CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

English is needed to enter every part of field in this era. If we want to go abroad, we do not need to study many languages, we just require studying English well. English is used widely as a lingua franca for purposes of commerce and science, because English has truly achieved the status of a world language (Blake, 1996: 1). It is used in all wide business. It must be admitted that the imports products like food, beverage, cosmetic, transportation, technology and newspaper are advertised and labeled in English. We should be able to translate the instruction first. Then, we know how to use or what it delivered. This fact implies that people all over the world, including Indonesian should master English for several purposes. For Indonesian, English is learned mainly for development or relation with other nations. The function of English becomes a medium or means to get information from a foreign language. Then, people can improve their ability in science and technology so that they will not be neglected in their society.

Moreover, there are many factual informations in internet. Most of internet use English then, we must read to understand the language. This is
the second reason why we need a translation. Translation becomes a medium function to understand a language.
There are many linguists try to clarify about translation. Brislin told (Nababan, 1999: 19) translation is a general term that refers to the transfer of thoughts or ideas from a source language into the target language. According to Nababan (1999: 54) there is no language that has the same system, whether in terms of syntactic, lexical and morpheme structures. From that statement, translation is not an easy thing to do, it is caused by two factors. First, English and Indonesian have different system or structure. The different structure causes some problems in the work of translation. The difference can be seen in the following examples a student translates “kemarin mereka tidak membeli pulpen” into “they is not buying pen yesterday.”, while the student only knows that ‘tidak membeli’ is ‘is not buying’ thus, the student has difficulty translating that sentence because he or she does not know how to use the correct verb in the content. In Indonesian, there is no different way to make verb in a sentence. However, in English there is a different way to make verb in a sentence suitable with the time. Thus, a translator has to control the different system of the two languages. Second is not all students like reading, since they have low need. Then, they become lazy to read. As a follow up, translating Jakarta Post’ article can be an additional alternative from their commitment in learning English. Then, teacher must use a correct material in English language teaching.

Actually in selecting teaching materials, teachers are faced by two choices that are authentic or unauthentic. However, the writer will focus on authentic material. Authentic materials refer to materials made not for
learning purposes, for example articles from newspapers, songs and movies in English. The advantages of authentic teaching materials are interesting and appropriate functions, such as articles from newspapers or movies. Both are intended not for learning but as works of art that are entertaining and reality friendly. And the function of authentic teaching materials is to stimulate students to move to a higher level of ability. We can find the topic according to the level of students and the field of study. For students of English department can be possed topics related to education, politic, healthy and lifestyle. Despite the high language level used, it is better to use authentic teaching materials in the process of English language teaching, because students will be exposed to language users, not only for communication needs in the classroom but also for field communication needs with native speakers.

For this reason, translation hold an essential role in English language teaching. Since translation is important, it is also studied in University level, especially at the English Department. Many students have to face some practical works of translating text. The general objective of this subject is to add students’ knowledge of translation theory and help them achieve the skill in translating text either English or Indonesian. From the both languages, they have different structure system, then it can make students face difficulties if they translate different pattern. However, in academic guidebook of English Education FKIP UMP, there are Structure one to four, word formation and Indonesian language subject which support it. By taking this subject for one
semester, students expected to be able to apply in other subjects especially
translating English references for thesis.

Based on the fact and theory above the writer is interested to investigate the study entitled “Students’ Difficulty in Translating Authentic Text”.
1.2. Previous Research

In arranging this proposal, the writer minds a previous research related to this research, that is thesis entitled “An Analysis of Students’ Difficulties in Translating Narrative Text”. The result from this research could be known that the students’ ability in narrative is still low in verbs. The similarities are on the skill and data analysis, whereas, the differences are on the case, method, instrument, indicators, participant and area determination.

1.3. Reason of Choosing the Topic

The use of newspaper in English language teaching class is more up to date than handbooks. Teachers and students can get a lot of new information, which make them motivated in classroom. Then, the writer determines some reasons of choosing this topics. They are as follow:

1.3.1. Seeking new knowledge from other language. As, translation is crucial part of human being so that they will be able in communication and understanding the language.

1.3.2. Getting more high vocabulary used from each different field such as education, politics, entertainment, healthy, and technology that included in Jakarta Post’s article.

