

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

Language is very important for human's life. People use it to communicate with other people. So they learn both mother tongue and foreign language to enlarge their knowledge and experience. And today the most important language to learn is 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 is taught officially to students from the Elementary School to University. Language includes four skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Reading skill is very important in order that students can read English text books, journals, and references. They cannot rely too much on the Indonesian version of the English text books. It will be better if they can do it by themselves, rather than depend on their English teachers. Reading skill is the basic form to facilitate the absorption and the development of advanced science and technology, culture.

Having limited English reading ability, students find it difficult to understand and respond to what they read. It means that they cannot comprehend the contents of the reading materials. Therefore they have to improve their reading habit by reading a lot on their measure time. As we know many sources of technology and educational

development are written in English. For that matter, students should know the way how to read efficiently in order to avoid wasting time in reading to get information.

We all know that reading is a process of thinking. Burn and Roe (2001: p. 8) state that reading is a very complex and complicated process that involves some factors influential upon each other.

Students have the lower skills in inferential reading comprehension as stated by Purwantini (2003: p. 42). The writer believes that reading habit supports students to comprehend the text. That is reason why the writer wants to show that reading habit is very important to support inferential reading comprehension.

B. The Problem of the Study

This study is about the correlations between the fourth semester students' reading interest and their vocabulary achievement at English Teaching Study Program of Christian University of Indonesia. The problem is formulated as follows: Is there any correlation between the fourth semester students' reading interest and their vocabulary achievement?

C. The Objective of the Study

Based on statement of the problem, the objective of this study is to find out whether there is a significant correlation between the fourth semester students' reading interest and their vocabulary achievement.

D. The Scope of the Study

In this case, it is important to limit the scope of the study in order to make the discussion more specific. The writer focuses his research on significant correlation between the fourth semester students' reading interest and their vocabulary achievement at English Teaching Study Program of Christian University of Indonesia. Other factors that influence vocabulary achievement will not be discussed.

E. The Significance of the Study

The results of this study are hopefully have contribution to the English Department students and other researchers. The result of the study may help improve their reading ability and the finding of this study can be used by other researchers as the basic consideration to conduct a further study.