

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Problem

English is used as an International language by the majority of countries of the world. As an International language, English has a very important role in the development of education, communication, commerce, diplomacy, social, and scientific research. In the education field, English, therefore, prompted become an important subject learn by the student throughout the world.

In English language scope, there are four main skills. They are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The four basics English language skills are divided into two categories such as receptive skills and productive skills. Receptive skills consist of listening and reading, meanwhile productive skills consist of speaking and writing. In order to achieve the knowledge, the learners need to get lots of exposure to the target language by listening and reading as much as possible.

Reading is very important for the students because all of the students learning activities will involve reading skills, and the success of their study also depends for the greater part of their ability to read. The more they read books, the more successful they will be in learning. This concept support by Report of the commission on reading in the United States state that reading is a cornerstone of success, not just in school but throughout life. They need reading skills not only for learning something, but also for getting experience, knowledge, and

everything which can support their future study in higher education. Therefore, it is obvious that reading is an important part of their life.

The importance of reading cannot be underestimated. Reading that goes through with good habit also important to students. This is because reading habit plays a very crucial role in enabling a person to achieve practical efficiency. Reading habits refer to the behavior which expresses the likeness for reading and explains the purpose and preference for reading as well as the frequency of reading. Therefore, students' reading habits revolve around the purpose of reading which may be for passing examinations. Reading habit can help to increase knowledge. Then build maturity and widen awareness of contemporary issues. Thus, a good reading habit is an important tool for the development of personalities and mental capacities.

It has however been observed that there are many students who have low reading habits. There are so many factors that can be the reason why the students have low reading habits, such as they don't use to it, the students don't use to read the book since they're little. The facility also can be one of the reasons why students have low reading habit, the students don't have a place to build their habits. It has been slightly observed that some school don't have enough place to facilitate students to build their reading habits, and some school has enough facilitated but the students don't have any motivation to read and build their reading habits, so the factors can be both internal and external.

Finally, the researcher is interested to conduct a research in analyzing students' reading habit of Junior High School at Pekanbaru. The researcher presents a research entitled: "Students' Reading Habits: A Case Study of Junior High Schools Pekanbaru"

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Reading is a process of thinking the state in which is a very complex and complicated that involves some factors influential upon each other. The main factor that influences reading is the attitude toward reading. In-ground, there are some phenomena which are watching television, surfing the internet, and playing games more fun than reading a book. While technology is slowly taking a steady control over individual lives, and the reading habit is fast vanishing.

The problem of lack of reading frequency in junior high school students also indicates the low reading habits among them. In a month there is not necessarily one book that they read except those who live in a family who likes to read and have some reference books at home.

Another problem, they spend a lot of time reading books with light content such as non-academic books. Some non-academic books are novels, comics, manga, and more, academic books tend to be read when they do homework or other projects related to science. Whereas books with scientific content such as textbooks and newspapers can increases their success in academic terms in school.

The problem of literacy and scarcity of resources gravely limit the opportunities people have to learn and to transmit their circumstance that

minimizes the motivation in reading. Similarly, books are just considered as “school work” rather than as “companions”. So there is no motivation made the exhaust books in discussing them.

1.3 Focus of the Problem

In this study, the researcher focused on analyzing the reading habit of Second Grade Students Junior High School on General books by using Julio Caesar’s classification. They are the attitude toward reading, reading frequency, type of books read, time spent on reading, and motivation for the reading habit.

1.4 Research Question

Based on the background presented, the research question in this study as follows: How are students’ reading habit of Junior High School in Pekanbaru?

1.5 Objectives of the Research

In accordance with the problem of the study, the objective of this study is to find out how are students’ reading habits of Junior High School in Pekanbaru.

1.6 Significance of the research

There are three significances of the study:

- a. **For English teachers:** The result of this study provides feedback for teachers of Junior High School that may be useful to recognize students’ habit of reading. Teachers will pay more attention to their habit so their knowledge will be increased automatically.

- b. **For students:** The result of the study will show them in how good students reading habit in their life. By this way, the students are expected to increase their reading habit so they can develop personalities and mental capacities.
- c. **For other researchers:** The researcher hopes that this study can inspire other researchers to conduct further researches about reading habit or other topics related to reading to enrich the existing study.

1.7 Definition of Key Term

To avoid misunderstanding in the interpretation of the words that used in this study, the researcher gives definitions of the words in terms of this study as follow:

1. **Reading:** is a multi-faced process, which can be described at various time and developmental stages as a thinking process. (Wallace and Larsen, 1987: 299)
2. **Reading habit:** refers to the behavior which expresses the likeness of reading of individual types of reading and tastes of reading. (Sangkaeo, 2011)