

Chapter One

Introduction

In this chapter, the researcher discusses the background of the study of reading English journal articles. The researcher also explains identification and limitation of the problem, formulation of the problem, purpose of the study, and also gives detail description of the significance of the study.

Background of the Study

Reading is inseparably linked to learning (Akanda, Hoq, & Hasan, 2013). Reading is essential part which could increase students' knowledge, especially for students in university. There are many literatures or resources for students to improve their knowledge, and one of the resources is reading journal article. By reading journal article, the students will get the information about research methods and various types of researchs that have been done by the researchers in the past (Ishak, 2006). In the law of RI number 20 year 2003, decided that every university is obligated to execute education and research. The students are obligated to read journal articles which will support the learning process in university (Fujimoto, Hagel, Turner, Kattiyapornpong, & Zutshi, 2011). Reading journal articles is also an essential thing for students in university, since it gives benefit in writing research. When the students read journal articles, they are not only interpreting word by word but also they have to catch the main idea and understand the content of the research.

Reading journal articles has been applied in English Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta. One of the subjects in English

Education Department which has applied reading journal articles in classroom activity is Issues in Language Teaching and Learning class. The realization of reading journal articles in the class is like students get assignment to read journal articles in group and individually. The students have to read seventeen journal articles in one semester, especially reading English journal articles. In group assignment, the students make a group discussion and they have to read journal articles. Every group should present the result of their discussion from reading journal articles. Whereas for the individual assignment, the student has to make annotated bibliography and read the journal articles individually. Writing annotated bibliography is a form of assignment in which the students have to make it by reading journal articles. The annotated bibliography is presented as an initial exercise to support the major literature research project for students (Coulson, 2007). The students should choose six journal articles in order to make annotated bibliography depending on their research title. Moreover, the students should present annotated bibliography in the class based on their understanding on journal articles that they have read.

However, some of the students exhibit that they are unwilling to read journal articles. Some of the students in English Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta also face the problems on reading journal articles. Based on researcher's experience, there is a weakness that was founded in students' reading journal like difficulty to understand the main idea of journal articles. That statement is supported by the expert, Burnes, and Page (1985) who explained that students' understanding is a process as the students got a new

knowledge to interact with reading text. If the students face the obstacles in understanding of reading text, it will influence the reading process.

In addition, the difficulty that some of the students face in reading journal articles is how to interpret the word (decoding) to be meaningful in sentence. When the students find some unfamiliar words, they will use prediction to understand the context in a sentence or in a paragraph. Reading prediction from context can be used when reading unfamiliar words (Elwér, 2014). Some students will avoid the words or sentences that they did not know its meaning. The students or readers focused to ignore unfamiliar words and to avoid the disturbing of the reading process (Hellekjær, 2009).

From the background above, the researcher is interested in conducting a research about “The Perception of students of English Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta on Reading English Journal Articles”. The researcher wants to find out whether the students have positive or negative perceptions after they passed reading journal articles in the class and to identify the students’ difficulties in reading journal articles.

Identification and Limitation of the Problem

Reading journal is applied in Issues in Language Teaching and Learning class at English Education Department. The activity focuses on reading English journal articles. The students get the assignment that must be done in group and individually. In group assignment, the students have to present the result based on English journal article that they have discussed with their group. In addition, the students have to find six English journal articles and read it individually. After

that, they make the annotated bibliography and present the result from reading journal articles.

The students of English Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta face some problems in reading English journal articles. They are unwilling to read English journal articles because it is difficult to understand the content of the text. They also find the difficulty of interpreting the words because English journal articles use some unfamiliar words that students do not know the meaning. The implication of reading English journal articles in the class affects some opinions or perceptions from the lecturers and the students including positive perception and negative perception.

However, the problem in this study is limited to discuss the perceptions of students of English Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta on reading journal especially in Issues in Language Teaching and Learning class.

Formulation of Problem

Based on the research background, this study has two research questions that are going to be answered.

1. What are the students of English Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta perceptions on reading English journal?
2. What are the obstacles faced by the students of English Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta in reading English journal?

Purpose of the Study

Based on the research questions, the purpose of this research are:

1. To investigate the students of English Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta perception on reading English journal articles.
2. To find out the problems or obstacles that students of English Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta faced in reading English journal articles.

The significance of the Study

This research will give some beneficials for some parts. These beneficials are written in the following statements.

The researcher and the students. The researcher finds that reading is important for students especially in university. The researcher hopes also that the students can find and know the benefits from reading English journal articles, so that the result could be applied by the students to support their learning process. From the reading English journal articles, the students are expected to be motivated to read more.

Lecturer as teacher Issues in Language Teaching and Learning class.

The students' perception will give effect for lecturer to know what students' like and dislike when they learn in the class. Hence the lecturer is hopes to give attractive activities to make students enjoy and comfort when they get reading assignment. The lecturer also hopes get the reading strategies, which is appropriate to make the students prefer to read journal articles. The lecturer will know the

difficulties that students face in reading English journal articles and find the solution to overcome the students' problems. The perceptions from student can also be used to evaluate the lecturers in their classroom activities.

The course and institution. From the students' perceptions on journal English reading articles, the researcher hopes that the course and the institution will give more attentions for students especially to give the activities that can develop the students' ability in reading. The course is also hoped to give assignment that make the students prefer to read books or journals articles in order to enhance their reading habit.

Outline of the Research

Chapter one is introduction. It explains the background of the study and the reason why the title is taken. This chapter consists of background of the study, identification and limitation of the problem, formulation of the problem, purpose of the study, and the significance of the study.

The second part of the research is literature review. This chapter reviews some theories that are related with perception, reading and also about reading journal articles.

Chapter three is methodology that explains how the research is conducted. The research employs qualitative approach. This chapter also explains the participant of this study, setting, instruments of the research, data collecting method, and data analysis.

The fourth part of this research is finding and discussion. This part shows the result of the data on finding by the researcher. The researcher also explains the findings on discussion section.

Chapter five consists of conclusion and recommendation. In this part, the conclusion answers the research question of the study and also recommendations for researcher, students and lecturers are explained in this section.