

Chapter One

Introduction

This chapter discusses the background of the study, followed by discussing the statement of the problems. Next, it explains the research questions, and then, discusses the purpose of the study, as well as the significance of the study. Finally, the organization of the chapter is also discussed in the chapter which explains the overview in each chapter of the study.

The Background of the Study

Reading is an important part of learning a language. As stated by Ronan (2015) reading is one of the important skills to be mastered by students in English language learning. Reading also plays an important role for college students because, by reading, the students can enhance their knowledge of language and vocabulary. Reading activity is not just finding information in a paragraph or page, but it requires the readers to develop their ideas, memories, and knowledge.

As stated by Charlton (2004) there are several processes in reading namely identification, interpretation, and perception. These processes aim to help new students learn basic knowledge in reading. This reading process, if done correctly, can produce a useful output for students. The output in the reading process can produce a form of language, while understanding can produce the ability to understand the contents of the reading, this is also related to language content. It is also supported by Sheng (2000) that reading composes a relation between the writer and the reader. It includes words, phrases, and clauses, and in some aspects, it can be considered a simpler process than comprehension.

Reading skills can be trained in various ways, including reading English novels. Reading through novels is an influential way for the success of students to understand and

interpret a reading. Reading is not just finding meaning from the reading text, but we can use it to increase knowledge. As supported by Chen and Sun (2010) reading through novels can motivate students, enrich cultural knowledge, and enhance their language ability. Thus, reading English novels can be suggested to students.

Based on the research experience as a student in this institution, some students at the English Language Education Department in one of the Private Universities in Yogyakarta have difficulties in reading and finding the meaning of reading quickly and correctly. As stated by Ankrom (2017) some students will not be able to read fluently because they have no intention to read and feel bored because of the number of pages in a novel. Moreover, the students might choose the wrong level for their comprehension. By then, they tend to read a reading text by scanning and jumping to the next story.

Therefore, the students of the English Language Education Department have good motivation and are able to enhance their ability to read by starting to read a novel that is suitable for them as well as reading a novel for pleasure. It is important since their learning materials are in English. By then, if the students want to enhance their reading skills, they can start to read a novel because a novel can be an alternative way that can attract students' intention to read, by then they can frequently practice their reading skill through reading a novel.

Identification of the Problems

As explained above, this study can be useful for college students who find the right way to enhance their reading skills. According to Pang et. al., (2003) readers typically make use of background knowledge, vocabulary, grammatical knowledge, and experience with text to help them understand a written text. Based on the researcher's experience, most college students are having trouble with reading. They still lack vocabulary and feel so hard to understand the meaning of uncommon vocabularies, phrases, or sentences. Sometimes, it is also using a higher level of vocabulary. If those difficulties still appear, they are not able to use their background

knowledge to help them in understanding a written text. Moreover, English Language Education Department students usually ended up skipping those troubles and continuing their reading without understanding the exact meaning. Also, they often feel lazy to read because the reading text is so much and less interesting. However, nowadays the students prefer to read novels because they are more interesting than newspapers, mandatory books, or journals. As supported by Chen (2010) the novel provides an interesting story that might attract students to read it.

Thus, the researcher wants to scrutinize the benefits of reading English novels for enhancing students' reading skills among the students of the English Language Education Department at one of the private Universities in Yogyakarta.

Delimitation of Problems

In this research, the researcher observed the participants who were involved in the basic reading and writing class which used Flipped as the reading materials. Flipped has an interesting story and it can attract the students' motivation to read novels as a way of learning English. Thus, this activity can facilitate students to find new vocabulary and enhance their reading skills. The habit of reading through a novel can help the students to understand the text they read and interpret it correctly. Thus, from the explanation above, the researcher is interested in investigating the benefits of reading English novels to enhance students' reading skills.

Research Questions

The research question regarding to the title above is:

1. What are the benefits of reading English novels?

Objectives

The objective of this study is to investigate how novels can support students' reading skills for college students in the English Language Education Department.

Significance of the study

This research is expected to have a positive impact on second language learners to enhance their reading skills through a novel. Also, it can be useful for other researchers and teachers.

For students, especially college students can optimize the benefits of reading English novels as a tool for them to enhance their ability in reading. By having a reading habit through a novel, they can gain new vocabulary, grammar knowledge, and understand the main idea of the novels. Thus, they can be familiar with the reading context in the novel which can help them to implement English into their daily activities.

For other researchers, this research can be a source for future researchers with the same topics and material within the scope of how a novel can support the students in reading skills. Furthermore, this research can be improved by the other researchers.

The teachers, by this research, can understand more of their students' needs, especially in improving their reading skills by using novels as the source of learning. By then, the teachers can give suggestions for their students to enhance their reading skills by reading English novels.

Organization of the Chapters

This research is reported in five chapters. Each chapter has a different discussion and explanation. The first chapter is the background. The second is a literature review. The third is methodology. Next, the chapter talks about the findings and discussion. The last is to present the conclusion and recommendations.

Chapter one is the introduction. In the first chapter, the researcher presents several points to discuss the main problem. This chapter is arranged into the background of the study,

statement of the problem, delimitation of the problems, research question, and objective. The significance of the study and the organization of the chapter is included in the first chapter.

Chapter two is the Literature Review. This chapter presents the related research studies on a similar topic which elaborated with the researcher's point of view about the current research being scrutinized. It provides the literature such as reading skills, the definition of novels, novels as media for learning, the benefits of reading English novels, and related studies so that the readers can comprehend this present study.

Chapter three is the Research Methodology. In this chapter, the researcher explains the research design, research setting, research participants, research instrument, data collection method, data analysis, and trustworthiness. Thus, it is crucial to obtain the data to support the results and findings of this study.

Chapter four explained the discussion and the findings. Regarding the research questions, the findings of this research are divided into two. First, students' opinions about novels as a means to enhance reading skills. Second, how reading English novels can support the students in reading skills. All of the findings are also explained in detail.

Chapter five is the conclusion and recommendation. This chapter presents the summary of this research from chapter one until chapter four, and also some recommendations for some parties. There are four recommendations. They are for the teachers, the students, future researchers, and also the department.