

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

Mastery reading means that the students need to master components of reading, there are: main idea, supporting details, inferring meaning, passage structure, authors' aim, knowledge about certain vocabulary and defining vocabulary based on the context (Djiwandono, 2002:97). Mastery components of reading are very important because these components areas guide in comprehending texts. If the students can understand well all of the components of reading, they will have good reading ability.

In this research, the writer takes two components of reading comprehension. They are identifying main idea and supporting details. According to (Peterson, 2007: 33) the most valuable reading comprehension skill is probably the ability to determine the most things an author is saying, distinguish between essential and non essential information and between main idea and supporting details. Then (Elashhab, 2013: 125) the identification of main points is considered to be one of the basic skills in reading a text. A related skill is the ability to distinguish between main points and subsidiary points. Identifying the relationship between the main idea and supporting will improve students' comprehension.

In fact, a number of studies have indicated that many students lack proficiency in identifying main points and subsidiary points (Hudson, 2007) in (Elashhab, 2013:125). After finishing reading, some learners still face difficulties

in comprehending the texts and in answering comprehension questions. Then (Naidu, 2013: 60) stated that most English as a foreign language (EFL) learners face challenges in distinguishing key points in reading texts.

In English Education Department University of Muhammadiyah Purwokerto the students have sixth levels in learn about reading, start from reading 1, 2, 3, 4, Extended reading and extensive reading, in each theme of reading discuss different topic.

Based on the description above, the writer is interested in finding out how good is the students' ability and what are common problems in identifying main idea and supporting details by conducting a research entitled "Students' Ability and Problems in Identifying Main Ideas and Supporting Details in Reading Texts (A Descriptive Study on the Sixth Semester Students of English Education Department University of Muhammadiyah Purwokerto in the Academic Year 2015/2016).

## **B. Reason for Choosing the Topic**

Identifying main ideas and supporting details is one of important part of reading that should be mastered by students in reading texts. But the results of studies showed that students lack proficiency in identifying main points and subsidiary points. So, the writer wants to know the students' ability and the problems in identifying main ideas and supporting details in reading texts.

### **C. Statement of problem**

The problems of this research are:

1. Students' proficiency level in identifying main idea and supporting details in reading texts?
2. What are students' common problems faced in identifying main ideas and supporting details?

### **D. Aims of the Research**

The aims that the writer wants to reach in this research is to find out the ability and common problems of the sixth semester students of English Education Department in identifying main ideas and supporting details in reading text.

### **E. Clarification of the Term**

The title of this research is "Students' Ability and Problems in Identifying Main Ideas and Supporting Details in Reading Texts (A Descriptive Study on the Sixth Semester Students of English Education Department University of Muhammadiyah Purwokerto in the Academic Year 2015/2016)". The title above is understandable for the writer and the readers. However, in order to avoid misunderstanding or misinterpretation, the writer tries to clarify the key terms to make the topic clearer. They are as follows:

1. Students ability

The term of students' ability contains of two words, there are students' ability. Students are people who are studying in school or university. Ability is the state or condition of being able, attitude competence, capability, power

to do something, whether physical, mental, and legal, talent or acquired proficiency, power of the mind, mental gift to endowments (Pei, 1997:2).

## 2. Reading

Reading is a process carried out and used by a reader to acquire message that is conveyed by a writer through words or symbols, and the meaning of the words could be soon known by a reader, so the reading can be carried out well (Tarigan, 2008: 7).

## 3. Reading Problem

Problem is a situation or something which is uncertain and difficult to understand, problems or situation or statement which needs solving or something that should be solved (Aziez, 2009: 236). Reading problem is a learning disorder characterized by significant disparity between an individual's general intelligence and his or her reading skill.

## 4. Main idea and supporting details

### - Main idea

Main idea of a passage or reading text is the central thought or message. Main idea is the writer's idea about the topic which is formed by both the topic and idea. The topic refers to the subject under discussion; main idea refers to the point or thought being expressed (Mikulecky, 1996: 89).

- Supporting details

Supporting details is the details that explain, support and proof for the author's point; it might consist of examples, statistics, facts, anecdotes, or expert opinion (Dole, 2012: 79).

**F. Contribution of the Study**

1. This research is expected will give meaningful information about the students' ability and their problems in identifying main idea and supporting details.
2. This research is expected to encourage the lecturers to increase the students' motivation to be interested in reading.

