcher described the key terms as follows:

### 1. Reading Interest

Reading interest is a powerful and deep concern accompanied by feelings of pleasure to the act of reading that can lead someone to read on their own without being forced by others and because of the idea that reading can obtain benefits for him/herself. In this research, students' reading interest refers to the sixth semester of English Department students' reading interest in online Japanese comics at UIN Antasari Banjarmasin.

### 2. Online Japanese Comics

In this research, online Japanese comics refer to Japanese comics that already translated into English and can be read through the internet or other applicants which used network server. Japanese comics have many various genres and can be accessed in many comic websites, such as, *mangatown*, *mangayou*, *mangafox*, and etc.

### 3. Translation Ability

Translation is a process of rendering the meaning of a text from one language (SL) into another language (TL) in the way the author intended the text. The term of translation ability in this research refers to the sixth semester of English Department students' English translation ability in translating English text into Bahasa Indonesia.