

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses background, statement of the problem, research question, objective of the research, significance of the research. The explanations of the subtopics are presented as follows:

The Background of the Study

Today, in Indonesia English is always needed wherever it is, as a teacher must have good English skills, and have extensive knowledge so students become smarter in learning English. Parents should realize how important it is to learn English, especially among a private university. The importance of learning English for a private university students will certainly make it easier for him to go to college. To learn English requires four aspects of skills namely; listening, speaking, reading and writing. These four skills need to be mastered by students so that students can have English language competence both oral and written.

Based on the purpose of teaching English, reading is one of the most important in international communication, however, a student must need reading skills to get information from magazines, essays, novels, newspaper and book. One of the English skills that are very necessary in accessing knowledge through print media is reading. But this skill in Indonesia especially for students at a private university is still weak. According to Hill (1997:58), reading is a process to understand a written text which means extracting the acquired information from it as efficiently as possible. Another results of research conducted by the IAEA (International Association for the Education Achievement) in 1992 about reading ability for a private university students in Indonesia from 30 countries, Indonesia ranked 28th.

A small group is a small member of human, work together through interaction whose interdependent relationship allows them to achieve a mutual goal (Kenz and Greg, 2000:4). The students can work together in solving their problems or they can answer the question from the teacher. Sagala(Sari, 2016:21) says that group discussion is more effective if the group consisted of 3-4 students; enable students to give their opinions or ideas to other students easily.

Small group discussions also mean the process of seeing two or more united individuals to exchange information, exchange of thoughts and knowledge so find problem solving. Small group discussions also involve all members of the study group, to dialogue not only with the teacher but also with friends. However, this is very necessary because sometimes students feel comfortable learning with their friends than with the teacher.

Some things are very effective if the teacher wants to help students to think from various perspectives on a subject of discussion, by giving them the practice of thinking, and developing students' motivation to learn more, to get new information and new experiences.

From the researcher observation, the process of small group discussion embodies time for reading. After being assigned a task, member of small group discussion look for sources to be references to solve the problem in the assigned task. In this stage, members generally read sources from in the books, article, or online sources. After reading the sources, they directly discuss the results of their reading with the members of the group. In this point, the members contribute ideas from their readings and simultaneously they obtain feedback from their peer members on the suitability of the sources. The feedbacks from the peer sharpen their understanding. Such interactions, from my observation, improve their English reading skills. Both concerning language and non-language factors. And also students can get new knowledge from small group discussions.

Referring to the above elaboration, the researcher is concerned to find out whether there is correlation between the Use of Small Group Discussion and English Students' Reading Skills.

Statement of the problem

To interaction in the small group discussion put the members of the group to read sources to be materials for solving the problem. In the discussion processes each member of the group give their opinion based on their understanding from reading sources. The members of the group give opinion, objection, suggestion, and at the end conclusion toward the topics being discussed. The processes directly provide feedback from their peers toward their reading understanding. Based on the researcher' own experience, the researcher assumes that there is a correlation between the implementation of small group discussion and students' reading skills. To provide evidence, a study on correlation between the use of small group discussion and students' reading skills should be conducted. This study is expected to fulfill this purpose.

Research question

Based on the background of the problem above, the researcher formulates the problems as follows: How is the use of small group discussion in the process of learning English at a private university? How is student reading skills in learning English? And how is the correlation between the use small group discussion and English student reading skills?

Objective of the research

This research investigates contains three research objectives, which is set as follow: To identify the level of the use of small group discussion in the process of learning English at a private university, To identify the level of students' reading skill in learning English and to find out what

is correlation between the use small group discussion and English student reading skill at a private university.

Significance of the research

There are three significant points out of this study that give the precious involvement to the students, the lecturers, and the other researchers.

Students. This investigation discusses the correlation between the uses small group discussion and English student reading skill. This study can benefit students since the findings of the study are expected to inform students on the role of small group discussion to their reading skills. At hand, students then may improve themselves especially in their reading skills when they are undertaking a small group discussion.

Lecturers. Through this investigate; the lecturer will be able to improve teaching English better, to identify factors on English reading skill. Teacher may use small group discussion to improve their reading skills.

Other Researcher. This investigation is hoped to motivate the other researchers in applying the next investigate related to the learning English reading skill on a private university.