CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Reading is one important thing or activity which done by most people in this world. It is one of the four skills that exist in English and usually faced when people are learning English especially students who learn a language. Through reading, people can know much information about what happened in this world and also get knowledge about everything. In learning English, reading is a prominent language skill which can be useful to help people especially students to increase their ability about the language (Sadiku, 2015). In addition, through reading skill, it can also help the students to add their knowledge about vocabulary.

Students reading eagerness can be known when they tend to involve reading in their daily activities. However, nowadays reading activities is not a popular activity since students are distracted by television, computer or mobile phone. Those who do the reading activities all of the time will make it a habit. In addition, to have a good ability in reading English, the students have to have a habit of reading. This intends to make the students understand the reading and have a good master in English especially reading. The students who love to read in every occasion will have fewer difficulties in understanding the lesson than those who do not have a reading habit. This shows that reading habit has positive influence on students’ academic performance (Adetunji & Oladeji, 2007).
Reading habit is important, especially for the students who have English as a foreign language. As it is known that in Indonesia, English is not the first or the official language used. It becomes the foreign language in Indonesia (Gunantar, 2016). Whereas these college students have to face everything in English, such as reading their books, learning subjects or material, and this would be hard if the students do not get accustomed to reading. In addition, for the English education study program students in Indonesia, reading habit is so important to understand the materials which prepared in English. Reading habit, enables the students to solve the problem in reading such as meaning of new vocabularies or the content of story itself.

Reading habits will decrease students difficulties in learning the language. It happens since the students will get accustomed to reading a text although it is in a different language. According to Schwanenflugel (2004), a good reading habit can be indicated by an automaticity understanding of a reading text, especially in English written. That is why based on the explanation above that shows how a reading habit is important to be applied especially by the college students, the researcher is interested in conducting a research which entitled: “The English Reading Habits of Fifth Semester Students at English Education Study Program in Jambi University”.

1.2 The Research Question

Based on the description of the background research above, the research question of this research is: “What are the reading habits of fifth semester students at English Education Study Program in Jambi University?”. 
1.3 **The Research Purpose**

The purpose of this research is to know the reading habits of the fifth semester students at English Education Study Program in Jambi University.

1.4 **The Scope of the Research**

This research employs a qualitative research with a descriptive approach design. The participants of this research were from the fifth semester students at English Education Study Program in Jambi University who got low score (C+), medium score (B+), and high score (A) in reading courses start from Reading for General Purposes, Reading for Professional Context, and Reading for Academic Purposes.

1.5 **The Significance of the Research**

This study hopefully can give theoretical and practical significance. For the theoretical benefit, the researcher hopes that the result of this research may give the information and knowledge about reading habits. Then, this research can informs the reader that there are many ways of students in reading habits and also see the reason why the English education study program students of Jambi University apply English reading habits.

Whereas for the practical benefit, the researcher hopes that the result of this research were useful for the Lecturers, to improve students' reading habits of English and to improve the quality of reading habits in terms of English, while for the College students, it can be a starting point to develop the college students’ understanding about reading habit in English as a new language learner, and their reading habit in reading English material of various texts. Last, for the next
researcher, it is hoped that this study can be a reference for the next researchers in conducting further research on the English reading habits of students.

1.6 The Definition of Key Terms

a. Reading

Reading is the ability to understand the words and sentences that contain in the text and used background knowledge for personal growth and development (Dedzie, 2008, p.8).

b. Reading Habit

It is a way of how the reader organizes his or her reading and how often, how much, and what the students read (Chettri, 2013, p.14).