Chapter One

Introduction

The chapter one presents the introduction of the research. In this chapter, the researcher discusses some points regarding the main issues of this study. In this introduction, it provides background of the study, statement of the problem, limitation of the problem, the research question, objective of the study, and significance of the study. In the last part of this chapter, the researcher mentions outline of the research.

Background of the Study

In learning English, students must understand objectives of learning. According to Suyono and Hariyanto (2015), learning is the implementation and focus on the concept of learning inside and outside the classroom in accordance with the students' needs. In learning English, there are four main skills which should be mastered by the learners such as listening, reading, writing and speaking. Besides, each point has its own difficulties which should be mastered, and one of them is reading. Reading English text such as discourses, articles, appeals, and books might be difficult for the majority of students who have lack of English mastery.

In reading English articles, most of the people should have good literacy. According to the Ministry of Education and Culture (2016), literacy is the ability to access, understand and use something intelligently through various activities including reading, seeing, listening, writing, and speaking. If the literacy in reading is not good, an article will not be well-understood either. The main problem of reading English article is difficult to understand the main points of the text and the purpose of the writing. In addition, to understand the main ideas of the text, the students should also know the purpose and benefits of what they read. Following this, the majority of the students have the difficulty in reading English article because they do not get the meaning of the

ideas and purpose of writing. Then, the factors which can influence the students have a poor reading skill. Likewise, the students are not motivated to read, so they do not have good reading comprehension and lack of reading mastery.

Tarigan (2015) argued that reading is a process of learning carried out and used by the readers to obtain messages which the writer intends to convey in the form of words or written language media. By understanding the reading English context, if the students do not understand the purpose of writing, it will certainly make them face the difficulty in learning process especially in reading English context. For this reason, it is necessary to have a good reading comprehension so that a context or text especially articles which are read can be understood properly. Besides, a good reading comprehension comes when the reading activities are carried out originated from the heart like reading favorite a context to gain an understanding of something for the learning purposes. Hence, it aims to gain a broader insight about something which is read by the people.

To read and understand articles, students must have a variety of strategies in order to read well. According to Jihad and Haris (2013), the learning strategy is an approach in managing activities by integrating the sequence of activities, how to organize the subject matter, tools and materials as well as the time used in the learning process in order to achieve the learning objectives which have been determined effectively and efficiently, (p.24). Besides, learning strategies aim the students to be able to master reading skill which can understand the contents of the text. Then, the choice of strategy in reading is closely related to the factors involved in understanding such as reading the text and context.

Based on this opinion, the researcher tried to make preliminary observations by asking some students who were found randomly in the environment around the university to find out

how students' reading interest in scientific articles. From the results of these preliminary observations, the researcher found that many students did not understand the English articles they had read. This is because students do not master vocabulary and grammar much. If this happens continuously it can result in low student interest in reading scientific articles. For that, students need to make good reading strategies in order to understand scientific articles.

From the explanation above, the researcher is interested in finding out how the students' perceptions about reading articles in English regarding the phenomena mentioned. Besides, the researcher wanteds to investigate the difficulties and the extent of the students' perceptions in understanding English articles towards the strategies used to deal with those reading problems. Therefore, the researcher made this description as the background of the researcher's study entitled "Students' Perception on Reading Academic Articles".

Identification of the Problem

In general, perception can be defined to be broad explanation. The aspects contained in the perception can be categorized as benefits, challenges, and strategies. When reading an English article, the majority of the students might face the challenges. For example, the students must be able to understand the purpose of writing and the contents summarized in the article. Therefore, there is a need for specific strategies used by the students to understand an English article. Besides, the problem identification in this research is to focus on finding out the students' challenges when reading English articles and investigating the use of reading strategies towards academic articles. Therefore, the first problem is the students' low reading interest in English articles. Then the second problem is the challenge that students find when reading English articles, and the third problem is the factor that causes students' low reading interest in English academic articles.

Delimitation of the Problem

In reading English academic articles, not all students are able to read well. On average, students are only able to memorize a few words of English. This certainly has an impact on students' low reading interest in English academic articles. In addition, students often have difficulty reading English articles due to their low mastery of vocabulary and grammar. Therefore, students must have a good strategy when reading English articles in order to understand the context of their reading. Therefore, the focus of this study is students' perceptions of the challenges and strategies in reading English articles.

So that these problems can be analyzed more specifically, the data collection techniques are carried out using structured interviews or by using interview guidelines which are conducted to 6 research participants, namely students who have entered the 6th semester of lectures.

Research Questions

To conduct this research, two research questions are used as the research guideline, and those are:

1. What are the challenges faced by the students in reading English articles?

2. What interesting things were found when reading English academic articles?

Objectives of the Research

Based on the research questions, the objectives of the research are:

1. To investigate the challenges faced by the students in reading English articles.

2. To identify the interesting things were found when reading English academic articles

Significances of the Research

This research is aimed to give positive advantages for some parties such as teachers, students, institution and other researchers.

For the teachers. By reading this research, the teachers can find out the challenges faced by the students in reading English articles. Beside, the teachers are able to know the strategies used by the students in understanding English articles. Moreover, this research can be an evaluation for the teachers on how they should teach and introduce to find out English articles for the students in teaching and learning process. Additionally, this research can be useful for the teachers as a reflection to their teaching.

For the students. From this research, the students can understand the challenges in reading English articles. Through the existence of reading academic articles, the students can avoid problems dealing the strategies of reading English articles provided in this research. Therefore, the students can apply the strategies of reading English articles in the learning process.

For the institution. This research can be used as additional information for the institution to renew the program, syllabus or curriculum. This research also can be a recommendation to create module text in teaching and learning activity to enhance the quality of students' English understanding especially in reading English articles.

For the other researchers. By conducting this research, other researchers can identify the students' perception about reading academic articles towards the challenges faced and the strategies used by the students in reading English articles. In addition, the other researchers can use the findings of this research as the theoretical overview of other researches on the same topic and may be recommendation of further research. Therefore, by conducting this research, it can also encourage the researchers to conduct the researches towards the challenges and strategies in reading English articles deeply related to the same area of this research.

Organization of the Research

This research includes five chapters of the research which explain an overview of each research chapter. The first chapter presents the introduction of the research. In chapter one, there are seven parts such as background of the study, identification of the problem, delimitation of the problem, the research question, objective of the study, and significance of the study. In the last part of this chapter, the researcher mentions organization of the research.

In the chapter two of the research is a literature review. This chapter provides all the information and basic theory which cover a topic discussion the reflecting students' foreign language mastery upon their participation on overseas student mobility program. In the literature review, it highlights some theories related to this research. Besides, this chapter two defines reading, strategies in reading academic articles, challenges in reading academic articles, and review of related studies. At the end of the chapter two, it includes the conceptual framework.

In the chapter three, it discusses about research methodology. This chapter gives clear illustration of how this research is conducted and how the data are collected. Besides, this chapter three consists six parts of methodology namely research design, research setting, research participants, data collection technique, data collection procedure, and data analysis.

In chapter four, it discusses the research finding and discussion. This chapter provides the detailed information about the data gathering from the conducted research and analysis of the data. Besides, the researcher also relates the findings of the research to the relevant literature reviews or theories provided in this research to be the discussion of the research.

Chapter five includes the conclusion and recommendation. In this chapter, researcher presents the conclusion of the research finding related to the research problems. In addition, this chapter contains the suggestion for some parties related to this research.