

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of Research

English is one of the languages in Indonesia that becomes a foreign language, so it makes not all people especially the students in Indonesia know and master it like Bahasa. In English, there are four skills that need to be understood by the learner. They are speaking, writing, listening and reading. All of these skills are integrated. However, from the four skills, most people think that reading is taken as an important thing in this world especially those who learn a language such as English. It is known that by reading, people can get a lot of information about everything that happens around them. Besides, it will also help the learners to have various knowledge. According to Sadiku (2015), reading is a useful skill for helping people to increase someone's ability of a language. This can happen, perhaps because reading can also make someone's vocabulary richer.

Those who study English in Indonesia will be called an English foreign language (EFL) learner. In other words, it also shows that the students in Indonesia that become English foreign language learners (EFL) do not use English for any activities as a primary language in this country. Here, English foreign language learners (EFL) will start from the young learners until the university learners. Additionally, the EFL learners in Indonesia will start studying English when they are in basic school like junior high school level until the university level.

In this case, because the researcher is also university student, the researcher focuses on the university students at one university in Jambi, named Universitas Jambi especially for the students in the English study program. It is known that the university level is the last level for the students to study English in a formal place. In fact, in this university, not all students of the English study program have a good ability in English, especially for reading. This might happen because English is not often used in daily life. As an impact, this will be one thing that can make the students do not interest in doing any activities related to the learning process especially for the reading class such as answering the lecturer's question or having a group discussion about a text.

Then, although the students have chosen the English study program, this does not mean that they are interested in learning all the skills especially the reading skill. Sometimes, this situation makes the students as the EFL learners feel that learning English especially reading skill is difficult. The researcher can see that some students are not interested in studying reading skills because of some reasons for example like English has many difficult words to remember, and English has limited time to practice.

The situation before shows that the students as the EFL learners need the interest to learn English, especially for the reading skill. The feeling of interest can motivate the students to do everything to make themselves can master the skill and the situation. EFL learners who interest to learn English will feel easier to understand the language than those who do not interest. This influences a lot to the students as EFL learners.

Based on what has been described before the researcher is interested to conduct research with a title: “English Foreign Language (EFL) Students’ Interests in Learning Reading at the English Study Program at Universitas Jambi”.

1.2 The Research Question

The research question of this research is "What are the English Foreign Language (EFL) students’ interests in learning reading at the English Study Program at Universitas Jambi?”.

1.3 The Research Objective

Based on the research question, this research objective is to find the English Foreign Language (EFL) students’ interests in learning reading at the English Study Program at Universitas Jambi.

1.4 The Limitation of the Research

This research focused on identifying the English Foreign Language (EFL) students’ interests in learning reading at the English Study Program at Universitas Jambi. Then, the samples of this research were the first semester of college students at the English Study Program at Universitas Jambi that also became English Foreign Language (EFL) students. The reason in choosing first semester is because they are still learning the basic reading. In collecting the data, the researcher used a questionnaire with the questions that have been adapted.

1.5 The Significances of the Research

The research result is expected to give information about the English Foreign Language (EFL) students’ interests in learning reading, perhaps this information can influence the college students as English Foreign Language

(EFL) students who do not interest to study reading can feel interested to study reading. Then, it is also hoped that this research can be useful as references about the topic of interest in learning reading to the next students and researchers that want to conduct research with the same topic but wider samples.

1.6 The Definition of Key Terms

a. Reading

Reading is one skill that needs an ability to understand the words and sentences contained in the text and also used a background knowledge for the personal growth and development (Dedzie, 2008)

b. Interest

Interest is one of the strongest motivations that can affect students in language learning (Gardner, 1985).