

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Language is very important for human's life. It is used to communicate with other people. So they begin to learn both mother tongue and foreign language to enlarge their knowledge and experience. Today the most important to learn English because it's an international language and most people all over the world use it as a means of communication. In Indonesia English is the first foreign language that to be taught officially to students from the Elementary School to University to develop students' communication skills in English. Language includes four skills or complexes of skill: listening, speaking, reading, and writing and two components consisting of structure and vocabulary. From the four language skills, reading ability is the main concern of English to be able to read English text books, journals, and references etc.

Some researches indicate English reading of most Indonesian students is still far from being sufficient. In the other words, they have poor English reading skills. However, reading skill is the basic form to facilitate the absorption and the development advanced science and technology, culture, and enhance international relationship. Having limited English reading ability makes the reads difficult to understand and respond to what they read. It means that the reader cannot

comprehend the contents of the reading materials. Therefore we have to improve our reading habit by reading in our leisure time, especially reading activity of English reading materials. As we know that many sources of technology and educational development are written in English. For that matter, we should know the way to how to be able to read them efficiently in order to avoid wasting time in reading to get some information. That is way, it is important for the readers to understand the structure in order to gain something they needs from the reading materials easily because reading is an essential tool if one is to continuously obtain knowledge throughout his or her lifespan. The ultimate goal for middle school teachers is to motivate adolescents to read more in school as well as on their own for enjoyment to become mature readers. However, adolescents today are not actively engaged in daily reading by taking advantage of the books at their disposal. The middle school reading material may not match the attitudes and interests of each adolescent.

Therefore, Reading is good to be taught, because this is one of the four language skills. This is because the purpose of teaching English is to practice reading skills and to facilitate the students to learn at higher levels. Now the problem is how teachers can stimulate students to learn to read according to their condition, so they will be more interested in learning English as a foreign language.

In our daily lives, we see the great influence of the language. According to Gill (in Alkhaldeh, 2008: 454), reader are affected by their interest and background knowledge about what they read. Often, we read because we are interested in reading it. Interest in reading is divided into several categories, among

others, to enjoy reading, reading for pleasure, read as the stimulant, and read for the intellectual needs of others. The students who preferred reading, individuals generally have greater insight than the others. Children will be interested if someone around them has a statement of interest. For teachers, it must be developed so that students become more interested in learning. This is one reason why the need to approach an interest in teaching. Thus the author thinks it is important to analyze the influence of students' interest towards learning achievement especially in reading comprehension skills.

B. Research Question

The problem to be addressed in this study is the correlation between students' reading interest and reading comprehension skill. Reading interest is very important for adolescents to read; it will enhance their knowledge base and help improve their reading.

The problem is formulated as follow:

1. Does students' reading interest correlate with their reading comprehension skills?
2. How extent is the interest of high school students in grade 1 SMA BUDI MULIA Jakarta to their reading comprehension?

C. Research Objectives

The goals of this study are:

1. To find out if there is a significant and positive relationship between students' reading interest of class 1 BUDI MULIA Senior High School to their English learning achievement especially in reading comprehension.
2. To know the extent of their level in understanding the reading comprehension in grade 1 of SMA BUDI MULIA Jakarta Pusat.

D. Significance of the study

The results of this study are hopefully beneficial to:

1. To teachers, the results of this study will hopefully provide information about students' reading interest in their English learning achievement especially in reading comprehension.
2. To the Faculty, for developing of English teacher's competency, the result of this study will hopefully to prepare the student's teacher to have a good English competency skill
3. To researcher, the results of this study can increase the researcher's motivation and provide a basis for conducting researches on the same area.

E. Scope of the study

Due to the researcher time and budget constraints, the participants in this study will be limited to students of the first grade of Budi Mulia Senior High School only. In addition, the data will be collected through a survey and use questionnaire as the instruments.

F. Definition Operational

This research, researcher used several term. That is;

1. Correlation

Correlation is statistical measurement of the relationship between two variables. Correlation refers to any of a broad class of statistical relationships involving dependence. Data analyzed using descriptive method, requirement analysis and correlation method.

2. Students' reading interest

Interest is a desire or high liver tendency to something. Reading interest is a desire or high liver tendency to the reading materials. The so-called student's reading interest is the characteristic that indicates that people like one activity more than another.

3. English Achievement in Reading comprehension skill

English learning achievements are the results during learning process. In this study, the researcher used reading comprehension English test to take the data of student's English achievement.