

Chapter One

Introduction

This chapter describes all the contents of the study. First, it talks about the background of the research which describes the reasons why this topic is chosen. Then, the identification and limitation of the problems are elaborated. After that, research questions, purposes of the research, and significances of the research are also discussed.

Background of the Research

In university level, students need more enthusiasm to develop their English ability. It is because they are in the high level of education and they are demanded to use English more often than school students. As a consequence, some of the students have good achievement and some of them have low achievement. However not all of students have the same ability. To measure the students' achievement on English language learning, English proficiency test is used. According to Douglas (2000), English proficiency test is a term that indicates the goal of students' performance in non-English speaking countries. There are several English proficiency test such as IELTS, TOEFL, and TOEIC. The tests are held by an institution to review non-native speakers of English performance in English proficiency test. They may include reading, listening, writing, and grammar or structure sections.

Some students find English proficiency test difficult because some students feel that they have distressed about the text structures. As we know, the text is written in English language which contains vocabulary they are not familiar with which could be quite hard for students to understand. Additionally, the context of the text is more academic. Besides, the text is too long and the time given to do the test is limited. It makes students feel difficult to read all texts and identify the main idea. It is a big problem for students to complete their test.

Therefore, it needs lots of effort to comprehend the text and it demands them to have a good skill at reading English texts.

Furthermore, to gain a high score of English proficiency test, students do not only focus on a test but they also need some efforts. Reading habit is one of the efforts that could be developed to pass the test. It is also supported by the research that was done by Camp (2007) that concerned on examining the reading habits of students across age group through graduate students. The data took 242 participants which consist of public school (grades 1, 4, 6, 8 and 11) and university at the mid-western part of United States. The result of this research reported that there is a relationship between reading habit and score of standardized reading test. It is also found that reading habit has positive benefits such as growth and progress in academic learning, developing knowledge or information, social development and increase lifelong learning. Consequently, a teacher needs to create and find an appropriate way to develop students' improvement in reading.

Additionally, developing reading habit is a difficult process. It is because a reader should know their reading skill. Chettri and Rout (2013) stated that identifying the success or failure of personal academic life can be done depending on his reading skill. When people have a good reading skill, they are a good reader. Good readers are people who can comprehend the text they read and do it regularly as a habit.

Evidentially, the journal research was done by Issa, Mulikat Bola Aliyu, Akangbe, and Adedeji (2012) reported on an examining the student's interests and habits on their academic performances in the Federal Polytechnic, Offa, Kwara State of Nigeria. The data took 246 students of Library & Information Department and Mass Communication Department during the year of 2010. The result showed that students' poor reading habit caused by the performance of the school. It happens because the school system gives lack of support to develop students' reading habit especially providing a test to evaluate students'

reading performance. Furthermore, students reading achievement could be seen from their examination result. It is not surprising that students reading habit can be identified using their reading achievement result. It is because the involvement of reading habit through reading achievement has positive effect.

From the background above, it can be concluded that there is relationship between students reading performance and their academic performance. Thus, the researcher is interested in investigating the correlation between university students' reading habit and their reading achievement on TOEFL.

Identification and Limitation of the Research

Currently, reading habit becomes the main issue because most of students do not have positive attitude in reading. Based on the researcher's experience, university students had become less interested in reading. They prefer reading to complete an assignment rather than reading for fun. According to Noor (2011), students' are preferred reading to pursue their academic achievement that was implemented in the examination. The effect was that they usually read journals or handbooks as the materials one night before the due date of the assignment. They focused on reading to complete their assignment and in the other time they leave it. It is clearly seen that most of students have low willingness about reading.

Another problem that researcher found from the reading is that students often underestimate reading comprehension in TOEFL. Students find difficulty in comprehending the context of the text in TOEFL. According to Gorelova, Zalyaeva, and Sungatullina (2015) reading section in TOEFL is complex because it is design into various types of text. They also stated that there are three basic texts such as exposition, argumentation and historical. Then, if students do not understand much about the context of the reading, it would be difficult for them to gain a high score in reading comprehension. Then, this research is limited on the correlation between university students' reading habit and their reading

achievement on TOEFL. The effect of these two variables is uncounted because of limited time to do this research.

Research Question

The research questions addressed in this research are:

1. How is the university students' reading habit at English Education Department of Muhammadiyah University of Yogyakarta Batch 2013?
2. How is the university students' reading achievement on TOEFL at English Education Department of Muhammadiyah University of Yogyakarta Batch 2013?
3. Is there any correlation between university students' reading habit and their reading achievement on TOEFL at English Education Department of Muhammadiyah University of Yogyakarta Batch 2013?

Purpose of the Research

Based on the research questions above, the purposes of the research are:

1. To investigate the university students' reading habit at EED UMY Batch 2013.
2. To identify the university students' reading achievement on TOEFL at EED UMY Batch 2013.
3. To investigate whether university students' reading habit is related to their reading achievement on TOEFL at EED UMY Batch 2013.

Significance of the Research

This research would be beneficial for several educational practitioners;

The researcher. The result of this research would be useful for the researcher to be more aware that reading could be media to be a good reader or reading as habit in order easy to gain a high score in the English proficiency test especially in reading section.

Students. The result of this study is hopefully able to provide feed-backs for students to improve their reading skill. By identifying the relationship between university students' reading habits and their reading achievement on TOEFL, it is able to build up their motivation in reading and improve their score. It could inspire them to make reading become a habit in life. They could keep reading books and increasing their reading achievement through their academic performances.

Lecturers. This information hopefully may help them to increase their information about reading habits and the importance of reading achievement on TOEFL. Then, they could develop and select an appropriate technique to increase students' reading habit and help them gain a good score.

Other researchers. The procedure and result of this research are hopefully able to encourage other researchers to do studies with the similar theme. This research also could be a reference for that project.