

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Introduction

This chapter provides a brief description of the whole contents of the research, including the background of the research, research questions, research objectives, scope of the research, significance of the research, and hypothesis of the research. At last, paper organization is also presented at the end of this chapter.

1.1 Background of the Research

Reading is considered as a good way to help people get information. Regarding this, Buck (2001) and Powers (2004) cited in Fuady (2008, p.2) state that reading is a way to expand our knowledge, as through reading people can explore words, sentences, and other information. However, reading can be different depends on the language (Nunan, 1999).

Regarding the issue of reading in different languages, Wardani (2008, p.2) states that relationship between the ability of reading Indonesian and English texts have become a main topic in researching reading. In his research, moreover he explains that students often find difficulties in reading English text because they are not familiar with the language and have a limited vocabulary. On the contrary, they find it much easier to comprehend an Indonesian text since it is their native language.

The situation above implies that limited vocabulary and experiential background cause an inadequate comprehension (McGinnis and Smith, 1982, p.234). It is in line with Hedgcock & Ferris (2009, p.7) who state that both of readers should have adequate background knowledge, either in first or second language, in order to prevent a poor comprehension. In other words, students' background knowledge in a language helps them comprehend a text in that target language.

Besides, reading ability in both first and second languages is also similar enough in terms of its cognitive processing skills (Grabe, 2004, p.58). Those difference and similarity show that there is a relationship between reading in first and second languages. Regarding this, Aebersold & Field (1997, p.25) state that there is a transfer skill from reading in first to second language, and teaching reading skill in first language may facilitate the transfer. Moreover, they state that students' skill in comprehending reading materials in their first language helps them comprehend reading materials in their second language. It means that reading skill in first language shares numerous important elements with reading skill in second language.

In previous research was conducted by Wardani (2008) in a public senior high school in Cimahi, it was found out that there is a correlation between students' ability in comprehending Indonesian text and their ability in comprehending English text. The research reported that most of students who got a high score in Indonesian reading test also got a high score in English reading

test. It shows that students' ability in comprehending Indonesian text contributes to their ability in comprehending English text.

Referring to the descriptions above, this study attempts to investigate whether there is a correlation between students' ability in comprehending Indonesian and English texts, and also the factors that help them comprehend reading materials in both first and second languages. The result of this study is expected to enrich the literature on research regarding students' ability in reading Indonesian and English texts, and also to provide information on the benefits of using Indonesian in English classes.

1.2 Research Questions

This study attempts to address the following research questions:

1. Is there any correlation between year ten students' ability in comprehending Indonesian text and English text?
2. What factors that help students comprehend reading materials in both their first and second languages?

1.3 Research Objectives

In line with the research questions above, this study also determines the following research objectives:

1. to identify whether there is a correlation between year ten students' ability in comprehending Indonesian text and English text or not.

2. to find out the factors that help students comprehend reading materials in both their first and second languages.

1.4 Significance of the Research

This study is expected to give significant contribution to others, especially English teachers and the future researcher. Firstly, this research is expected to enrich the literature on reading, especially reading in first and second languages. Secondly, this study is expected to be beneficial for students to improve their reading ability in both first and second languages, and also help English teachers enhance their understanding of the benefits of using Indonesian in English classes. Thirdly, this study is expected to be beneficial for English teachers to improve their strategies in teaching reading.

1.5 Scope of the Research

This study is limited only to investigate whether there is a correlation between year ten students' ability in comprehending Indonesian text and English text or not. It means this study deals with the discussion on reading comprehension in both first and second languages in senior high school. This study uses Narrative text in achievement test to collect the data since the participants have learnt it.

1.6 Hypothesis of the Research

Hypothesis is an educated guess about some state of affairs (Coolidge, 2000, p.95). This study suggests an alternative hypothesis (H_a): there is a correlation between year ten students' ability in comprehending Indonesian text and English text.

1.7 Paper Organization

This research paper presents five chapters, as follows:

Chapter One INTRODUCTION

Chapter one covers the introduction of the research including background of the research, research questions, research objectives, significance of the research, scope of the research, hypothesis of the research, and paper organization.

Chapter Two THEORITICAL FOUNDATION

Chapter two elaborates the foundation of relevant theories as a basis for discussing the research problems.

Chapter Three RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Chapter three provides the explanation of procedures in collecting and analyzing data in the research including research method, research participants, data collecting techniques, trying out of instruments, and data analysis.

Chapter Four FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Chapter four presents the findings of this study and its discussion through relevant theories.

Chapter Five CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Chapter five delineates the conclusions and suggestions relevant to the findings of this study.

