Chapter One

Introduction

In this chapter, the researcher discusses some aspects related to the topic that the researcher chose. This chapter includes the background of the study, the identification of the problem, the delimitation of the problem, the research questions, the objectives of the study, the significance of the study, and the organization of the chapter.

Background of the Study

English novel is one of learning media that can be used for learning English since it might improve students' knowledge. According to Hişmanoğlu (2005) "novel is a very effective way for developing vocabulary mastery and improve reading comprehension skills" (p. 28). One of the implementation of English novel can be done through reading. For example, when students read English novel, they can learn vocabulary and grammar. Students can also find a lot of new words and the form of sentence structure in English novel.

Vocabulary is one of elements that are very important in learning foreign language. The smallest thing in learning foreign language that learners should know is vocabulary. Wilkins (as quoted by Thornbury 2002) stated that "without grammar very little can be conveyed; without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed." (p. 111-112). It means that without grammar, there is a little thing that can be expressed, but without vocabulary, people cannot express anything. It

concludes that when someone starts learning English at the first time, vocabulary is more important than grammar.

For improving students' vocabulary mastery, teachers can ask students to read English novels, but there might be problems occurring when they do in classroom. Although vocabulary can be gained through reading, not many people like reading. For some people, reading is something that makes them bored. There are many reasons why students do not like reading. According to Radwan (2007), the reasons why students dislike reading are that they are afraid to be punished, their mind wanders in the wrong direction, they are impatient, and because they do not know what they should read. Therefore, the activity of reading English novels might cause problems to students when some students dislike reading. Meanwhile, reading English novels is one of the implementation to improve vocabulary mastery.

When reading English novel, there are difficulties faced by students. In reading English novel, students are required to understand the content of the novel. Moreover it is difficult for students to understand the content of the novel because they have lack of vocabulary. In reading an English novel, students need to know the meaning of the words correctly because it can help students in understanding the novel. Unfortunately, not all of students can understand the contents of novels because the students do not know the meaning of the words, so they cannot understand the meaning of the sentences. From those difficulties, sometimes students use their own strategies to know the meaning of the words. The strategies used by one student may be different from other students.

By using some strategies in reading an English novel, students are encouraged to know the benefits of reading. Through knowing the benefits of reading English novel it might overcome their problems. Reading English novel especially for English education department students gives a lot of benefits. If students know the benefits of reading English novel, they can get motivation to read. There are examples of benefits of reading English novel, such as students get new knowledge, obtain new information, and master vocabulary in English.

Based on the background above, the researcher was interested in conducting the research about the strategies used by students in mastering vocabulary through reading English novel. The researcher intended to find out the benefits that the students get from reading an English novel in English as foreign language classroom.

The Identification of the Problem

Novel is one of learning media that can be used for mastering vocabulary. From the novel, students get a lot of knowledge related to English such as vocabulary and grammar. Although novel usually helps students in learning English, there are difficulties in reading novel. One of the problems that students face in reading novel is the difficulty to understand the content of the novel. This problem usually comes because students lack of vocabulary.

In English language classroom, it is a big problem for students to understand the novel when they lack of vocabulary. As anyone knows vocabulary is an important aspect in learning English. If students do not know the vocabulary,

they cannot improve their skill in learning English. The factor probably happens that student still cannot find the appropriate strategies to master vocabulary.

Then, another problem that students face in reading probably deals with the low motivation in reading a novel. Students who do not have motivation in reading might find more problems. The problems are that the students quickly feel bored when they start reading; they are not interested in reading more books, after they finish reading one book and they feel reluctant to see other books. The low motivation might happen because the students do not know the benefits of reading.

Besides, the students' background knowledge and reading level might contribute to students' difficulties in understanding English novel. Students who do not have background knowledge related to the content of the novel might find it difficult because they cannot relate to the information in the novel. The background knowledge is very important that it can help students in understanding the content. Then, the levels of reading also have effect for students to understand. For example, the students who have high level in reading might easily understand the content of advanced novel.

The Delimitation of Problem

This study focused on the use of English novel towards students' vocabulary mastery in English language classroom. This study only focused on the use of English novel toward students' vocabulary mastery in an English Language Education Department (ELED) of a private university in Yogyakarta.

In this research, the novel refers to the novel used as a compulsory reading in the classroom. The courses that required the students to read novel are Academic Reading and Writing course, Interpretative and Argumentative Writing and Curriculum Design course. In those courses, the teachers ask the students to read a novel. Therefore, this research only focused on the students who took those courses.

The Research Questions

The research questions in this research are:

1. What are the students' strategies to master vocabulary through reading an English novel?

2. What are the benefits of reading English novel in English as a foreign language classroom?

The Objectives of Study

1. This study is expected to find out the students' strategies to master vocabulary through reading an English novel.

2. This study is expected to know the benefits of reading English in English as a foreign language classroom.

The Significance of Study

The findings of this study are to give some positive results and contributions for students, teachers, and other researchers.

Students. This research provides information for students about the use of novel to improve students' vocabulary through reading English novel. This research also gives information about the benefits of reading English novel in EFL classroom. Therefore, students can choose and use those strategies in mastering vocabulary through reading English novel.

Teachers. This research gives information about the learning media in improving vocabulary mastery that teachers can use in English language classroom. Teachers also can encourage students to use more strategies to master vocabulary.

Further researchers. This study can be beneficial source to other researchers who want to conduct the research under the same topic. It also gives an idea to the next researcher related to this topic.

The Organization of the Chapters

This study is presented in five chapters. Chapter one consists of the background of the study, the identification of the problem, the delimitation, the research questions, the objective of the study, the significance of the problem, and the organization of the chapter .

Chapter two discusses a literature review of the study. The literature review provides the theory based on the topic of the study. This chapter also discusses the theories related to the topic supporting the study.

In chapter three, the researcher explains the research methodology. Some aspects are discussed in this chapter. The aspects include the research design, the research setting, the research participants, the data collection method, and the data collection procedure and data analysis.

Chapter four provides the findings of the study and the discussion. The findings discusses the result of the study and the discussion is provided to relate the findings to the theories.

Chapter five shows the conclusion from the result of the study and the recommendation. In the conclusion part, all the summaries of every result of this study are provided. At last, the researcher also puts some recommendations to several people that are related to this study.