

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Reading Material

1. The Definition of Reading

There are many definitions of reading because some experts have their own definitions in order to deliver their thought about reading based on their points of view. Leu and Kinzer (1987: 9) states that all definitions of reading are personal based on one's view of how one reads and how reading ability develops. There is no problem if the definitions are different each others. Arriving the meaning is considered the goal of reading. The definition of reading is only a guide and must change as our knowledge of the reading process grows. Some of the definitions of Reading have been stated as follows:

Reading comes from the word "read" which means to look and understand the meaning of written or printed material (Hornby, 1995: 598). Rumelhart in Leu and Kinzer (1987:9) also states that reading is the process of understanding written language. It means that people can get any information by understanding the words in a text. Grellet (1987: 7) defines that reading is constant process of guessing, and what one thing to the text is often more information than one finds in it. Even in a small passage, people can get much information because the assumptions of one another are different. There will be much knowledge for the

readers if they do reading activity. Reading is a developmental, interactive, and global process involving learned skills. The process especially in corporate an individual's knowledge, and, can be both positively influenced by nonlinguistic internet and external variable and factor (Leu and Kinzer, 1987: 9).

Goodman in Leu and Kinzer (1987:9) notes reading is psycholinguistic guessing game. It involves an interaction between thought and language. Efficient reading does not result from precise perception and identification of elements, but from skill in selecting the fewest, most productive cues necessary to produce guesses which are right the first time.

It can be concluded that reading is a skill to find and understand the meaning of written form materials such as texts or articles in order to get some information.

2. The Definition of Material

Materials are some components that are arranged to make something. It is having a logical connection with a subject matter or the consequential events or facts, or the knowledge of which would significantly affect a decision or course of action. It means that material is such kind of things that is needed for a subject to be mastered. Material means information such as facts and figures, to be used in a book, composition, report, etc. (Webster: 1957). This case is the same as the knowledge that can be gotten in learning a subject. Studying the material will

make the students have much knowledge and information, so they are doubtful about the subject. Reading material is very important because it is an equipment to help students in reading class.

3. The Importance of Reading Material

Reading materials are important because the students need them to be studied. Tignanelli (2007: 25) said that 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. For the current investigation, the purpose of evaluation is merely summative, the results obtained are meant to inform decisions on the implementation of materials for classroom use. Reading material becomes important because it influences the quality of the learners skill and interest. By knowing the assumptions behind a set of instructional material will enable them to select materials that are more consistent with their framework or to modify materials to more closely fit the homework (Leu and Kinzer, 1987: 336). Moreover, Leu and Kinzer (1987: 375) think that considering the ideal situation where teachers find their comprehension frameworks to be totally consistent with materials of instruction. It may be that the teachers made the final decision themselves or, more likely, it may be that the district's decision is entirely consistent with their particular comprehension framework. In either case, it is important to recognize that these teachers must still adapt the instructional materials selected. A number of decisions must be made each day about how the best engage the students learning activities.

The students actually are able to get good achievement from their good perception about the subject especially the material that is given by the lecturer. Reading material becomes very important because it correlates the perception and the achievement when the students will probably get high score by having good perception.

B. Perception

1. The Definition of Perception

Talking about perception, it will be led to a certain nature of human being that is his/her psychology feature. According to some experts, there are some definitions of perceptions. Jalaludin (1999: 51) says that perception is the experience of the object, incident or the relation which comes from the conclusion of information and to interpret the meaning. 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). It can be said that during the process, a person continually interact with his/her environment. In the interaction, five senses are used. Those are vision, hearing, taste, smell and touch. The subject sees, hears, tastes, smells, and touches things around. Those things may give stimulation. Then, the brain registers the stimuli and sends them to nervous system. By some experts, this process is called sensation. The next processes are thinking, analyzing, and reasoning in order to achieve the meaning of the object. In line with the process, it can be described that perception is the process by which a person brain arrives at meaningful interpretation of stimuli.

The perception's process happens when our senses are used to start the process of stimulating which is called sensation. It is a part of perception. It is based the opinion stated by Bernstein (1988: 81) who defines perception is the process by taking raw sensation from environment and interpreting them using knowledge and understanding of the world, so that they become meaningful experiences. It explains that the students who have their perception about something will decide whether it is appropriate and interesting. They will do the same to the reading material if they have known that the material is good, it means that they already have a good perception about it. By having that, the student will be sure that they are studying the useful/meaningful material for their subject. The students will not let the meaningful thing to be abandoned.

Mahmud (1994: 41) says perception as the direct stimuli from receiving information, or the process of person to know the phenomenon from their five senses. Thus, he stated that we receive everything around us by our five senses. The process is called sensing. Our perception toward his word is not only the result from our process of sensing, but there is also an interpretation toward the receiving stimuli. The stimuli will make us think about our environment.

Koentjoroningrat (1983: 42) explained that perception is the realization of human brain process and it appears as a view about the phenomenon. From the definition, we think that perception is the process of human thinking about certain phenomenon after they get a conclusion about it.

Based on such thought, Davidov in Walgito (1997: 55) says perception as a complex process that depends on both surrounding world and perceiver. Chaplin (1971: 143) states that perception is a process of recognizing an object or an event through senses added by previous experiences.

