Chapter One

Introduction

This chapter aims to introduce the research by providing some sub-chapters which include background of the research, identification of the problem, delimitation of the problems, research questions, objectives and significances of the research. The background includes the reasons why the researcher selects the research topic. Then, identification of problem explains current issues that happened related to the research. The next one, delimitation of the problem explains the focus of this research. After that, the researcher indicates purposes of this research in part of objectives of the research. The last part is significances of the research in which the researcher determines several parties who will get benefits from this research.

Background of the Research

In this era, English is the powerful language that is used by all of people almost through the globe. People need to master English in order to follow a transition of the world. According to Sadeghi and Richards (2015) as cited in Zarrabi (2018) by mastering English people can easily communicate with foreigner, going abroad, receive up to date information from any other countries. That is why it is very important for students to know English language well in order to develop their ability in any aspects.

One of aspects that can affect EFL students' English proficiency is reading skill. According to Zuo (2011) reading is a primary thing in learning process and it can be a mean for learners in order to enhance their English proficiency. In

addition, students will get some language input related to English ability such as vocabulary mastery. Liu (2014) as cited in Jinxiu and Zhengping (2016) said that reading activity can be used as a teaching technique in order to develop students' vocabulary mastery. Siyabi (2017) also stated several benefits of reading such as build reading motivation, develop vocabulary skill, enhance reading comprehension, train writing ability and increase readers' insight.

Reading is a very complex process. According to Albdour (2015) in reading process, students should pay a very extra attention to several aspects such as critical thinking, vocabulary mastery, language skills, time management, reading strategies, and concentration. Based on what Albdour said reading is not just following word by word but students have to develop those aspects in order to comprehend text clearly. Students should understand all things included in reading material and relate it to their prior knowledge. Memis and Sivri (2016) argued that in order to develop reading skill, students should identify, criticize, and consider the reading text to their prior knowledge.

Students' reading performance holds an important role for successful learning process. The success of reading itself can be affected by the selection of reading material. Sugiarti (2012) as cited in Kamal (2018) stated that the choice of appropriate material in reading activity can be a thing a teacher can do in order to make reading process more effective. Based on the researchers' experience, reading material usually used by student is very diverse. Students are accustomed to read novel, textbook, and journal. Reading material that contain long text, boring content, and text without illustration will make students demotivated in reading. In this case, it may make students worried, cannot concentrate on what

the material that they read and have less interest in reading (Akyol, Cakiroglu, & Kuruyer, 2014). Several students who are still a beginner reader tend to choose reading material such as poem, legend, short life story and fables with visual or picture (Lipp, 2018). Krusemark (2015) stated that comic also can be used by beginner readers because they need some illustrations to understand the text (as cited in Cary, 2004). Therefore, in the selection of reading material, students tend to choose material that includes some illustration in it.

In this digital era, there are a lot of materials that can be found in the internet. Sarac (2018) has argued that the internet and technology provide educational material such as text, video, and audio in order to support students' learning process. One of reading materials that can be found in the internet is English comic. In students' English learning process there are many people who have no idea about benefits of online English comic as English reading material such as parents and teachers. They think that online English comic is only reading for a joy, but actually there are many advantages that students get by reading online English comic for learning especially language learning. Muzumdar (2016) argued that by reading an online English comic helps students understand learning topic clearly, motivate them for further reading, remember learning material, and make learning process more fun. Online English comic is one of choices to overcome students' reading problem. According to Saputro and Soeharto (2015) nowadays the use of comic in order to support students' learning process has used by several countries including Japan. Japan is one of develop countries that uphold a comic as a reading material which is very effective to students. Through online English comic, students do not need to read a long text. Online English

comic also provide story with picture that will gain students' interest. Brante and Holmqvist (2017) argued that the purpose of illustration that provided by digital reading material is aimed to increase learning ability. Based on informal interview researcher to some university students, most of them told that online English comic help them in learning English. They also mentioned that by reading comic, they are not frustrated because comic provide interesting story and colorful picture.

Based on the researcher's experience as an English learner, the researcher and friends are interested in learning English by using online English comic. They often read an online English comic in leisure time therefore the researcher would like to explore the use of online English comic as a reading material in detail. Through this research, the researcher would like to investigate English language education department students' perception about the use of online English comic as reading material.

Identification of the Problems

There are three problems that cause students get a low level of reading skill. First is reading materials such as textbook, journal, e-book that are given by the teachers are boring, because of their long text. There are many teachers do not realize of what their students need in reading. Students' reading pleasure and motivation should be developed by provide them interesting reading material. They can start their reading process by reading online English comic. By providing them reading material like comic that include many illustrations and stories students can be more interested in reading also for their further reading. The second problem is there are also many students do not know about reading

material that suit for them and can make them love to read. The lack of reading habit happens because students do not know what reading material that they should read. Teacher and parents can be a helper for students in order to find out reading material that suit for them. If students have found reading material that they want, automatically their reading habit will increase. The next problem is about students' reading motivation. Students nowadays may lose their motivation in reading caused by reading material itself. If students are not interested in the reading material, they will be domotivated in English learning process. Therefore, the choice of reading material affects students' reading motivation and skill.

Delimitation of the Problems

This research focuses on English Language Education Department (ELED) students' perception on the benefits of online English comics as reading materials and some types of online English comics that they used to read. The focuses that will be discovered by the researcher lead the researcher to find out benefits of online English comics and online English comics that are usually read by students as reading materials.

Research Questions

Based on the problem that has been mentioned in this research, the problem was formulated as follows:

1. What are benefits of online English comics as reading materials that ELED students get?

2. What are the applications and websites from which ELED' students prefer to read English comics?

Objectives of the Research

Based on research questions, the objectives of this research are :

1. To discuss benefits of online English comics as reading materials that ELED students get

2. To investigate applications and websites from which ELED' students prefer to read English comics?

Significances of the Research

The main purpose of this research is to find out how online English comic can be used as a reading material of English learning. In English learning process, this type of reading material is very important for students to enhance their English reading skill. This is why this research is very useful for parties as follows:

English students. By reading this research, English students know several applications and websites of online English comics that can be used as a reading material. They can find some benefits from those comics for their reading skill.

English teacher. By reading this research, teacher will know some applications and websites to read English comics. The teacher also will realize that online English comics can be one of options that can be used as reading materials.

Parents. This research will provide information to parents who have negative perception about comic. Parents will know that online English comic not only reading for pleasure, but there are many benefits that can students get by reading online English comic

Future researchers. For future researchers, they can use this research as guidelines for them who have same topic as researcher of this study has.