

Chapter I

Introduction

This chapter consists of background of study, delimitation of the study, problem statement, objective of study and significances of study.

Background of Study

Essentially, college students are closely related to academic matters. Therefore, college students are required to be knowledgeable and develop the knowledge they have learned and acquired as good as possible. All knowledge will be obtained through reading activity. As revealed by Dalman (2013), reading is the key to success in education. It is crucial for college students to have reading ability not just to understand, but also select the required of academic readings. Therefore, as one of important elements in level of education, reading process must be done continuously in order to develop and improve the way of thinking of the college students.

Every college students in the eighth semester will undoubtedly undertake the undergraduate thesis. In the early stages, English Department students in eighth semester will undergo the process of preparing research proposals. In fact, reading problems encountered by students occur for several reasons. It starts from how to select the appropriate reading source for academic reading and how to read academic texts efficiently and effectively.

In anticipation of this, college students must be use appropriate reading techniques and strategies for their academic reading activities. Of the many existing reading techniques, the reading techniques used by the college students are selecting reading, skipping, skimming and scanning. Basically, the four reading techniques are commonly used by college students in general when they reading the academic texts. In the stage of select reading, the college students will conduct a search through a strict selection of the academic reading they need. After that, the college students will begin to seek out the information they need through the fast reading techniques, namely skipping, skimming and scanning.

In addition, college students need time and effort in order to obtain maximum reading results of academic reading texts. Of the large numbered of reading encountered, college students need to do a proper reading strategy. As suggested by Van Blerkom (2009), there are many reading methods they can do in reading the academic reading texts. Some of them are P2R, S-RUN-R and SQ3R methods. In general, all reading method have the same goals for college students. It is to facilitate them in finding the required information they were looking for in the academic reading texts. The difference is on the number of stages and steps they must take.

In conducting this research, the researcher focused on English Department students in eighth semester as a subject to be studied. Of the number of English Department students in eighth semester, the researcher select 10 college students as the participants. They are randomly selected from different classes. The participants are those who are writing their research proposals. Researcher

interested in exploring their reading strategies in reading the academic reading texts. This is to know the strategies of reading the academic reading texts what has been done by them. As the beginning stage of undergraduate thesis preparation, the participants will learn to organize the steps they must take to obtain the information about academic reading texts they need. The other fact, most English Department students are less familiar with the name of methods or reading strategies. They tend to understand more about the names of reading techniques.

Based on the background described, the title of this research is, “The Students Strategies in Reading the Academic Reading Texts (A Study Conducted at Eighth Semester of English Department Students)”.

Delimitation of the Study

It is necessary to make limitation in order to clarify the problem. This study has been conducted in English Department study program, particularly in the eighth semester students who are writing a research proposal. It is focuses on exploring students' reading techniques they use in selecting and preparing their research proposal. The respondents of this study amounted to 10 students who willingly and honestly answered the interview.

Problem Statement

Based on the delimitation of study above, the study intends to answer the question, “what strategies do the English Department students in eighth semester use in reading the academic texts?”

Objective of Study

Referring to the research questions, the objectives of this study mainly intends to explore the strategies used by English Department students in eighth semester in reading the academic reading texts.

Significances of Study

The findings of the present research are expected to indicate significant theoretical and practical information about the reading strategies in academic reading texts. Theoretically, the results of this research can also be used as a guide for the researcher in improve her knowledge to trace the reading techniques that college students use. For other researcher, it may be used as a guide as a reference to make a comparison and carry out of other similar research further. Practically, the outcome of this research is expected to give feedback to English Department students in academic reading.