

Chapter One

Introduction

This chapter presents the introduction of the study. There are several important points mentioned in this chapter. They are background of the study, identification of the problem, delimitation of the study, the research question, objectives of the study, and the significances of the study. In the last part of this chapter, the researcher mentions the outline of this research.

Background of the Study

Nowadays, English as an International language is learnt by all of students started from elementary school, junior high school, senior high school, and university. In university level, there are a lot of majors which learn English as compulsory course even not in English department. It is relevant when the students from non-English department learn English because it will give benefits for the students' future career considering English use in almost worldwide. As mentioned by Modiano (2009), the students learn English because it is essential for them in the future in relation to their work. Therefore, English is a crucial language which should be mastered by the students in this era.

Meanwhile, in learning English, the students are expected to master all of English skills such as reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Among all skills which should be mastered, reading is one of the important skills in English. According to Klinger (2007), reading is an activity which has the purpose to get the information, to increase students' knowledge, or to criticize writer's idea. Besides, the students also do the reading activity for enjoyment or to enhance their cognitive of the language which they read such as reading textbook, module,

novel, and comic. Moreover, Nation (2009) said “reading is a source of learning and full of enjoyment” (p.32). Hence, it can be concluded that the purpose of reading is based on the students’ need and text selection.

Furthermore, reading brings several benefits for the students. Bouhedjam (2012) stated that reading can build confident personality, build student imagination, and improve the students’ writing skill. Besides, books are accumulation of experiences with different circumstances. Also the heap of reading feeds the readers with strong opinions and solid decisions. Additionally, reading can build students’ imagination. When students read, the brain will translate the description of people, place, and things into picture. Besides, reading can improve students’ writing skill. The more students read, the more words the students gain exposure to, and the students will get a model in writing style. Thus, from reading, it will ease the students to write because they have enough model and vocabulary expansion.

Reading also cannot be separated from comprehension. Comprehension is the same meaning as understanding. When students read a text or book, they have to deeply understand or comprehend what the text or book tells about. Harvey (2013) asserted that reading comprehension is a process which involves thinking, teaching, past experiences, and knowledge. Accordingly, it means that reading comprehension is not only process on reading but also process which implicates some aspects such as experience and knowledge of the readers in order to get the deepen understanding of the text.

In reading comprehension process, the students may face some difficulties, and reading strategies have the main role in solving the reading difficulties. When the students face the difficulties, but they do not have the idea about the strategy to solve, the students may easily give up and leave the text. Besides, it is the reason why some students do not have the improvement in reading skill. Reading strategies can facilitate the students to read effectively in order to achieve a prosperous accomplishment. Even though some strategies may not facilitate in comprehending English text because of the different reading text, the students need different strategies. However, it is quiescent that the students should be more conscious towards the reading strategies. Therefore, regarding the phenomena mentioned, the researcher is interested in conducting a research on investigating the strategies used by non-English department students in comprehending English text.

Identification of the Problem

At a private university in Yogyakarta, English is a compulsory course for all departments. Besides, it is purposed to help the students in learning English for their future career and academic achievement. The training of English is held by Language Training Center (LTC). However, based on formerly interview with some teachers at LTC, the researcher found that the students have low capability in comprehending English text because non-English department students only have limited time in learning English. In addition, the researcher also found that some students from non-English department have low motivation to read. Then, researcher also found that teachers have a significant influence on students'

reading ability. Based on some cases, it can be concluded that reading an English text is challenging for non-English department students, so the researcher was interested in conducting a research entitled “The strategies used by non-English department students to comprehending English text” to know the difficulties and strategies used by non-English department students in comprehending English text.

Delimitation of the Problem

The research focuses only on identifying the difficulties and strategies encountered by non-English department students in comprehending text at a private university in Yogyakarta. Firstly, the researcher focuses on investigating the difficulties which non-English department students have faced in comprehending text. Secondly, the researcher focuses on finding out the strategies used by the students of non-English department to overcome their difficulties in reading comprehending text.

Research Questions

This research is intended to answer the following questions:

1. What are the difficulties faced by non-English department students in comprehending English text?
2. What are the strategies used by non-English department students to overcome the difficulties in reading comprehending text?

Objectives of the Study

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

1. to find out the difficulties faced by non-English department students in comprehending text.
2. to find out the strategies used by non-English department students to overcome the difficulties in reading comprehending text.

The Significances of the Study

This research aims to give positive advantages for some parties such as students, teachers, and other researchers.

For the students. From this research, the students can know the difficulties faced by non-English department students in comprehending text. By knowing the difficulties in reading comprehension text, the students can use the provided strategies to overcome their reading comprehension well. Also, it can help the students in establishing what strategies proper to their problems.

Therefore, regarding the research results, the students are able to have the intention to improve their ability on reading comprehension. The students might find other strategies to face their difficulties in reading through this research.

For the teachers. This research is expected to give the benefits for the teachers who want to develop the students' reading skill especially in reading comprehension. This research can be a base input for the teachers to teach their students about some strategies to overcome problems in comprehending text. The results of this research also can be a base evaluation for teachers to compare with strategies which they teach in the class whether it is appropriate or not. Besides, this research can be useful for the teachers as a reflection to their teaching.

For other researchers. The researcher hopes that the results of this study can be the base knowledge for other researchers when conducting the same research theme in the future. Also, hopefully, the other researchers can find the interesting issues for future research in the same topic as this study. Besides, the other researchers can use the findings of this research as the theoretical overview of further research on the same topic and might become recommendation of further research. Therefore, by conducting this research, it can also encourage the researchers to conduct the researches related to the same area of this research.

Outline of the Study

This research consists of five chapters which explain an overview of each research chapter. The first chapter presents the introduction of the research. In introduction, there are six parts namely background of the study, statement of the problem, delimitation of the research, research question, objective of the research, significance of the research and outline of the research.

The second chapter of the research is a literature review. This chapter provides all the information and basic theory which cover a topic discussion English speaking skill. In the literature review, it highlights some theories related to this research. Besides, this chapter two covers reading, reading comprehension, reading comprehension difficulties, reading comprehension strategies, non-English department students and conceptual framework. In the following of the chapter two, it includes the review of related studies.

Chapter three discusses research methodology. This chapter gives illustration of how this research was conducted and how the data were collected.

Besides, this chapter three consists six parts of methodology namely research design, research setting which was held in one of private university in Yogyakarta, research participant which consist of four participants , data collection method, data collection procedure, and data analysis.

Chapter four discusses the research finding and discussion. This chapter provides the detailed information about the data gathered from the conducted research and analysis of the data. Besides, the researcher also relates the finding to the relevant literature reviews or theories provided in this research to be the discussion of the research.

Chapter five includes the conclusion and recommendation. In this chapter, researcher presents the conclusion of the research finding related to the research problems. In addition, this chapter contains the suggestion for some parties related to this research.