

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

Reading is an activity that everyone needs, but in Indonesia, this activity is often considered uninteresting (Izzra, 2024). A survey conducted by the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) in 2020 showed that only about 10% of Indonesia's population consistently reads books. This figure reflects a low level of interest in literacy within the community. It has become a common problem frequently faced in our country. Moreover, the general interest in reading is relatively low, especially when it comes to reading scientific papers (Patiung et al., 2016). This is partly due to the assumption that not all information can be obtained through reading, particularly in today's technological era, where information is accessible through various means. This trend negatively impacts students' ability to analyze and solve problems, which is crucial for their learning.

Reading activities are important to hone one's intellectual abilities, through the process of understanding the meaning of writing and developing ideas (Huradju et al., 2020). Reading activities help in a person's cognitive development, including students. Moreover, when reading scientific papers with scientific language that uses technical terms or special terminology

according to the field of science being discussed, allows students to find words that are difficult to understand. The purpose of reading greatly affects the needs of each, people who never read will be very different from people who read diligently, in their level of knowledge and also their mindset, especially for students. Reading activities must have meaning and purpose so that students will have the motivation to always do reading activities (Patiung et al., 2016).

In reading, students find difficulties and inability to understand the contents of the reading which causes a lack of interest in reading, besides that there are also factors that cause students to feel lazy and not interested in reading, especially reading scientific papers (Diponegoro, n.d.). In general, each reading has its charm and characteristics, but some readings have language or words that are difficult to understand, in this case, many factors affect students' reading interest, especially for reading scientific papers that have more formal, straightforward language and also adhere to scientific rules and many special terms listed in it so that students will also find it difficult to understand the scientific papers. According to Anugrah (2023), scientific work is written work aimed at solving a problem using a theoretical basis and scientific methods. and examples of scientific writing methods. In general, scientific papers contain data, facts, and solutions to solve problems in writing (Nurul,2024). Therefore, it is necessary to have an interest in reading and a strong desire from within oneself to read and understand the contents of the scientific papers.

According to Pitoyo (2020) in his meta-analysis, the reading interest of students in Indonesia is influenced by three main factors, namely literacy, technology, and library infrastructure. In general, reading interest can be influenced by factors such as environment, motivation, and the availability of interesting reading materials. However, reading scholarly works tends to require a higher level of concentration, academic comprehension, as well as being driven by assignments or research needs. Although some factors like motivation and availability of materials are similar, the context and purpose of reading differ, making the factors that influence reading interest more specific when it comes to scientific papers.

According to Guthrie and Wigfield (2020), a high level of reading interest positively impacts students' cognitive and emotional engagement in learning, which is reflected in their active participation during classes, discussions, and project-based activities. They tend to be freer to express their opinions and relate them to their experiences or the knowledge they already have. During the learning process, students who have a great interest in reading usually have read the material to be discussed before class starts, so they can make meaningful contributions to the discussion, ask critical questions, and express a deep understanding of the content of the reading. This is supported by the reading engagement theory, which explains that interest in reading is closely related to an individual's desire to think reflectively.

However, many previous researchers have examined how EFL students' interest in reading scientific papers and explored the factors that affect them, such as in a study conducted by Lustyantje et al. (2020), Sayekti et al. (2023), and Alimin et al. (2023). Some researchers have conducted studies on the determinants of factors that affect students' reading interest in scientific papers. Generally, the study identified the existence of internal and external factors that played a role, and used a quantitative approach with a focus on efforts to overcome students' low interest in reading scientific papers. In this case, the researcher found that there is a high interest in reading among EFL students at the Jambi University, so this study is important to identify and explore more specifically the factors that influence students' reading interest in scientific papers.

In this case, although many studies have been conducted related to the theme of this research and focused on students with low reading interest in scientific papers, the purpose of this study is to address the gaps identified in previous research, particularly by utilizing qualitative methods through in-depth interviews and focusing on internal and external factors that influence the reading interest of EFL students at Jambi University towards scientific papers. Research on this topic has a high urgency, especially in the context of learning English. This study is important to provide EFL students with a deeper insight and understanding of various internal factors, such as motivation, personal interest, and attitudes towards reading, as well as external factors, such as the learning environment, lecturer support, and

availability of reading resources, which overall affect their high interest in reading scientific papers. In addition, through this research, it is hoped that students can be more motivated to develop a high interest in reading scientific texts written in English, which generally use complex sentence structures and rich academic vocabulary. Thus, this research also contributes to improving students' academic literacy, expanding their vocabulary mastery, and strengthening their ability to understand and produce scientific texts in the context of learning English.

1.2 Operational definition

To avoid misunderstandings regarding this research, here researcher defines the terms in the title of this research, including as following:

1. Reading interest

According to Alexander et al. (2011), reading interest is a part of reading motivation that includes a sense of interest in certain materials, topic preferences, and a desire to engage in repeated reading activities. So, an interest in reading is a strong desire from within and without any compulsion to read, and it is done continuously so that a habit can arise. Students' reading interests will be seen from how enthusiastic they are in looking for suitable reading material for everyday life. students who have a high interest in reading will tend to read whatever literature they find.

2. Scientific paper

A scientific paper is a written work that is deliberately made to solve a problem. It usually contains facts, data, and solutions regarding the issues raised. Scientific work is a scientific essay that presents general facts and is written according to a good and correct methodology. The purpose of writing scientific papers is to communicate with others about science.

3. Factor

Factors are things (circumstances, events) that contribute to causing (influencing) the occurrence of something. Factors that influence the emergence of interest, a lot of factors that can influence the emergence of interest in something, which can be broadly grouped into two, namely that originating from within the individual concerned and those originating from the outside, including the family environment, school environment, and community environment.

1.3 Identification of the problem

Based on the background description above, the problems that arise can be identified as follows:

Internal and external factors that affect students' interest in reading scientific papers.

1.4 Research question

What factors influence EFL students' high interest in reading scientific papers?

1.5 Research purposes

From the problem formulation that the researcher has determined, the goals will be achieved. This research aims to describe what factors influence EFL students' high interest in reading scientific papers.

1.6 Limitation of research

Based on the problem identification described earlier, there are various relevant issues. However, given the limitations in the scope of this study, the focus of the research is directed specifically at analyzing the factors that influence the high interest of EFL students in reading scientific papers, and focusing on students who have a high interest in scientific papers to explore the influencing factors.

1.7 Research significance

Every research carried out is guaranteed to provide benefits both for the object and the researcher in particular, and also for all components involved in it. The benefits or use values that can be taken from writing this thesis are:

a. Theoretical Aspect

The results of this study can be used to explore and prove the factors that influence EFL students' high interest in reading scientific papers.

b. Practical aspect

This research provides benefits for various parties, namely students, lecturers, and researchers as follows:

a. For students

The results of this study are expected to provide information on what factors can affect the high interest of students in reading scientific papers. and to find out what the impact of these factors is in reading interest in scientific papers.

b. For lecturers

The results of this study are It is used as a reference for lecturers to create a learning environment that supports a culture of reading, including by giving appreciation to the efforts of students who actively read and integrate the results of reading into the learning process. Thus, a high interest in reading is not only maintained but can also be a trigger for improving the quality of learning and academic culture in the university environment.

c. For Researchers

It is hoped that this research can be a good research material and can provide experience and insight into the high reading interest of EFL students in scientific papers.