

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

For language students such as those who learn English as a foreign language, reading is a subject they have to take as it is one of the compulsory subjects in their curriculum. Students who major in English teaching have bigger responsibility because they learn how to read not only for themselves but also for their future students. Reading is one of the important roles in learning English. Through reading students will learn many things from language such as rapid word recognition, vocabulary development, text-structure awareness, and strategic reading. That is confirmed by Grabe & Stoller (2002), "Reading has highlighted the need for readers to develop essential reading processes and abilities". It can be concluded that reading is very beneficial for students, because it can increase not only their reading skill but also their knowledge.

In English department, reading is one of the subject matters that the student should comprehend. By reading, students can get many benefits are the increase of their vocabularies, grammatical pattern that used in a text. Beside that they can also improve the other skills in English such as listening, writing, and speaking. At the end they can get information or new knowledge after reading.

In learning reading, the students are required to understand the text to get the information. They are not required to understand each individual part of

the sentence or paragraph, but they should understand the message the writer is trying to convey. Reading is a very complex process, according to Anderson (2009):

“Reading is a very complex process. It requires a high level of muscular coordination, sustained effort and concentration. Reading is more than just visual task. Not only must the reader use and identify the symbols in front of her but also he must interpret what he reads in the light of her background knowledge, associate it with past experience and project beyond their in term of ideas, judgments, application and conclusion”.

Furthermore, Oberholzer (2005) said that “understanding what we are reading is far more important to us than knowing the mechanical skill of reading. Without understanding, reading would serve no purpose.” It means that understanding text is the goal of reading skill that should be achieved by the students in each levels of the language learning process.

In reading text, there are so many various texts which can be taught to the students. Such as descriptive text, report text, procedure text, narrative text, recount text, etc. But, those texts are usually used in Junior and Senior High School or in the first semester until fourth semester at the collage. In English Language Education Department UMP used different texts. That text is more challenging to read for students. As we know that collage students has begun to grow up and the level of reading must also be increasing and challenging. The text that lecturer assigned to students is the articles from Jakarta Post.

In reading context, Jakarta Post texts play an important role in teaching and learning process. A good text should contain knowledge and information that should be beneficial in order to develop student’s reading skill. The Jakarta

post has become one of the sources of text for students to read, because in the Jakarta post texts not only get new vocabularies but also can get information about hot news in the world. Students can get many benefits by reading Jakarta post texts. The Jakarta post is a daily English newspaper in Indonesia.

In reading process of Jakarta post texts, every student has different perception in understanding the text which is given by lecturer. It is important to know students' perception on this. By having a good perception, the students will be motivated to read Jakarta post texts or other texts. They have curiosity about the content in the text which is given by lecturer in reading class. Certainly, student's knowledge and vocabulary will be good as well if they have a good reading habit and the students will get high score in reading class.

Based on this previous explanation, the researcher wants to know about the student's perception on reading Jakarta post texts. It becomes a reason why the researcher interested in conducting a research entitled **“Students' Perception on Reading Jakarta Post Texts (A Descriptive Study at eight semester students in English Language Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto in Academic Year 2018\2019)”**.

B. Reason for Choosing the Topic

The reason why the researcher choose a title Students' Perception on Reading Jakarta Post Texts at eight semester in Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto is because as we know Jakarta post texts is one of the material that used in reading class of English Language Education Department UMP. But,

the researcher chooses one semester that is eight semester. Reading is one of language skill that has to be learned and mastered by students in learning English. The researcher selects the Jakarta Post Texts as a data source because several reasons. First, it is printed media that can be long life and person can see anytime they want, that easy for them to know the newest news in the world. Second, it is published with native.

Based on the Jakarta post text which is given by the lecturer, certainly each student has their own opinion and each student has different perception about Jakarta Post text. Students who have good perception, they can be motivated to read the Jakarta post texts. So, the researcher wants to know about the perception of each student.

C. Problem of Study

Based on the background of the study the researcher can formulate the problem of this research as follow:

“What is the Students’ perception on the reading Jakarta post texts?”

D. Aim of Study

Based on the formulation of the problem above, the aim of this study can be seen as follow:

“To know about students’ perception on reading Jakarta post texts”

E. Clarifications of Study

To understand the items clearly, the terms of the study are clarified as follow:

1. Students Perception

a. Students

The definition of "student" once was "one who studies something". Today it can mean merely "one who attends a school, college or university". This modern definition doesn't even suggest that the person does more than "attend". College and university professors still use the first definition, and schools have ways (such as course requirements, exams and grades) to attempt to ensure that those who attend will also study and learn something.

As we know that students is a person who comes to their school to learn something new. As Hornby (1995:1187) said that "Student is a person who studies for degree, diploma etc., at University or some other places or higher education or technical training". It means that the students come to school because they want to get something new.

b. Perception

People hear, taste, see, or feel stimuli by means of sense. This process occurs spontaneously and enables people to construct, interpret, and make conclusions about information they obtain. This is what is called perception. Perception is defined as a process of making inferences. Through inferences, people can construct their own vision of reality

which may be distorted by past experiences, education, cultural values, and role requirements.

Talking about perception, Desiderato in Rakhmat (2005:1) defines “perception as an experience about an object, event, or relationship that is gained by concluding information and interpreting messages”. Furthermore, Slameto (2010:102) defines “perception is a process that concerns the inclusion of a message or information to the human brain, through human perception in constant contact senses, the senses of sight listener, touch, taste, and smell”.

It can be concluded that perception is a process which start from the sense of organ. That is a process related to acceptance of message or information by human brain. It will be led to a certain nature of human being that his/her psychology feature.

2. Reading Jakarta Post Texts

Reading Jakarta post refers to any texts or passage that bring certain messages or ideas to be shared to the readers through the process of reading activity. As a skill, reading is clearly one of the most important skills in many instances around the world. According to Harmer (1998:68) “reading is a model of language, reading text provides opportunities to study language such as; vocabulary, grammar, punctuation and the way to construct sentence, paragraph and text”. From the explanation before, it means that reading is one of important skill that should be mastered and learned by students.

In English language department, the students learn reading in each semester since it is the basic skill of English. Each semester will learn the different text of reading. In this research, the researcher takes the eight semester students as a subject of the research.

F. Contribution of Study

Hopefully, this research will give beneficial contribution in English teaching and learning process especially in reading class. The beneficial contributions are:

1. To the English Lecturer

The researcher hopes that the result of this research will give clear information to the English lecturer about the students' perception on reading Jakarta post texts.

2. To the Students

Students will be more motivated to read a lot of texts through Jakarta Post.

3. To the Other Researchers

The researcher hopes that this research will provide clear information about the typical factors of students' perceptions in reading Jakarta post texts at the eight semester of English Language Education Department UMP in the academic year 2018/2019. The researchers also hope that this research can be a motivation for other researchers to be better in the future.