

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents an introduction to the paper. It covers the background of the study, identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, formulation of the problem, objectives of the study, and the significance of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Reading is a fundamental skill that unlocks learning and provides individuals with the means to pursue knowledge and enjoyment independently. However, reading is one of the language skill the easiest to master, but most difficult to grow the habit of reading. According to the survey by (PISA) *Programme for International Student Assessment* which was initiated by (OECD) *Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development* the average mean score in reading performance in Indonesia is one of the lowest among PISA participating countries that is 397 PISA Score, rank 63 from 72 in 2015. Indonesia joined PISA for 19 years since 2000. PISA held every three years, namely in 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015, and 2018. The latest data for 2018 shall publish on 3 December 2019 on the official PISA website. This implies the habit of reading is still low.

Research on the importance of reading habits and attitudes was explored by some researchers in Asia (Ahmed, 2016; Annamalai & Muniandy, 2013; Scales & Rhee, 2001; Karim & Hasan, 2007). Two of the studies about students' attitudes and habits toward reading was carried out at the university or higher education (Ahmed,

2016, Annamalai & Muniandy, 2013). Another research by Scales & Rhee (2001) focused on the reading habits and pattern of Asian American adults. Meanwhile, Karim & Hasan (2007) focused on students' habits and attitudes toward reading, gender, academic program and types of reading material and reading resources in Malaysia. Therefore, the issues about habit and attitude toward reading are important to discuss, because students' attitudes and habits toward reading have important things in successful learning.

In Indonesia, where English learned as a foreign language (EFL), attitude and habit toward reading are quite popular. There are some studies related to these issues. The first studies, Iftanti (2012) investigated English reading habits of EFL college students in East Java, the results of this study's showed that most of the respondents read English for some purposes, such as for assignments, reading for pleasure, for knowledge, and for English skills improvement. Then, other studies Chairanissa & Wirza (2019), investigated reading habit among junior high school students. The findings of the study revealed that the students had low reading habit. Furthermore, Iftanti (2015) explored what makes of Indonesian students establish good reading habits in English. The findings showed there were some factors contributed to good reading habits such as the individual, social, cultural and technological construct factors. However, the previous studies found that the attitude toward reading showed only a few students have the habit toward English reading (Al Nazhari, Delfi, & K, 2016). Thus, the issue related to students' habit and attitudes toward reading is

important to be discussed, especially in higher educations. By studying students' habits and attitudes toward reading, the factors to help improving students' good reading will be revealed.

The previous studies focused on reading habits and attitudes, especially in the Indonesian context, the participants were mostly junior high school students (Chairanissa & Wirza, 2019). Thus, the research about reading habits and attitudes of undergraduate students is still rarely done in Indonesia, whereas habits and attitudes toward reading should be an awareness for higher students. It is supported by Mokhtari & Sheorey (1994) which state that the importance of creating positive attitudes toward reading among students to advance the high levels of reading activity required for successful higher education. Based on the empirical gap above, the researcher is interested to find out what are the higher education students' reading habits and attitude.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

This research focuses on attitudes and habits toward the reading of undergraduates' students. Based on previous studies the researcher concludes that there are some problems that are usually found in attitudes and habits toward reading. The students had low reading habit because influenced some factors such as the individual, social, cultural and technological development.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

The limitations of this study focus on identify of the undergraduate student's reading habits and attitudes.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

Regarding the issues mentioned above, this study tries to overcome the following questions:

1. What are the undergraduate student's reading habits and attitudes toward reading?

1.5 Objectives of the Study

Based on the formulation above, the purpose of this study is to identify the impacts of the undergraduate student's reading habits and attitudes at the private universities in Yogyakarta.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The result of this study aims to give the contribution to university students and other researchers generally. This study is expected to be empirically and practically beneficial. In terms of empirical study, the researcher hopes that this research can be useful for the English Language Department and for the university. In terms of practical study, the researcher can help the students to improve reading among those undergraduates and help other researchers to get the reference for research about reading habits and attitudes.