In more systematic way, Walgito (1989: 75) divides factors that affect one's perception into two. They are as follows:

a. Internal factors

Internal factor is a factor which comes from an individual. It depends on psychological factors such as: thought, feeling, willingness, need, sex, attention, and motivation. Every human being has different characteristic and temperament shaped by individuals' family and environment.

It is a factor which comes from internal insides. This factor is divided into two factors. Those are physical factors and psychological factor.

1) Physical factors

a) Health factor

Health means that the people are in good conditions in which our body is free from disease. Learning process will be disturbed if someone suffers from disease. In order to make the students study well, they must keep their health by regularly exercising, sleeping, resting, and eating nutritious foods.

b) Physical defect

It is something causing our body uncompleted. It can be a problem disturbing their way to study. For example: blind, deaf, etc. if it happens, they must study in a special school or using a tool to help them study.

2) Psychological factor

These factors consist of the students' intelligence, attention, interest, aptitude, motive, and readiness in receiving the materials.

a) Intelligence

Intelligence is an importing factor in supporting the successful study. According to Chaplin adapted by Slameto (1995: 55) states that intelligence is the ability that consists of three kinds, those are the ability to meet and adapt the novel situations quickly and effectively, and the ability to utilize abstract concept effectively, and the ability to grasp relationships and to learn quickly.

b) Attention

It is the soul of activity. The students' attention to what their teachers teach will make the result of their study.

c) Interest

According to Highlard quoted by Slameto (1995: 57), the meaning of interest is persisting to pay attention and enjoy some activities and contents. Interest has a big influence to the learning process because if the lesson learnt is not appropriate with the students' interest, they will not study well. Lesson

material attracting students' interest will be easier to be learnt and remembered because interest supports the learning activities.

d) Aptitude

It is the ability to learn. The ability will be realized to the obvious skill after they learn. The aptitude will develop if somebody gets good chance to study and to get enough facility. It is the important factor in studying and it influences their achievement of their study.

e) Motive

James Drever in Slameto (1995: 58) states that motive is an effective connective factor which operates in determining the direction of individual's behavior towards an end or goal.

f) Readiness

James Drever in Slameto (1995: 59) states that readiness is prepared to respond or to react. If the students are ready to study, the result will be good.

Rather, Moskowitz, and Orgel in Walgito (1997: 54) explain that perception is a complex process. They divide the processes into three. Those are Physical, Physiological, and psychological process. Physical Process is the process when an object arouses stimuli caught by receptor. This is actually what some expert call sensation. Physiological Process is the process when the stimuli are sent to the brain by sense organ. Psychological Process happens when the

brain processes the stimuli. Then the individual realizes what is received by his/her brain. They also say that perception can both support and dissolve someone's strength on the basis of one's feeling. As explained, good perception can build up people's desire than a bad one is able to give someone's pressured. That's why perception can correlate physical, physiological, and psychological of human being because their thought will influence the body.

b. External factors

This factor comes outside of the students. There are three factors. Here are the explanations.

1) Family factors

The different condition of the students in their family can establish their future education and how they will learn. In this case, parents must take care of their children intensively by giving motivation and helping them to develop their knowledge, skill, and ability in order to prepare themselves in the future, including some facilities at home that the students need in learning process. The factors coming from the family members, the condition of family, economic matter, the parents' affection, and cultural background are influencing the success of the teaching and learning process.

2) School factors

The school factors influencing the students are teaching method, curriculum, relationship between the students and the teacher, relationship among students, media, home work and school atmosphere.

3) Society factors

The factors are explained below:

a) Mass media

Parents must control their children in reading or watching film. For examples: books, radio, television, etc.

b) Friendship

A good relationship with their friend will support the students to study harder. A close friend also will motivate the students to study harder as well.

c) Society environment.

The bad society environment will influence them not to study.

From the definitions above, it can be said that perception is the way an individual understands, perceives and thinks of a concept that influence his/herself in doing something towards it.

2. The Importance of Students' Perception

Reading is a skill that enables readers to acquire knowledge and information from the text that they have read. Unfortunately, not all the readers have achieved the benefit of reading because of some difficulties. As Tampubolon (1987: 8) said that there are many problems which cause the readers cannot maximum result on what they have read, it can be uncovered in other way that the students will read the text passionately if they have good perception about it.

Ming and Holcombe (2010) in their research entitled *Adolescent' Perceptions of School Environment, Engagement, and Academic Achievement in Middle School* from Harvard University also found that students' perceptions of school environment influenced their academic achievement directly and indirectly through the three types of school engagement. It can be said that perception has an influence to make the students reach good achievement.

Having good perception of reading material may have the students gain the interest of what they read. Their interest of a text will get them habitually make good reading activity. By doing that, the students will read efficiently and effectively to find out the information and knowledge on what they read.

Perception can also be correlated with motivation. The students will be study seriously if they have motivation to learn. Hidayah (2007) in her thesis titled *The Use of Beauty and The Beast Illustrated Version as Narrative Reading Material* makes a statement that as a matter of fact motivation has strong effect on student success or failure in learning English. Students who are well motivated are more successful than those who are not.

Based on the research, it is considerate to say that the perception is important toward students reading skill. If the students have a good perception, they will be highly motivated to improve their reading skill.

C. Basic Assumption

Reading material is needed by both the lecturers and the students as a component in reading class. But, not all of them are appropriate for the students because their perception of reading material may be different from the lecturers that give them the material. This research has assumption that the students' perception toward reading materials used in English Department of Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto is appropriate for the students.

