

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of Study

Reading is a wide window of knowledge for everyone. People can obtain all the information and knowledge through reading. Even the first commandment of ALLAH SWT is through surah Al-Alaq “ اِقْرَأْ ” meaning “Read” (QS. Al-Alaq ayat: 1). Thus it shows how Allah has put an obligation to read for his servants because reading make people understand and learn something that they do not know, and by reading people may obtain information from others.

Reading activity has important role in language learning. The students can dig up information and gain a lot of knowledge. Through reading the students also constantly can add their vocabulary mastery. According to Cline (2006: 2), he said that “Reading is the process of deriving meaning from text”. Reading is one of the language skills which helps students in the process of learning English. By reading students will obtain a lot of information and knowledge.

In teaching and learning English teachers usually find students difficulties in reading English text because they do not read the text only, but they are required to understand the contents of the reading materials such as finding out the topic, theme, main idea, and answering the question that related to the text.

They are required to have adequate knowledge including vocabulary and structure.

To be able to understand the information in written text, students should have a good comprehension in reading so that the students will be able to understand what they read. In reading comprehension, the message to be imposed in the written form is the most important element that the students must recognize because the primary purpose of reading is to know the thoughts expressed in the text. Therefore, reading comprehension is a way for the students to know what they want to know from the reading material. However, the problem is how to make them understand. Cline (2006: 2) also said that "Understanding text is determined by the purposes for reading, the context, the nature of the text, and the readers' strategies and knowledge".

Reading is not just reading a text. One must have a good reading skill to be able to understand the content and message of a reading text. A person has a good ability in reading is usually indicated by the ability to explain the contents of the reading he or she reads. The level of someone who is good in reading skills is also influenced by their vocabulary mastery. To understand a text, students must have good understanding on the vocabulary in the language. Reading is easier and more enjoyable when someone knows the vocabulary a lot.

Schmitt (2000: 40) state that "..... Vocabulary is one of the most important skills in a language". Good vocabulary mastery is important for student who learns English because by having and mastering vocabulary students will know

the meaning of vocabulary in the context. It can also help to avoid making mistakes in understanding a written or spoken text. A learner of English will speak fluently, write easily, or understand what they reads and hears if they have enough vocabulary and have the capability of using it fluently.

In learning the vocabulary, strategies are necessary to facilitate the student learning. Everyone has different strategies for learning vocabulary. Appropriate strategies will help students to learn vocabulary easily and quickly, so that the right strategy will add their vocabulary mastery that will affect also their reading ability. Each student should understand their own abilities in learning a second language, so that they can find the right learning strategies to facilitate their second language learning.

Reading is important in the second language learning process, it is supported by a good vocabularies mastery. The students of English Education Department batch 2011 Univeritas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta should pay attention to their reading mastery. As the students who study on English as second language, reading is necessary to support their learning process. However, not only reading but also vocabulary mastery is an important part to their learning process. Having the ability to read and good vocabulary mastery will provide success for them in their education. To be successful in good reading and good vocabulary mastery, the students of English Education Department batch 2011 Univeritas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta must read a lot because the reading will help students to improve the reading ability and enhance knowledge as well as

gain a lot of information. However there is not any information yet about the whether the students have good reading ability or not.

Generally, the students have difficulties in learning English, and the most complex difficulty usually looks at learning strategies they use. Learning strategies is very noteworthy because learning strategies have an important role in the learning process and the results of the learning process itself. The proper vocabulary learning strategy may provide good results in having a good reading ability. Therefore, knowing the way vocabulary learning strategies will give us understanding on how the students acquire the reading ability. This will give valuable information on how vocabulary learning strategies has relationship with reading ability.

Based on the background above the researcher interested to find out the relationship between vocabulary learning strategy and reading ability of students of English Education Department batch 2011 of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta.

B. Statement of the Problem

Reading mastery is obligation for English Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta to be successful in their studies because they were detained to be an educator, so mastering the reading is very important for them to acquire a variety of science. How can they educate later if they have

unadequate knowledge. So reading is very important. However, do they have good reading ability that result from their vocabulary learning strategies?

Problems that arise based on the researcher and some other students experiences are that they have difficulty in reading, aspecialy the difficulty to understand a reading to find the main idea of a text. The difficulty to understanding a written text due to the lack of vocabulary mastery so it is difficult for them to be able to understand the purpose and the content of the reading overall.

Students' reading ability can be seen from the results of English proficiency test. The test to some extends can be use to know whether learning strategies and learning process used is successful. However, when students' scores of English proficiency test still belong in the basic category, means learning strategies and learning process used should be improved.

Based on the English Proficiency Test of 113 students of English Education Department batch 2011, about 80, 5 % of them still belong to the basic level. There should be attention from the institution because the students are already in the fifth semester. It is better that the students should be in the higher level, but there are still many students who are in the basic level.

It can be seen that probably the students' reading ability of English Education Departement batch 2011 is still not good enough. Therefore, it is interesting to know the vocabulary learning strategies that they use that related to their reading ability

C. Objective of the Problems

1. To identify the vocabulary learning strategies used by students of English Education Department Univeritas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta.
2. To explore the reading ability of the English Education Department students of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta.
3. To find out the relationship between vocabulary learning strategies and reading ability.

D. Research Question

1. What are the learning strategies that the students use to learn vocabulary?
2. How is the student's ability in reading?
3. How is the relationship between vocabularies learning strategies and reading ability?

E. Significance of the Research

1. The purpose of writing this paper for the general reader is the knowledge of the importance of learning vocabulary in order to have good reading skills, so the reader have to begin learning vocabulary to improve their reading skill.

2. While for the students, they can determine the right strategy for them to learn vocabulary and enable them to practice reading.
3. For teachers they will be able know the right strategy used to teach English reading for the students.