CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides a brief description about the content of the study including background of the Research, reason for choosing the topic, the problem of the research, the aims of the research, contribution of the research, and clarification of terms.

A. Background of the Research

English is generally taught in the four skills, namely listening, speaking, reading and writing. At all levels of education, reading is a priority that must be mastered students. Considered to be an important life skill to have for survival in our modern life, and thus, a foundational skill for academic success (Pugh, Pawan et al., 2000). Students are benefitted from their reading habits and preferences. In reading, students will be easier to digest and obtain information in English language learning such as grammar and increase vocabulary. Through reading, students can understand the message and meaning of a text. Reading requires reading habits and preferences.

Reading habit is necessary, by reading the students will acquire a variety of information that has not previously been obtained. Reading habits can be developed because reading is a skill acquired after a person birth, not an innate skill. Tampubolon (1990: 2280) reading habit is reading activity which has become ingrained. Students who are accustomed to reading will
own or control the new vocabulary words that can make it easier to understand the reading. A habit is a product of learning and reading habits are activities of reading done routinely, consciously and intentionally (Iftanti, 2012 in Priajana Nana). This view shows that readers are required to rehearse their reading to become a good habit. Without much practice or habit of reading, each person can be believed to have not good reading skills as well.

More often read more vocabulary that students get in a reading.

In reading habits, choosing books according to personal interests raises students’ level of motivation on study. According to Ray Williams’s (1986), the learners choose what they want to read. Learners can select texts as they expect to understand, to enjoy or to learn from. There are many types of readings that students can read both fiction and nonfiction. It is recommended to encourage a desire to read and the texts should be varied and based on the purposes for which the students want to read for instances, books, magazines, newspapers, fiction, non-fiction, texts that inform, texts that entertain, general, specialized, light, or serious (Tamrackitkun, 2010 in Priajana Nana). When students have a preference in reading, students are more motivated to read and increasing the reading habits of a student, it can help children become excited about learning, to help build an interest in reading, and may help teachers focus the student’s attention on a lesson.

Reading is necessary skills to more easily understand the English language material. Students who likes read will not have difficulty in following the teaching and learning process in the classroom. One implication
of the reading habits and preferences is the acquisition of a more optimal learning achievement. Student achievement materialized because students have the motivation to learn and practice the students' reading habits and preferences of students. So the researcher is interested in doing a survey on this subject, because not all students have a reading habits and preferred type of reading material.

B. Reasons for Choosing the Topic

In accordance with the background of the study, the reasons for choosing the topic are follows:

1. Reading is one of the English skills which is very important to the students. It is the main source that students can easily access in enlarging their knowledge and their English ability.

2. Reading habits is reading activity can increase their knowledge. More read more knowledge to be obtained. Reading repeatedly some literatures makes learners get some point of views. Help raise awareness on the role of reading toward the achievement of academic success.

3. Reading preferences, every person have different interesting to read a book. It can improve students' reading habits.

C. The Problems of the Research

Based on the background, the research questions presented in this study are formulated as follows:
1. Are the fourth semester students of English Education Department of Teacher Training Education Faculty of University of Muhammadiyah Purwokerto having reading habit or not?

2. What types of reading materials are preferred by the fourth semester students of English Education Department of Teacher Training Education Faculty of University of Muhammadiyah Purwokerto?

D. The Aim of the Research

There is objective to be achieved according to the formulation of the problem:

1. To portray that the fourth semester students of English Department of Teacher Training Education Faculty of University of Muhammadiyah Purwokerto have or not reading habits.

2. To find out the types of reading materials of students’ preferences.

E. Contribution of research

There are some advantages that hopefully could be gained from this study:

1. The result of this study can be useful input for teachers and the students themselves to motivate the students’ reading habits.

2. The result of this study can be useful input for teachers and the students themselves to choose reading preferences.
3. The result of this study can be useful input for teachers, library and English Corner in University of Muhammadiyah Purwokerto to facilitate students to read.

4. The result of the study can inspire other researchers who have interest in the similar research.

F. Clarification of Terms

The title of this research is “Reading Habits and Preferences as a English Foreign Language”

The title is quiet clear for the writer and perhaps for the readers, for everyone who is acquainted with scientific research. It is customary to limit the terms to avoid misunderstanding.

1. Reading habits

In the Webster, Reading is the act of looking at printed words and understanding or comprehending what they are saying, or the act of saying those words out loud or of interpreting those words.

Habit means a disposition or involuntary tendency to act constantly in a certain manner, acquired by frequent repetition. It can be said that reading habit is to look at printed words and understanding or comprehending constantly in a certain manner, acquired by frequent repetition.
2. Reading preference

In the oxford learner pocket dictionary, reading means to look at and able to understand something written or printed.

In the oxford dictionary, preference means a thing preferred. So reading preference is to look at and able to understand something written or printed preferred.