

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of Research

There are many ways that people usually do to get some information. Some of them use audio-visual equipments for example: television and radio and the others get from written forms such as news papers, books and internet. However, it is common difficult to comprehend when the information comes from printed media, so that it needs a skill called reading that is an activity that is used in getting some information from the written form. It is also one of English skills that is important to be learned. Having reading competence makes us easy to get information from those articles.

Many reading classes recently have provided the learners materials that come from articles in magazine. Actually, it is good thing that the learners can both study the text and get knowledge. Sometimes, it will become the problem when the articles are not appropriate for the learners. The appropriateness itself means that it should not only be knowledgeable but also interesting. Kinzer and Leu (1987: 336) explain that each set of inflectional materials reflects a specific set of assumptions about how one reads and how reading ability develops. It can be said that the material in reading class is important to build the learners skill of reading. Even if the students have a good achievement in reading subject, they

need to maintain the achievement by always having good perception about the materials that they learn.

There is a research about the correlation between perception and students' academic achievement in supporting this research. Ming and Holcombe (2010) from Harvard University held a research about adolescents' perception of their school. The research examined the relationships among middle school students' perceptions of school environment, school engagement, and academic achievement. The results found that students' perceptions of school environment influenced their academic achievement directly and indirectly through the three types of school engagement. Specifically, students' perceptions of school characteristics in seventh grade influenced their school participation, identification with school, and use of self-regulation strategies in eighth grade that occurred there in and, in turn, influenced students' academic achievement in eighth grade.

Based on the research mentioned previously, it is needed to know the perceptions of the students in English Department students at Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto particularly on the 5th semester students. Their perceptions reflected whether the materials are appropriate or not for them. Therefore, a research entitled "English Department Students' Perception of Reading Material Used in English Department of Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto" was conducted to observe the students' perception of reading material.

B. The Reason of Choosing the Topic

The reasons of choosing topic are described as follows:

1. Material is very important in order to help the students in studying reading.

Therefore, it is needed a research to know the students' perception about reading material.

2. Perception can motivate the students at reading Class. When they have good perception about the material, they will be interested on it so it is possible that they will work harder.

C. The Statements of Problems

To make an analysis of the problems, the statement of the problem of the study can be formulated as follows:

“What are the perceptions of English Department students of reading material used in English Department of Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto?”

D. The Aims of Research

The aim of the study is intended to know the students' perception about reading materials that are taught in English Department of Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto.

E. The Contribution of Research

This research is expected to give contribution in English teaching and learning process especially in reading class:

1. To the Lecturer
 - a. The lecturer can evaluate their teaching in reading class
 - b. The lecturer can modify the material in order to be suitable with the students
2. For the Students
 - a. The students will be motivated and interested in reading class so their score will be good.
 - b. The students will be more creative if the lecturers give them a chance to find their own material.

F. Clarification of Terms

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

1. Perception

Perception is a process which starts from the sense of organ. That is a process related to acceptance of message or information by human brain (Sudarno, 2001: 53).

2. Reading Material

Reading materials are subject to analysis as observed in different phases of planning and implementation and with different purposes: formative, summative, and developmental, to mention but a few (Tignanelli, 2007: 25).

