

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses about research context, research problems, and research objectives of the study, significances of study and definition of key terms.

A. Research Context

Language is tool of communication which has function as medium in delivering information from the speaker to the listener. The people who would like to communicate with others from different countries which have different language need language that can be understood each other. One of the language is English. English is international language which used by the people to communicate with the others in the world. As a tool of an international communication, it should be learned by people who live in a country which uses English as a foreign language, including Indonesia.

To support Indonesian people in order to be able to communicate with other people around the globe, Indonesian government incorporates English into its educational curriculum as one of its compulsory subjects starting from junior high school until the university. Hence, it is hoped that there will be a great chance for Indonesian learners to improve their English communication competence. Learning language covers some aspects. One of the important aspects is linguistic aspect which covers grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, structure, and so on. Beside those aspects, the learners also need to master the

skills of the language such as listening, writing, reading, and speaking. However, it should be kept in mind that those skills cannot be learned discretely. Students who are learning English should master those skills integratedly.

The students who learn English have test to measure the students English capability. There are some English proficiency tests, such as TOEIC, IELTS, and TOEFL.

TOEIC, Test of English for International Communication, is a test for measuring English proficiency that concentrates more on business purposes. TOEIC test consists of two sections: Listening and Reading Comprehension. Each comprehension consists of 100 multiple choice questions.¹

IELTS is an international standardized test of English language proficiency for non-native speakers. IELTS, which stands for International English Language Testing System, was established in 1989 and managed by British Council, IDP, IELTS Australia, and Cambridge Assessment English. This test consists of four English skill tests, such as Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking. IELTS is the only Secure English Language Test approved by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) for visa customers applying both outside and inside the UK.²

TOEFL (Test of English as Foreign Language) is a test to measure the English proficiency of non-native speakers of English. This test is required primarily by English-language colleges and universities. Additionally, institutions

¹ Lin Lougheed, *BARRON'S TOEIC: Test of English for International Communication* (Ciputat: Bina Aksara, 2007), p. 3.

² Wikipedia, *International English Language Testing System*, Accessed on https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_English_Language_Testing_System at 6th April 2019).

such as government agencies, business, and scholarship programs may require this test. This test consists of four sections, namely Listening Comprehension (50 multiple choices in 35 minutes), Structure and Written Expression (40 multiple choices in 25 minutes), Reading Comprehension (50 multiple choices in 55 minutes), and Test of Written English (1 essay question in 30 minutes).³

Since the TOEFL test is a test to measure the English proficiency of non-native speakers of English and this is one of the kinds of language testing, it is required for universities or in job vacancy. For instance, some colleges and universities require their students to test their English ability in TOEFL test as graduation requirement or some company put TOEFL score in their requirements in job vacancy.

There are several test TOEFL predictions for students as training for them before conducting TOEFL. One of them, they can join TOEFL course or read a lot of TOEFL test. Most people who want to get a high score of TOEFL test choose to join TOEFL course because they will be taught several sections, such as structure and written expression, reading, and listening comprehension.

The researcher found any previous study that matching with this research, such as a research which was conducted by Eka Aryanda, who investigated the correlation between the text topic familiarity and students' reading comprehension. She conducted a research for making sure that familiar topic

³ Deborah Philips, *Longman Preparation Course for The TOEFL Test* (New York: Pearson Education, 2003), p. xv-xvi.

affects students' reading comprehension.⁴ This study investigates text topic familiarity to students' reading comprehension, while the researcher will investigate the habit of students who take EPT test and their EPT score.

This study also refers to the research conducted by Halimatus Sadiyah entitled *Students Difficulties in English Proficiency Test on Reading Section Faced by the Seventh Semester Students of TBI STAIN Pamekasan Academic Year 2016/2017*. She conducted a research in qualitative design encompassing students' difficulties in English Proficiency Test on reading section. She found any difficulties faced by seventh semester students of TBI on reading section.⁵

Based on the researcher experience, the researcher and some of the researcher friends have difficulties in doing reading section. Some of the difficulties that face by the researcher and his or her friends are they have limited time to read the passages, to find the sentence which suitable with the question, and to choose the answer. Therefore the researcher spends much time in doing reading section and it has effect to another section because they do not have enough time to finish another section.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher would like to conduct the research entitled "An Analysis of Students' Difficulties in Completing TOEFL Test of Reading Comprehension at Institut Prima Bhakti course Pamekasan.

⁴ Eka Aryanda, "The Correlation of Text Topic Familiarity on Reading Comprehension of The Fifth Semester Students of STAIN Pamekasan", (Thesis, The State Islamic College (STAIN) of Pamekasan, Pamekasan, 2018).

⁵ Halimatus Sa'diyah, "Students' Difficulties in English Proficiency Test on Reading Section Faced by the Seventh Semester Students of TBI STAIN Pamekasan Academic Year 2016/2017", (Thesis, The State Islamic College (STAIN) of Pamekasan, Pamekasan, 2017).