1.3.3. Finding student’s difficulty in translating the article. Then, categorize them by coding so that the reader can know in which location students’ difficulty.
1.4. Statement of the Problem

The problem of the research which is formulated by the writer as follow

1.4.1. How far are students’ difficulties in translating authentic text focusing on lexical problems at English Department of Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto?

1.4.2. How far are the students’ difficulties in translating authentic text focusing on grammatical problems at English Department of Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto?

1.5. Aims of the Research

Based on the problem of research, the aim of this research as follow

1.5.1. To find the students’ difficulties in translating authentic text focusing on lexical problems at English Department of Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto.

1.5.2. To find the students’ difficulties in translating authentic text focusing on grammatical problems at English Department of Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto.

1.6. Clarification of the Terms

The title of this research is “Students’ Difficulty in Translating Authentic Text”. It is understandable for the writer and the readers. However, in order to avoid some misunderstandings, the writer tries to clarify the key terms to make the topic clearer. They are as follow:
1.6.1. Translation

What we need to emphasize is the difference between translate and translation. Translate is the process then, the result of the process is translation. According to Nababan (1999: 18), the term translation refers to the transfer of a written message. Thus, the message delivered from source language to target language in the form of writing. Or, it is a result that carries out message from source language with equivalent word, grammar and naturalness meaning of target language.

1.6.2. Student’s Difficulty

The term of student’s difficulty consists of two words, student and difficulty. Student is one who is studying in school, university, or some other places in higher education. While, difficulty is a thing or situation that causes problems (Oxford, 2010: 406). It also refers to an not easy thing or situation. Hence, the term of student’s difficulty means one who gets a problem and finds a not easy situation in his study. He must do a lot of effort. However, it is good we appreciate the difficulty rather than be afraid of it. Difficulty is an inevitable part of life and it is very crucial for success then, the students must face it positively so they can minimize it. Here, the students’ difficulties in translating authentic text mean the problem in transferring written messages in target language.

In this research, there are two terms of the difficulty variable defined operationally. First is the students’ difficulties in translating authentic text focusing on lexical problem mean that the students’
difficulty in translating English text into Indonesian lexically. In other words, the lexical difficulties mean the difficulties in translating English text into Indonesian concerning with the meaning of the word in the dictionary. Second is the students’ difficulty in translating authentic text focusing on grammatical problems mean that the problem in translating English text into Indonesian grammatically. The grammatical difficulties means that the difficulties in translating English text into Indonesian concerning with grammar and structure of the sentence.

1.6.3. Authentic Text

Connected with authentic materials, there are many texts written by native English speakers which purposed them and non-native speakers. Authentic is something known to be real and genuine and not copy (Oxford, 2010: 83). So, authentic is a reliable writing because it is trusted from the source, real, and legitimate. While, text is a main printed part of a book or magazine. Text is an any form of written material or the written form of a speech, a play, an article, etc. (Oxford, 2010: 1544). The term can also include songs, web pages, radio, television broadcasts, films, leaflets, posters and newspaper. The writer chooses newspaper as it is used to teach in Translation and Reading subject.

Newspaper is a printed written material especially article which is trusted, genuine and legitimate. The article quoted from newspaper which is published periodically whose purpose is to tell the recent report.
1.6.4. Jakarta Post’s Article

Jakarta Post is a daily English newspaper which is published in Indonesia. It is oriented in several various fields or topics. In this investigation, the writer uses article cited in Jakarta Post. While the term of article, means a piece of writing in newspaper or magazine (Cambridge Learner’s Dictionary; 2007).

1.7. Contribution of the Research

The contribution of this research are:

1.7.1. This research results will be useful as an input for the English translation teacher dealing with translation teaching learning process. For example, if the students still make many mistakes in translation, the teacher should give more practical exercises to students. Hence, they will be familiar in translating text from source language into target language.

1.7.2. This research result will be useful as an input to other researchers who want to conduct research in the similar topics with different case. For example, a survey research about an analysis of students’ difficulties in translating narrative text. This research expected to provide information and comparison for the next investigation.

1.7.3. This research expected to give additional knowledge for students to develop their ability in translating English text into Indonesia.