

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

English is one of the languages used by people to interact with each other. As one of the international languages, English is used and learned much by people in the world. English is the first foreign language in Indonesia and taught in elementary schools to universities.

The function of English is as a medium through which students can improve their abilities in science, technology, art and culture. So they will not feel confident when they associate in society.

In addition, reading becomes a subject matter in English Education Department of State Islamic University (UIN) Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung. Based on the researcher's experience, students in this department get five reading subject matters in five semesters with ten credit hours.

Reading is the understanding of the text that should be read by students. As Brown (1994:217) says, "for almost six decades now research and practice in English language teaching has identified the 'four skills'-listening, speaking, reading and writing- as of paramount importance".

According to Kenji Mariguchi (1967:50), foreign language in Japan is more emphasized on reading comprehension and translation skill than other teaching skill-composition or speaking (Yusuf, 1994:39). Reading is important to

understanding the meaning of the text because many students have lack of skill to understand the reading project.

Without reading, students cannot understand what the contents are and will make the students confused with text. Therefore to know the significant strategies of the reading in the English text, the writer tries to explore the English from this years to know other strategies of the reading in the classrooms.

Based on the above discussion and phenomena, the researcher intends to conduct a research as a final project of the university. The research entitled: **“ANALYZING THE STUDENTS’ READING STRATEGIES IN ENHANCING READING COMPREHENSION SKILL”**. This research is expected to give solution to students to comprehend the difficulties in reading and the strategies that the students have when they read the English text of the reading project.

B. Statement of Research Problems

There are several questions in the research that should be answered as follows:

1. What difficulties do student encounter in reading?
2. What readings strategies are used to enhance reading comprehend?

C. The Purposes and Significances of the Research

1. The Purpose of the Research

Based on the statements of problem above, there are three purposes of this research, as follows:

1. To explore the difficulties encountered by students in reading.
2. To find out appropriate strategies to enhance reading comprehend.

2. The Significances of the Research

This study is expected to offer solutions to the difficulties in reading. It is also expected to give benefits to English student and other researcher who are interested in reading the English text. The student could get useful knowledge to improve their reading performance, while the other researchers could conduct further study in reading.

D. Rationale

Philosopher from German, Schopenhauer (in Hernowo, 2004:35) argues, *“reading is the same as thinking by using other’s mind not our mind”*. By reading we are able to get inside to other’s mind and adding other’s argumentation and experience inside ourselves. We add ideas by mixing vision, value, motivation and perspective to continuing creativity product.

Reading is the first step to get the science. By reading we can know everything. One of advertisement in Indonesia television said that: *“let’s see the world by read”*. This invitation is most appropriate for us, because reading mean adding the science/knowledge, consciously or unconsciously that Indonesian

peoples are more left behind in science and education than other country. Further more, by the invitation in the advertisement above let's read everything more and more, in order we can to see the world. Allah has said in holly Qur'an namely: Al-Alaq epistle, Verse 1.

أَقْرَأْ بِأَسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ ﴿١﴾

As Brian Harrison (1985:17) states, that “whereas learning English as a foreign language is that learning it is not used for any rational purpose, but used for international purpose”.

Michigan Reading Association (1985) says that reading is the process of constructing meaning through the dynamic interaction among the reader's existing knowledge, the information suggested by the written language, and the context of the reading situation. Additionally, there are following four general purposes of reading:

- To gain information
- To perform a task
- To experience and enjoy literature
- To form opinions

In her book, Triliin (1980: 91) states that if one skill is needed in collage, it is reading. Students know how to avoid mathematics, and they can reduce writing to the barest necessity; but reading is something they can not avoid. Some of them have difficulty to predict and understand the text. Reading is transaction

between the text and the reader. As students read, they search for and construct meaning based on what they bring to the text and what the text brings to them.

Baker and Brown (1984) in Singhal (up date June 2006, accessible <http://www.readingmatrix.com/articles/singhal/2001>) state that in many first language studies, the use of various strategies has been found to be effective in improving students' reading comprehension.

E. Methodology

1. Research Method

The researcher will use descriptive-qualitative case study design. Basically, the case study intensively studies individual, which is considered experiencing a certain case (Sudjana and Ibrahim, 2001:69).

Moleong (2006:6) suggested that: Qualitative research is research which purpose to comprehend the phenomenon on what that faced by research subject, such as attitude, perception, motivation, action, and else holistically by using description in words or language on special context and natural and using several natural methods (*Penelitian kualitatif adalah penelitian yang bermaksud untuk memahami fenomena tentang apa yang dialami oleh subjek penelitian misalnya perilaku, persepsi, motivasi, tindakan, dan lain-lain secara holistic, dan dengan cara deskripsi dalam bentuk kata-kata dan bahasa, pada suatu konteks khusus yang alamiah dan dengan memanfaatkan berbagai metode alamiah*).

In other definition Surakhmad (1998:139) elaborates that: "Descriptive research directed on solving problems at presents which about several descriptive techniques. They are speech research, analysis, classification, survey techniques

research, interview, questionnaire, observation, or with test techniques; case study, comparative study, time and gestures study, quantitative analyze, cooperative study or operational (*Penelitian deskriptif tertuju pada pemecahan masalah yang ada pada masa sekarang yang mencakup berbagai teknik deskriptif. Diantaranya ialah penelitian yang menuturkan, menganalisa, dan mengklasifikasi, penelitian dengan teknik surfey, interview, angket, observasi, atau dengan teknik test; studi kasus, studi komparatif, studi waktu dan gerak, analisa kuantitatif, studi kooperatif atau operasional*).

Supported by Seliger and Shohamy (1989:125), the case study approach is used where the investigator is interested in describing some aspect of the second language performance or development of one or more subject as individuals, because it is believed that individual performance will be more revealing than studying large groups of subjects.

By applying this method, the researcher intends to describe and analyze the student's strategies in reading.

2. Research Setting

This research will take place in English Education Department the Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teachers Training at State Islamic University Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung.

3. Participants

In this research, the researcher will take five ten of all from students in English Education Department. This sample are taken based on the purposeful sampling or criterion-based selection that all things such as people, background, setting and special events can give importance information (Alwasilah, 2002:146).

In deciding the participant of this study, the researcher does not ignore the principles of population and sample. In Arikunto's perception (1996:120) if the participants are less than 100, it is better to take population research. But if the participant are large (more than 100), it may be taken 10%-15% or 20%-25%.

4. Data Collecting Procedure

According to Lofland and Lofland (1984:47) as cited by Meleong (1999:112) the primary data source in qualitative research is words and actions. Therefore, the data of this research will be collected using some instruments. They are observation and questionnaire. Besides, the researcher will also use some literature sources. It is accordance with Surakhmad (1982:251) that explains, "The equipment of the researcher in every science field will not be perfect if it is not be equipped with literature facilities".

In collecting the data for this research, the writer will use the specific instruments and techniques. They are:

a. Questionnaire

To make complete data, the writer needs to know more the other factors about respondents. Arikunto (1998: 140) says that questionnaire is some question to respondents for getting information, in this term is about his/her privacy or about the things that he/she knows.

The questionnaire technique is needed in this research to know more about respondents' English education background, their difficulties, their reading habit and the information of their strategies for reading.

b. Interview

As the complementary tool for getting data, the writer will use the interview technique. Base on Djojuroto, et al (2004: 46), they state that interview is data collecting technique which is used by researcher or writer for getting oral explanation through conversation and faced by interviewee who can give information to interviewer or researcher. This interview can be used for completing data through observation. Besides using the observation, this research also uses interview, which is addressed to students of English Education Department in order to complete information and data that the writer needs.