

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problems

English is a language that many people want to master. One can communicate with foreigners using English. According to Silalahi et al. (2022, p.1854) English is a representation of languages from across the world used to build relationships with other countries. As the worldwide language, English is utilized by people all over the world to generate interactive communication and enlightenment. To be able to master English, there are several skills that must be trained. Haris Sunubi and Halidin (2020, p.291) stated that there are four skills that must be mastered to say that someone has succeeded in learning English, these skills are reading, writing, listening and speaking. Among these skills, one of the basic skills that need to be mastered is reading.

Reading is an activity in the form of reciting or spelling an text. Reading is the most important skill among the four language skills because it can improve overall language proficiency (Snow, Burns & Griffin, 1998; McDonough & Shaw, 1993; Krashen & Brown, 2007, as cited in Qrquez & Ab Rashid, 2017, p.422). Reading is done with the aim of obtaining messages, knowledge and information through words or sentences that the writer wants to convey. Pourhosein Gilakjani and Sabouri (2016, p.230) stated that the primary purpose of reading is to obtain the message intended by the writer for the reader. This reading

method allows a person to learn new terminology and increase their ability to comprehend a text. There are several types of people in reading, including reading as entertainment and reading comprehension.

Reading comprehension is an activity to understand the intent of a text or reading material. The ability to understand the text is influenced by skills and abilities in processing information. According to Klingner (as cited in Syafutri Lisiana & Mega Putri, 2021, p.758) the action of comprehending the meaning of a text or reading material is referred to as reading comprehension. The ability to understand the text is determined by information processing abilities and capacities.

Reading comprehension is an important thing for someone, especially students, with reading comprehension making them fully understand the meaning and information presented from a reading material. In fact, there are some students who find it difficult in reading comprehension. As found in third semester students of English education study programs who still experience difficulties in reading comprehension.

There are symptoms shown by students with reading comprehension difficulties. According to Feifer (2011, p.21-22) students with reading difficulties are seen as manifest difficulties that qualify for the provision of support and accommodation through an individual education plan called the Individual Educational Plan (IEP). Students with reading difficulties have the intellectual means to acquire functional reading skills, but perform low academically because

of the difficulties inherent in learning. That is, a low score is one of the symptoms of students who have difficulty in reading comprehension.

Based on the results of an interview with a lecturer in advanced reading in the third semester of the English education study program at Muhammadiyah Kotabumi University, on January 13, 2023. She stated that there were some students who still had difficulties in reading comprehension because this was a new experience for them. Students also find it difficult when ordered to analyze very long texts and are required to understand it thoroughly. When analyzing, each student has different difficulties such as lack of vocabulary mastery, lack of self-confidence and dependence on the dictionary.

First, lack of vocabulary mastery. The text that students analyzed is a text that is considered quite difficult, causing students to have difficulty understanding a word or phrase in the text. Therefore, the importance of students in improving vocabulary mastery.

Second, lack of self-confidence, because students' assignments to analyze reading material are individual, so that each student has texts with different topics and titles from one another. This made some students feel confused with their respective texts. When students want to ask other students about the meaning of a text in detail, this cannot be done because the texts of one student are different from another.

Third, dependence on the dictionary, because there are still many students who have difficulty in vocabulary, so students still find it difficult to understand the meaning of the text without the help of a dictionary. Basically in this advanced

reading course, students are not given many opportunities to look at the dictionary to translate the meaning of the text.

Based on the description above, to ascertain what difficulties students face in reading comprehension, the researcher choose Muhammadiyah Kotabumi University as the research location, and fourth semester academic year 2022/2023 will be chosen as a research subject.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the problem above, it can be identified that there are still difficulties in reading comprehension among fourth semester students of the English education study program at Muhammadiyah Kotabumi University Academic Year 2022/2023. These difficulties are:

1. Lack of vocabulary mastery
2. Lack of self-confidence
3. Dependency on dictionary

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of the problem above, this research needs to be limited to achieve the objectives. The limitations of this research are as follows:

1. This research is focused on finding out the difficulties in reading comprehension among fourth semester students of the English education study program at Muhammadiyah Kotabumi University Academic Year 2022/2023.
2. This research is focused on finding out the most difficulties in reading comprehension faced by fourth semester students of the English education

study program at Muhammadiyah Kotabumi University Academic Year 2022/2023.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

As explained above, the main problems that will be described and researched in this research can be expressed by asking:

1. What are the difficulties in reading comprehension faced by fourth semester students of the English education study program at Muhammadiyah Kotabumi University Academic Year 2022/2023?
2. What are the most difficulties in reading comprehension faced by fourth semester students of the English education study program at Muhammadiyah Kotabumi University Academic Year 2022/2023?

1.5 Objectives of the Research

There are several objectives in this research. These objectives are as follows:

1. This research aims to determine the difficulties in reading comprehension faced by fourth semester students of the English education study program at Muhammadiyah Kotabumi University Academic Year 2022/2023.
2. This research aims to determine the most difficulties in reading comprehension faced by fourth semester students of the English education study program at Muhammadiyah Kotabumi University Academic Year 2022/2023.

1.6 Usage of the Research

1.6.1 Theoretically

Theoretically the use of this research is to add knowledge and insight to readers regarding students' difficulties in reading comprehension in a subject at the third semester of the English education study program at Muhammadiyah Kotabumi University, Academic Year 2022/2023.

1.6.2 Practically

a. Students

Practically this research can increase students' knowledge in the field of education about students' difficulties in reading comprehension.

b. Lecturer

This research can be used as a reference and evaluation material for lecturers regarding students' difficulties in reading comprehension.

c. Next Researchers

This research can be a reference for next researchers which will conduct research on students' difficulties in reading comprehension.