CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

English has been increasingly popular among other languages in the world. With this increasing popularity, English has influenced many important aspects on human life. Communication, commerce, technology, politics, education, entertainment, and many more are some of those aspects. In Indonesian education, students can learn not only from the textbooks, lectures, articles, journals but also from magazines, newspapers, videos, and internet. They can use all of those things because most of them are now written and published in English. As we know, English is known as international language, it means that it is use by millions of people all over the world. In Indonesia, English is regarded as a foreign language for many periods of time. It is believed that mastery of a foreign language would give a great benefit to one’s personal needs and professional demands. In order to master a new foreign language, learners should therefore have adequate skills that would be helpful in learning process. There are basically four skills in learning a language, namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Those four skills can be divided into two groups, one group is called receptive skills and the other is productive skills. In order to master a new foreign language, learners should therefore have adequate skills that would be helpful in learning process. One of them is skill Reading, is an essential tool for knowledge transfer and the habit of reading is an academic activity that increases skills.

Student rarely read in-depth, rather reading is taken as part of the textbook-related activity, and thus reading is only accorded serious attention when students are preparing for quiz, continuous assessment and examination. This has culminated in a poor reading habit among
students at different education levels. Reading is a very important activity that allows an individual to gain access to all knowledge in the world. Through reading, one has access to a wide range of knowledge found in various reading materials like books, magazines, newspapers, journals, and other electronic sources that are utilized to acquire knowledge.

Reading can be a habit if learners realize that it has many benefits for themselves in improving their language skills, enriching their vocabulary, developing their thoughts and ideas, and supporting their achievement. It can make the learners active, creative, and critical in learning. Reading habit is an important tool for the development of personalities and mental capacities of individuals. In addition to personal and mental development, reading is an access to social, economic, and civic life (Clark and Rumbold, 2006). Reading habit therefore is compulsory and represents a requirement that cannot be bargained. In order to build strong reading habits and enjoy reading to the fullest, students should begin practicing good reading skills. For example, when you read, read the main idea of each paragraph along with supporting reasons.

Building up reading skills can be helpful to read with a pencil in hand to take notes or underline the key idea of each paragraph. Look up unfamiliar words, simply underline or make a list of unfamiliar words and later return to each word and look it up, re-read the sentence it appeared. This helps contextualize the word and its usage in case there are multiple meanings. Learn to appreciate the context of the text can offer clues as to what the character or writer is talking about. On the other hand, poor reading habits can be classified as poor mental habits identified as passive reading, purposeless reading, and regressing. Fosudo (2010) explained that: The negative effects of poor reading skill can make a student develop a poor attitude toward school and can create self-esteem problems later in life.
Based on observation of the researcher, students in vocational high schools desperately need English language skills. It is means they should have good English reading habits, especially in certain majors such as those leading to technology, multimedia, and also tourism. But students in vocational high school have low English reading habits. It looks when entering the library, it looks quiet, this situation is made worse by students who learn with use technology everyday, they're more interested watching video or DVD rather than reading books. The researchers will do this research in vocational high school 2 Jambi city because the researcher has access to do this research in this school and also vocational high school 2 Jambi city need English according to the minister of education and culture of the Republic Indonesia regulations, number 60 in 2014, subjects in vocational high school divided into 3 groups, namely A, B, and C. English language subjects include group A, that is, compulsory general subject. So the researcher wants to examine their reading habits. According to Thanuskodi (2011), students have to read books other than textbooks to improve thinking and other cognitive activities. Regarding the importance of reading, it is essential that students who learn English as their foreign language establish good English reading habits because they are very much involved and greatly benefit from English reading practices.

Based on the background above the researcher would like to conduct an research the title "EXAMINING ENGLISH READING HABITS OF STUDENTS AT SECOND GRADE MULTIMEDIA CLASS IN VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL 2 JAMBI CITY". This research intended to examining the English reading habits of students at second grade multimedia class in Vocational High School 2 Jambi city. It also seeks to find out the vocational high school students purposes of reading English texts, their motivation to read English, their beliefs about reading English.
1.2 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study were to examining the English reading habits of students at second grade multimedia class in vocational High school 2 jambi city. It also seeks to find out the vocational high school students’ purposes of reading English texts, and than their motivation to read English, their beliefs about reading English, and their need about English.

1.3 Limitation of the Study

This study will focus on students at second grade multimedia class in vocational high school 2 jambi city. In this research the researchers will examining English reading habits of students at second grade multimedia class in vocational high school 2 jambi city.

1.4 Research Question

The researcher would like to formulate the research questions:

What do English reading habits of students at second grade multimedia class in vocational high school 2 jambi city?

1.5 Objective of the Study

Based on the research question, this proposed study is conducted to:

To examining English reading habits of students at second grade multimedia class in vocational high school 2 jambi city.
1.6 Significance of the Study

This study is expected to bring benefit and advantages for students and other researchers

1. To students to measure their reading habits so students can improve their reading habits to be better.

2. To other researchers the result of this study can give their references about this topic.