

Chapter One

Introduction

In this chapter, the researcher discusses the background of the research, the statement of problem, limitation of problem, research question, objective of the research, and significances of this research.

Background of the Research

Reading is a process determined by what the reader's brain, emotions and beliefs have brought to the reading such as the knowledge/information, strategies for processing text, moods, fears and joys (Weaver, 2009). Because the result of reading is comprehension or reading comprehension, people can improve their knowledge and get inspiration from reading. For students, reading activity can make them understand the materials that they want to learn better. They can improve their information and knowledge through reading.

In reading, usually students have many problems. They have difficulties to understand the main point of the text. They do not only need time to understand the main idea in the text, but they also have to know the purpose of reading and the benefit of reading. Students may have reading difficulties in understanding the main idea, vocabulary, structure, and grammar in the texts. The problems on reading will give influence to the students' reading comprehension in the learning process.

To overcome the difficulties when reading, students usually have their own strategies to help them understand the main idea or purpose in the text. Students need the strategies in reading because they have problems such as vocabulary, and

phonological problems. The strategies are solution for students to improve their skills in reading. The skills of reading will improve the strategies in reading.

As a student of English Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta (EED of UMY), the researcher believes that many activities in English Education Department of UMY given by the lecturers will improve students' reading ability. However, reading activity is not easy for the students. The students, including the researcher, have difficulties in reading. Based on the researcher's experience, the difficulties in reading comprehension often deal with vocabulary and getting the main ideas. The structure and grammar in the text books also sometimes make the students confused.

Considering the problems in reading comprehension faced by EED of UMY students and the strategies used by the students, the researcher would like to investigate students difficulties in reading comprehension and strategies of students at EED of UMY.

Statement and Limitation of the Problem

The EED of UMY lecturers require the students to read English journals or textbooks. The students also have to get more information from other sources. When the students read the reading materials, vocabulary, structure, and grammar often become their problems in comprehending the reading materials. Moreover, they also often have difficulties in getting main ideas of the text. To overcome the difficulties some strategies are usually used by the students.

In this research, the researcher wanted to focus the study on the students' difficulties in reading comprehension. In addition, the researcher wanted to know about the students' strategies in reading as the next concern of this research. This current research was limited to students of English Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta students, Batch 2014.

Research Questions

To administer this research, based on the background, the researcher formulates the research questions. The formulated research questions are:

1. What are the students' difficulties in reading comprehension at EED of UMY?
2. What are the students' strategies in reading at EED of UMY?

Objectives of the Study

Based on the formulated research question, this research has two purposes.

They are:

1. To find out the students' difficulties in reading comprehension at EED of UMY.
2. To find out the students' strategies in reading at EED of UMY.

Significances of the Study

There are some significances that can be achieved from this research. The significances are addressed to the teachers, students, and other researcher.

This research is significant for the teachers, especially for the lecturers at EED of UMY. They will get information about the difficulties of reading comprehension faced by the students, so they can encourage the students to use more strategies in

reading. More strategies can help them comprehend reading better. Moreover, this research is significant to the students. They will know the difficulties of reading comprehension. Therefore, it is hoped that they will have intention to improve ability on reading comprehension. The students might find other strategies to face their difficulties in reading through this research. In addition, other researchers can use this research as a reference of the information about reading comprehension difficulties and reading strategies.