B. Research Focus

According to Jhon W. Creswell research problems are educational issues, controversies, or concerns that guide the need for conducting a study.⁶ At IAIN Madura PPKI (*Pedoman Penulisan Karya Tulis Ilmiah*) mentioned research problem is effort to clarify explicitly the questions which want to find the answer. Research problem is complete statement and detail about the scope of the problem which is researched based on identification and limitation of the problem.⁷

1. What are the students' difficulties in completing TOEFL test of reading comprehension at Institut Prima Bhakti course Pamekasan?
2. What are students' strategies in passing TOEFL test of reading comprehension at Institut Prima Bhakti course Pamekasan?

C. Research Objectives

Creswell states that researcher objective is a statement of intent for study that declares specific goals that investigator plans to achieve in a study. Research objective is used to find out and solving problem of research.⁸ Based on the researcher above, the researcher formulates the purposes the study below :

1. To know the students' difficulties in completing TOEFL test of reading comprehension at Institut Prima Bhakti course Pamekasan.
2. To describe the students' strategies in passing TOEFL test of reading comprehension at Institut Prima Bhakti course Pamekasan.

⁶ Jhon W. Creswell, *Educational Research* (Boston : Pearson, 2012) P. 59

⁷ TIM IAIN Madura, *Pedoman Karya Tulis Ilmiah* (Pamekasan: IAIN Madura, 2020), 10.

⁸ Jhon W. Creswell, *Educational Research* (Unitexgfd State : Pearson, 2012) p. 111

D. Significance of Study

The significant in research refers to the contribution of the research result to the improvement of the related practice (practical contribution) and or to development of the related theory (theoretical contribution).⁹ Scientific significance increase on knowledge, whereas social significance is aimed as one of work at this part has content a reasonable reason of the problem.¹⁰

1. Theoretically

- a. It is expected to be a new reference in the library of IAIN Madura which talk about TOEFL.
- b. It is expected to decrease students' difficulties in doing TOEFL test especially in reading comprehension.

2. Practically

a. For teacher

- 1) It is expected to support the students for increasing their abilities in completing TOEFL test in reading comprehension.
- 2) It is expected to ask students read a book so that they no shock if they are asked to completing TOEFL test.

b. For Students

The students expected to read a book which is related with the material that will be studied.

E. Definition of Key term

⁹ Alwasilah, Pokoknya Kualitatif (Dasar-Dasar Merancang dan Melakukan Penelitian Kualitatif), 43.

¹⁰TIM IAIN Madura, *Pedoman Karya Tulis Ilmiah* (Pamekasan: IAIN Madura, 2020),11.

To narrowing the topic, we can use definition of key term in search of literature. Definition of key term used to help of locate literature.¹¹ Definition of key term also used to avoid misunderstanding. They can define as follows:

1. TOEFL test is a test which measures people's English Language skills to see if they are good enough to take care a course at university or graduate school in English speaking countries.
2. Reading comprehension is the ability to process text, understand its meaning, and to integrate with what the reader already knows.

F. Previous study

Here the researcher gives some previous study related with researcher's study. The first comes from wendy meika kristiyanti entitled "The TOEFL learning difficulties faced by EFL students of English department of IAIN Palangka raya". The result of this research showed some points. The first, the most incorrect answer is structure and written expression. The second the problems of preparation shortages and incapability of understanding several grammars area were common found. The third, the reasons behind students' difficulties in the TOEFL were underestimate attitude toward the test and their poor English mastery.¹²

In this research the similarity with Wendy's research is analyzing students' difficulties. This research also same in using kind of research that is quantitative.

¹¹ Creswell, Educational Research Planning, Conducting, and Evaluating Qualitative and Quantitative Research, 83.

¹² Wendy Meika Kristiyanti, *The TOEFL Learning Difficulties Faced by EFL Students of English Department of IAIN Palangka raya* (Palangka Raya: IAIN Palangka Raya, 2018)

The differences are in this research focus on all kinds of questions in TOEFL test, while the researcher just focus on reading comprehension.

The second was Dasrul Hidayati entitled “Students’ difficulties in reading comprehension at the first grade of SMAN Darussalam Aceh Besar” the result of this research showed that the most difficult aspect encountered by the students were finding main idea question, making inference, and locating reference questions.¹³ The similarity with this research this research is analyze students’ difficulties. The differences are this research used quantitative design while the researcher use qualitative design. This research also focus on reading comprehension for senior high school while the researcher focus on reading comprehension in TOEFL test.

¹³ Dasrul Hidayati, *Students Difficulties In Reading Comprehension At The First Grade of SMAN 1 Darussalam Aceh Besar* (Aceh: Ar-raniry State Islamic University, 2018)