

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Research

Reading plays an important role in learning English since it includes one of receptive skills besides listening. According to Grabe & Stoller (2002), reading is a complex cognitive process in which a reader decodes the symbols or printed messages into sounds. In brief, reading is a process in which people can get any information and knowledge by understanding the words in a text and change into sounds. In English Department, it is taught as a subject matter that should be comprehended by the students. By reading, students can get many benefits such as increase their list of vocabularies, know grammatical pattern that is used in a text, and improve the other skills in English such as listening, writing, and speaking. In reading text, so many various materials can be taught to the students. In reading context, material plays an important role in teaching and learning process. A good material should contain knowledge and information that should be beneficial in order to develop students' reading skill.

In learning process, every student has different perception in understanding the material which is given by the lecturer. Related with it, Moskowitz and Orgel in Walgito (2010:100) says perception is an integrated process within individual to the stimulus that is received by itself. In perception, stimulus come from individual itself both inside and outside. By having a good perception, the students will be motivated to read because they have curiosity about the content in the text which is given by the lecturer

during the reading class. Certainly, the students' knowledge will be good as well if they have a good reading habit and the students will get high score.

Based on my explanation above, the researcher wants to know the students' perception about reading materials. It becomes a reason why the researcher will conduct a research entitled "Students' Perception of Reading Material Used in Reading Class of the Fourth Semester Students of English Department of FKIP UMP in Academic Year 2016/2017".

B. Reason for Choosing the Topic

The reason why the researcher chooses a title "Students' Perception of Reading Materials Used in Reading Class of the Fourth Semester Students of English Department of FKIP UMP in Academic Year 2016/2017 is because reading is one of language skills that have to be learned and mastered by students in learning English. Based on the materials which is given by the lecturer, each student has different perception towards the reading material. Students who have good perception, they can be motivated to read the material. So, the researcher wants to know the perception of each student.

C. Problem of Research

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

1. What is the students' perception on the reading material used in class?
2. What is the dominant factor perception that is found in semester fourth toward reading class?

D. Aim of Research

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

1. To find out the students' perception about reading material used in class.
2. To find out the dominant factor of perception that is found in semester fourth toward reading class.

E. Clarification of Terms

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

1. Students Perception

a. Student

According to Hornby (1995:1187), student is a person who studies for degree, diploma etc., at University or some other places or higher education or technical training. In this research, the subject of the researcher is the fourth semester of English department at University of Muhammadiyah Purwokerto.

b. Perception

According to Slameto (2010:102) perception is a process that concern the inclusion of a message or information to the human brain, through human perception in constant contact with the environment. This relationship is done through the senses, the senses of sight, listeners, touch, taste, and smell.

2. Reading materials

Reading material refers to any texts or passages that bring certain message 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 texts provide opportunities to study language such as; vocabulary, grammar, punctuation and the way to construct sentence, paragraph and text. From the explanation above, it means that reading is one of important language that should be learned and mastered by students.

3. Reading class.

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

F. Research Contributions

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

1. To the English lecturer

The researcher hopes that the result of the research will give clear information to the English lecturer about the students' perception on reading material used in class.

2. To the Other Researcher

The present study gives clear information about typical factor of the students' perception on reading materials used in class at the fourth semester of English Department of FKIP Ump in Academic Year 2016/2017. Hopefully the other researcher can develop the study related to this one to be better in the future.

